

CLARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**ARTHUR L. JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL
PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2025 - 2026**



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Dear Students and Parents:

We are proud to present our 2025-2026 Program of Studies for Arthur L. Johnson High School. The administration and faculty are dedicated to providing an extensive and varied curriculum suited to meet the diverse needs of all students. The emphasis on quality education for everyone is reflected in the courses listed. Students should consider the many opportunities offered at Arthur L. Johnson High School. We encourage you to read the information contained in this document carefully prior to course selection. Additional information on each academic program is available from the school's administration and we, as counseling staff, are willing to meet with parents and students on an individual basis. Arthur L. Johnson is committed to educating our students with the end in mind. Our courses are taught by an experienced and dedicated teaching faculty and will provide students with the skills necessary to decipher complex problems and situations, develop autonomy, and value the correlation between hard work and reward. We invite all students to embark on a journey of life-long learning and individual growth, while they develop their social, emotional, and cognitive skills for the future.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Amendola

Andrew Amendola
Director of School Counseling Services & Assessment

GO CRUSADERS!

Arthur L. Johnson Mission Statement

Arthur L. Johnson High School's Mission is to ensure that all students demonstrate college and career readiness through a shared commitment to community partnerships, intellectual growth, and character development.

High School Graduation Requirements

All courses completed count towards graduation requirements. All students at Arthur L. Johnson High School (ALJ) are required to complete a core curriculum of academic courses that develop the skills and knowledge essential to all citizens. Students will complete 140 credits to fulfill their credit requirements at ALJ. This requirement may be waived under special circumstances, at which time the NJ state minimum will be in place.

SUBJECT	# CREDITS REQUIRED	SPECIFIC COURSES WITHIN THOSE CREDITS
English	20	English 1, English 2, English 3, English 4 (AP electives can substitute for English 3 & English 4)
PE/Health	20	N/A
History	15	Modern World History, US History 1, US History 2
Science*	15	Biology; Chemistry, Environmental Science, or Physics; and additional lab science
Mathematics*	15	Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2
World Language**	5	N/A - Students will be given an array to choose from in graduation checklist
21st Century Life & Careers	5	N/A - Students will be given an array to choose from in graduation checklist
Visual and Performing Arts	5	N/A - Students will be given an array to choose from in graduation checklist
Financial Literacy	2.5	N/A - Students will be given an array to choose from in graduation checklist

*Most 4-year colleges and universities require four years/20 credits

**Most 4-year colleges and universities require at least 2 years/10 credits

High School State Assessments

New Jersey students take the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments in English Language, Mathematics, and Science. The New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) and the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) accurately measure the skills developed under the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and provide parents and educators with meaningful detailed information that can improve learning.

Information about the other New Jersey assessments that are administered each year can be found at: [NJDOE Assessments](#). Once on the state site, click on "Update Regarding High School Graduation Assessment Requirements: Classes of 2022 - 2025" towards the right of the page for a summary of high school graduation requirements.

Credits

Credits are awarded for satisfactory completion of a course. The number of minutes that the course meets and the length of time determine course credit. Health courses are 1.25 credits, semester courses are 2.5 credits, Physical Education courses are 3.75 credits, full-year courses are 5 credits, and AP Science courses are 6 credits.

Students who fail a course in a required subject cannot re-register for the course they failed and register for the next course in the academic sequence simultaneously unless approval is given.

Final grades in summer school recovery courses which meet the state summer school requirements will be included in the following year's weighted GPA. Grades received for original credit summer school courses or transfer courses will not be included in the weighted GPA. Original credit summer school courses that are also offered at ALJ and all transfer courses will be listed on the transcript. No courses that are taken outside of ALJ during the school year will be listed on the transcript or included in the weighted GPA.

Scheduling Information

Course Level Recommendation Procedures

In determining student placement for the various levels, placement requirements and prerequisites will be listed within each of the course descriptions. The following elements will be utilized in establishing student level placement:

- Current academic achievement in the given subject, which will include semester average;
- Teacher recommendation; and,
- NJSLA results for grades 9-10 and PSAT results for grade 11.

****Placement rubrics are subject to change at administrative discretion due to curriculum changes and/or testing changes.*

If a review of the placement is requested, each case will be considered individually by the appropriate content area supervisor in cooperation with the Director of School Counseling Services & Assessment. All requests for review must be received by June 20, 2025. Testing performance (i.e. final examination, PSAT, and/or NJSLA scores when available) may be considered during the appeal process.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites are courses or criteria that must be completed before courses are taken. Any prerequisites will be indicated within each course description, if applicable.

Subjects Taken Prior to Grade 9

Subjects taken prior to Grade 9 may not be counted toward graduation credit at ALJ. However, students who have satisfactorily completed the first year of a world language in Grades 7 and 8, Algebra 1 or Geometry in Grade 8, may be placed into the next level in the sequence as part of the 9th Grade program.

Audited Classes

Audited classes are taken for no credit. However, the student must participate in the class and meet requirements established by the teacher. A student may repeat the course as an auditor to improve his/her skills.

Insufficient Enrollment

Any course for which there is insufficient enrollment will be canceled. When classes are canceled due to insufficient enrollment, alternate courses will be substituted.

Combined Classes

If enrollment is insufficient to operate one or both courses as separate sections, it is possible that two courses may be combined.

Pass/Fail Option

The high school grading procedures permit a student to elect a Pass/Fail option within the following guidelines:

- Students may not elect the Pass/Fail option for any graduation requirements without approval from administration.
- If a student elects Pass/Fail in a full year subject, three of the four marking periods must be passed, one of these three must be the last marking period. If a student elects Pass/Fail in a one-semester course, both marking periods must be passed. (*NOTE: A Pass/Fail grade is not included in computing a student's weighted GPA. A failing grade "F" will be included when a student's record is reviewed for the Honor Roll and the eligibility list for possible induction into the National Honor Society.*)

Course Conflicts

While the high school will do everything possible to see that a student is scheduled for all the classes he or she requests, the complexities of academic scheduling do not always permit such flexibility, especially when students attempt to register for a number of courses with limited enrollments or those that meet only once during the school day. When scheduling conflicts arise in the selection of electives, alternates will be substituted automatically, if available. If not, an elective available during the required period will be chosen.

Student Course Load and Administrative Guidelines for Schedule Changes

Student course lists will be available on Genesis on or about July 31st. If you are in agreement with the courses, you need not take any action. If a student would like to request a schedule change it can be done by the following:

1. Between July 31st and August 15th, students can request a change via a Google Form (provided over the summer). You will be asked to indicate your school counselor's name in the form. Please know that only those schedule change requests submitted via this form will be addressed; email will not be considered. As the master schedule is created based on student requests, the limitations of scheduling sometimes render it impossible to honor every student's choice, most specifically for electives.
2. Should you find an error in the schedule (i.e. two English classes or a course that has already been taken), please contact your student's counselor as soon as possible to have it corrected.
3. After August 15th, students will be required to attend their courses for a full rotation (Days 1, 2, 3, & 4). Students who wish to explore a change in their schedule will fill out a form no later than the fifth day of school. After that time, students will be required to meet with a Change Committee.

Level Changes

Students requesting a level change for a course must consult with his or her school counselor. Students are placed into levels based upon their ability and performance, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation. If a student wishes to change his or her level, he or she must have the approval of the Director of School Counseling and the Content Area Supervisor.

- No level changes will be considered after the last day of Marking Period 1 each year
- Current unweighted averages at time of transfer will carry over to the new course, ex. a 68% average in an honors course will transfer to a 68% in the standard level
- A request for a level change will not be approved:
 - If a student has missing/incomplete assignments in the course
 - If a student has failed to meet with the instructor for extra help
 - If the change significantly alters a student's schedule
- If a student in an AP course changes levels, a reimbursement for the AP test can be provided no later than October 15th, 2025.

Grading of a Dropped Course

If a student wishes to drop a full-year course beyond the Change Committee dates, they may do so on the last day of the second marking period, if the schedule permits. A semester course can not be dropped beyond the change

committee dates. A grade of Withdrawn Passing (WP) or Withdrawn Failing (WF) is recorded, and no credit is given. Both grades have a value of zero and will be included in the GPA.

A student dropped from a course at any time for poor attendance, cutting class, or disciplinary reasons will have a No Credit (NC) recorded. The No Credit has a value of zero and is included in the GPA. ***NOTE:** A student who drops a full year course at the end of one semester WILL NOT receive graduation credit for that semester's work in the course.*

Shared-Time Union County Career & Technical Institute Programs

Tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students have the option of attending Union County Career & Technical Institute (UCCTI) on a part-time basis. UCCTI offers a variety of shared-time programs for students interested in a vocational-technical curriculum. Please visit their [website](#) to access detailed information on each of the current shared-timed offerings.

Students considering future enrollment in the vocational technical programs must work closely with their school counselor and/or case manager to ensure that time is allotted to meet all necessary graduation requirements within ALJ's four-year program. Oftentimes, this requires additional summer courses. College-bound students attending UCCTI programs should be sure to complete 16 academic units prior to graduation. This should include, but is not limited to: 4 English Units, 3 Laboratory Science Units, 3 Mathematics Units (Algebra 1 & 2 and Geometry), 3 Social Studies Units, 3 Units with additional work in at least two of the following: History, Languages (minimum 2 units in one language), Mathematics, Science or English. Students should be enrolled in UCCTI's English and Technical Math courses unless a meeting is held with the counseling department and the student's family to determine otherwise.

Union College Program

Arthur L. Johnson High School is pleased to offer, through a continued partnership with Union College, the availability of college credits. This program allows top achieving students who have shown a continued commitment to academics to complete Union College courses during their senior year. While courses are offered in the evenings within our building, the instruction, curriculum, assessment and grading procedures are determined by Union College. Your school counselor can provide more information about this program.

To enroll, students must:

- Obtain permission from the School Counseling Office or school administrator and parent/guardian;
- Submit admissions application;
- Standardized test scores, GPA, state assessments, attendance, and discipline will be considered for enrollment; and,
- Register for classes.

**Subject to change by Union College*

Students enrolled in this program pay a reduced college rate directly to the college. These grades are not reported on our transcript, but the courses will be listed.

The Early College Program

The Early College program from Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) gives college-bound students the opportunity to earn college credit before they graduate high school. Qualifying students are enrolled in approved advanced courses offered at ALJ. These courses qualify as dual-enrollment classes, and students who earn a final average of "C" or better will receive 3 corresponding credits from FDU. Students who are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses offered through The Early College Program will have the option of either taking the AP exam, enrolling in the dual enrollment option or both. Please see your school counselor about the enrollment process as applications must be submitted by October 1, 2025. For more information, please go to the [FDU Early College Program](#) website.

Advanced Placement (AP Courses)

Students enrolled in AP courses will engage in higher-level discussions, solve problems collaboratively, and learn to effectively communicate their thoughts in writing. AP courses also serve to help students acquire the skills and habits needed to be successful in college, including critical time management skills. Colleges and universities may give students credit, advanced placement, or both, on the basis of AP Exam scores. Additional information about the College Board's Advanced Placement Program can be accessed at: [College Board AP Program](#).

AP Courses require assignments that are to be submitted throughout the summer, and students will be assessed at the onset of the school year.

Students enrolled in an AP course must either take the AP exam in May or be enrolled in The Early College program at FDU (if applicable). Families will be required to submit payment of \$100 per exam no later than June 13th, 2025 in order to secure enrollment in the course. (Some AP costs may vary based on course.) If students elect to participate in The Early College program, students will be required to pay the difference of the AP exam and The Early College program by October 15th, 2025. AP exam fees will be reimbursed if a score of 3 or higher is earned. Students may also elect to enroll in both the AP exam and The Early College program as an option. Accommodations will be made for free and reduced lunch students.

Dual Enrollment Course Reimbursement Policy

Students who earn an A or higher in any dual enrollment courses coordinated through Arthur L. Johnson High School will be reimbursed for any cost in excess of \$250. Students can receive this reimbursement for one course in grade 9, one course in grade 10, two courses in grade 11, and two courses in grade 12.

Scoir

Upon entering high school, freshmen will receive free access to a website called Scoir [Students-Families](#). Through this access, families are able to gain support with interest profiling, future planning, and college and career research. School counseling staff will assist with using this site to its fullest potential.

Requirements to Participate in High School Athletics

High school athletic eligibility is governed by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. Rules and regulations are as follows:

A 9th grade student will automatically be eligible in his/her fall semester. For a freshman to be eligible in the second semester, he/she must have attained one half of 30, or 15 credits, for participation in spring sports. A student entering 10th, 11th, or 12th grade will be required to attain 30 credits in the year prior to participation in the first semester of a school year. To be eligible in the second semester, students must have attained 15 credits.

NCAA Academic Eligibility Requirements: Student athletes who are planning to compete in athletics as college freshmen will need to meet certain academic eligibility requirements. The [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) will determine the eligibility of all prospective student athletes for participation at an NCAA Division I or Division II member institution. Division III schools do not have athletic eligibility requirements.

Course Descriptions

The course descriptions for each of the courses offered at ALJ are listed below. Please note that in order to be placed in a course, students must meet two out of the three criteria listed for each course.

English

Each student is required to take four years of English. Each course is one year in length. Ninth-grade students will take English 1. English 2, 3, and 4 are taken in consecutive years with students required to pass one year before proceeding to the next course. The Principal's and Supervisor's permission are necessary to take two years of required English concurrently. All English courses place great emphasis on various writing types as a means of assessment. During the year in each ELA course, the students will showcase their writing in a culminating paper ([see chart](#)) that progresses throughout their high school experience. By the end of their senior year, the students will have written at least four processed papers using primary and secondary sources to prepare them for success in college and other careers. All English courses place great emphasis on a variety of writing styles as a means of assessing thinking. In addition to required courses, there are numerous elective courses offered by the English department.

All students are required to fulfill the specific demands of all summer assignments. Students in AP sections must complete the reading and writing summer assignments. In September, teachers will evaluate the summer assignments.

Core English Courses

English 1 College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grade 9
<p>Prerequisites: None</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a "C" or higher in Language Arts 8; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 750 or higher</p> <p>English 1 College Prep is a writing-based course that initiates a two-year cycle in skill building. The program is designed to provide students a foundation in reading, speaking, listening, thinking, literary analysis, study skills, visual literacy, and other areas. Students will refine their knowledge of the New Jersey Registered Holistic Scoring Process so that they will be able to evaluate their own writing and thinking skills, as well as those of others. English 1 College Prep begins to prepare for the PSAT, SAT, and the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA) during this year. The course also introduces students to the entire basic literary genre: mythology, drama, poetry, the short story, the novel, and various non-fiction modes.</p>		
English 1 Honors	5 credits	Grade 9
<p>Prerequisites: None</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Combined marking periods 1 and 2 average in Language Arts 8: an "A" or higher <i>or</i> Language Arts 8 Honors: a "B+" or higher; (2) Teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score: Language Arts 8: 785 or higher <i>or</i> Language Arts 8 Honors: 780 or higher</p> <p>English 1 Honors is a writing-based course for freshmen who have already proven advanced proficiency in required skill areas. There is a greater emphasis in this course on analytical examination of challenging literary and visual texts. Writing is constant throughout the course and the use of specific writing rubrics will be implemented regularly. Significant demands for independent study will be placed on the students. Students in Honors sections will need to demonstrate their initiative in the study of mythology, Shakespeare, and a variety of fiction and non-fiction modes of writing. They will also be expected to contribute to the classroom dialogue on a daily basis. Students will also receive preparation for the PSAT, SAT, and the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA).</p>		

English 2 College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grade 10
<p>Prerequisites: An English 1 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “C” or higher in English 1; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 750 or higher</p> <p>This writing-based course completes the skills preparation while introducing the students to classic and contemporary American literature and some world literature. Much of the curriculum will be devoted to reinforcing those skills measured on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA). Students will refine their knowledge of literary terms and techniques, will work on critical thinking and analytical skills, and will practice speaking and listening skills. All students will be asked to demonstrate an ability to articulate their thoughts in a logical and coherent fashion. PSAT and SAT preparation will continue.</p>		

English 2 Honors	5 credits	Grade 10
<p>Prerequisites: An English 1 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in English 1 CP; (2) teacher recommends course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 785 or higher</p> <p>English 2 Honors is a writing-based course for sophomores who have proven advanced proficiency in the skill areas measured during the freshman year. Students in the course have already demonstrated a facility for the language and are able to articulate their thoughts in a logical and well-supported manner. There is a greater emphasis in English 2 Honors on analytical examination of challenging literary and visual texts. Significant demands for independent study will be placed on these students, and they will be expected to contribute to their own learning to a greater degree than previously expected. During this year, students will be asked to focus on one particular area in their study of classic and contemporary American literature and some world literature, and to explore it in depth through a project or extended research assignment. They will also continue preparation for the PSAT, SAT, and the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA).</p>		

English 2: Advanced Placement Seminar	5 credits	Grade 10
<p>Prerequisites: English 1 Honors and completion or currently enrolled in Capstone Foundations</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “A” or higher for English 1 Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA scores at or above 790 or PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p><i>*An additional placement test may be administered to help determine eligibility.</i></p> <p>AP Seminar is available to students who are highly motivated and who have demonstrated advanced reading and writing skills. This course serves as the first prerequisite in College Board’s AP Capstone program, and students who successfully complete English 2: AP Seminar will have the opportunity to take the corresponding AP Seminar exam. AP Seminar also serves as graduation requirement fulfillment for 10th graders that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Skills will be reinforced through challenging reading and writing assignments (papers, projects, and presentations) with emphasis placed on critical analysis, inquiry, synthesis, and presentation. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing a variety of academic texts, as well as working with other forms of media. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. Students in this course will be required to complete extensive summer reading and writing assignments typically seen in English 2 Honors.</p>		

English 3	5 credits	Grade 11
<p>Prerequisites: An English 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average below a “C” in English 2; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 749 or below</p> <p>This writing-based course is designed to prepare skills-deficient students for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA) while reinforcing components of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards that are essential to the future success of these students. The curriculum is constructed on a foundation of classic American literature, but is not literature-based. Rather, students will employ their study of literature to enhance their skills in literal and inferential reading, speaking, writing for a purpose, writing to learn, listening, viewing, speaking, and thinking.</p>		

English 3 College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grade 11
<p>Prerequisites: An English 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “C” or higher in English 2; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 750 or higher</p> <p>English 3 College Prep is a writing-based junior English course that introduces students to the American literary heritage. A variety of poems, short stories, essays, and novels by American authors will be included. Students will examine the vast influences on, and contributions to American culture. Some of the course concentrates on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA) preparation. There is continued skill-building for the PSAT and SAT.</p>		

English 3 Honors	5 credits	Grade 11
<p>Prerequisites: An English 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in English 2 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 785 or higher</p> <p>English 3 Honors is a writing-based examination of American literature and culture. It is designed for those students who have proven able to handle rigorous academic work at an accelerated pace. The course requires strong analytical skills and a facility for critical thinking. It also demands a significant initiative on the part of the students to contribute to their own learning. Students will be expected to complete lengthier reading assignments and to embellish their learning with supplementary readings and literary criticism. Students in English 3 Honors will be expected to contribute daily to the class dialogue. There is continued skill building for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA/NJGPA-ELA), PSAT, and SAT.</p>		

English 4 College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grade 12
<p>Prerequisites: An English 3 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average higher than a “C” in English 3; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 30th percentile or higher</p> <p>The senior English program, English 4 College Prep, is a critical-based analysis of English and world literature, with a strong emphasis on the relationship between writing and thinking. Because it represents the conclusion of four years of labor, this course is intended to permit the student greater latitude to explore areas of interest, to direct his/her own learning, and to work closely with the teacher and other fellow students. The course culminates with the Senior Thesis Project which requires independent critical thinking and analysis in preparation for college and career readiness.</p>		

English 4 Honors: Mask & Mirrors–A Study of Drama’s Greatest Works	2.5 credits	Grade 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> An English 3 course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in English 3 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 45th percentile or higher</p> <p>Discover the enduring power of theater in this study of some of the most influential plays in history from a literary point of view. This course invites students to analyze works that have shaped dramatic literature, spanning from ancient tragedies and comedies to contemporary dramas. Students will explore how playwrights use the stage to reflect societal norms, challenge conventions, and probe the complexities of the human experience. Through close reading, lively discussions, writing assignments, and projects students will uncover the timeless relevance of these dramatic masterpieces.</p>		

English 4 Honors: Fiction to Film–The Evolution of Literary Adaptations	2.5 credits	Grade 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> An English 3 course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in English 3 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 45th percentile or higher</p> <p>Examine the art of storytelling through the lens of literary adaptations in this dynamic course. Students will investigate how written works are transformed into visual narratives, analyzing the creative choices that bridge the gap between text and screen. From character development and themes to cinematic techniques, this course encourages critical thinking about what makes an adaptation faithful, innovative, or transformative. Through comparative analysis, creative projects, and discussions, students will develop their own insights into the evolving relationship between literature and film.</p>		

English as a Second Language (ESL)	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> This course is restricted to students with limited or no familiarity with the English language</p> <p>This program is required for students who are limited in English proficiency (LEP), as determined by test criteria established by the State Department of Education. The WIDA Screener is an English language proficiency assessment administered to new students in Grades 1-12 to help educators identify whether they are English language learners (ELLs). The objectives of the ESL program are to develop both basic interpersonal communication skills (BICS) and cognitive academic language proficiency (CALP), to develop proficiency in the language domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, to develop competence in intercultural interactions, and to encourage participation in the full range of instructional activities in the regular education curriculum, and in extracurricular activities in our schools. The course also concentrates on preparation for The ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, an English language proficiency assessment for Grades K-12. The test is administered every year to help school districts monitor the English language development of students identified as English language learners. May be repeated for credit.</p>		

Elective English Courses

English Lab	2.5 Credits	Grade 9
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) threshold scores on previous standardized assessments; (2) final LinkIt! Benchmark assessment score; (3) teacher recommendation</p> <p>Students who qualify will automatically be enrolled for content area academic support.</p>		

Creative Writing/Poetry	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course is offered to all those who would like to explore their creative impulse. Although the course is designed as two nine-week workshops, the instructor and the students will be given the latitude to structure the class in other ways in order to promote personal growth and skill development. Students may work on poems, essays, short stories, novellas, teleplays, librettis, etc. Quality efforts may be contributed to the school literary magazine. Students will also be asked to analyze the works of a variety of writers in order to appreciate more fully the subtle interplay between inspiration and hard work that is the foundation for great literature. Students will be expected to support others in their literary efforts and to share their own work with the class.</p>		

Introduction to Yearbook Processing and Media	2.5 credits	Grade 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The Introduction to Yearbook Processing and Media course offers students a unique opportunity to engage in the creation of a published book, preparing a publication using the latest technology, running a business, and recording school history. Throughout the course, students will come to understand various types of effective writing, strengthen their problem-solving skills, improve communication, and manage tremendous responsibility. The units in this curriculum are interwoven with the result being a completed school yearbook. Students will delve into the fundamentals of journalistic writing, photojournalism, graphic design, and budget management, with a focus on the production of articles, pages, and layouts of the school yearbook. Students will ultimately gain an incredible sense of accomplishment, develop as a member of a team, and expand their skills in writing and technology.</p>		

Advanced Yearbook Processing and Media	2.5 credits	Grade 10-12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Introduction to Yearbook Processing and Media</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Advanced Yearbook Processing and Media is a continuation of the initial Yearbook Processing course and covers more challenging concepts. The students in this course will be given the responsibility of editing Yearbook content as well as organizing sales and marketing of the final product.</p>		

Literature Outside of the Library	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This half year course explores the reading of materials beyond books which could include reading materials such as articles from journals, news articles, government documents, legal documents, historical records, recipes, online content, or even visual texts such as photographs.</p>		

Peer Leadership	2.5 credits	Grade 12 Peer Leaders
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> none <u>Placement Criteria:</u> Current Peer Leader</p> <p>The ALJ Peer Leadership Program provides students the opportunity to develop and practice leadership and action skills in a social setting, in an effort to mature into a catalyst for change. The course gives students the opportunity to develop awareness and understanding of social issues, problems, and resources, assisting students in using positive peer influence to promote a safe, supportive, and respectful educational environment. Exhibiting respect, peer leaders engage in interactive team building, problem solving, conflict resolution, and other pertinent life skills encompassing leadership qualifications. With increased self-esteem, student-led programs are applied to educate peers on relevant issues impacting the climate of both the school and community.</p>		

Performance Theatre 1	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course will expose students to great dramatic works. Coupled with reading and writing about literature, the students will engage in performing some of these works. The performance aspect of the course will foster the students' senses of observation, listening, communicating orally and physically, and overall critical thinking. The course will also incorporate aspects of philosophy, psychology, history, and the performing and visual arts. Furthermore, students will gain insight into script analysis for production, production organization, casting, staging, make-up, costuming, and lighting. Students will complete a final scene as one of the major course requirements.</p>		

Performance Theatre 2	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> A grade of "B" or higher in Performance Theatre 1 <i>or</i> teacher recommendation <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Students who have demonstrated skill in Performance Theatre 1 may select this course. Students will expand upon their craft by forming an ensemble of skilled actors who explore and present varied types of dramatic literature. Projects may include scene productions, student-directed scenes, script writing, and field trips.</p>		

Advanced Placement English Courses

Advanced Placement English: Language & Composition	5 credits	Grades 11 or 12
<p>Prerequisites: Any honors or AP level English 2 or 3 option</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking Periods 1 & 2 combined average of “A” or higher in English 2 or 3 Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA scores 790 or higher <i>or</i> PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p><i>*An additional placement test may be administered to help determine eligibility.</i></p> <p>AP English Language & Composition is designed for those students who have proven their ability to handle college-level work. Students in this class are preparing for AP work in their senior year, as well as the AP exam in Language and Composition given in the spring. Those desiring to be selected for AP must have demonstrated a level of academic discipline and motivation in their previous class that is indicative of those with a serious commitment to learning. In an AP class, the instructor is clearly a facilitator of learning; the greater responsibility falls to the students. Small classes require all participants to contribute daily. Writing assignments will be challenging and extensive. The curriculum will include texts and criticism from American literature and will require students to recognize and explore the subtle relationships between the humanities and historical/popular culture. Students will be expected to supplement their readings with self-initiated research. There is continued skill building for NJSLA ELA, PSAT, and SAT. Students will also be required to complete an extensive assignment during the summer prior to the start of the course.</p>		

Advanced Placement English: Literature & Composition	5 credits	Grades 11 or 12
<p>Prerequisites: Any honors or AP level English 2 or 3 option</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking Periods 1 & 2 combined average of “A” or higher in English 2 or 3 Honors or Marking Periods 1 & 2 combined average of “B+” or higher in Advanced Placement Language and Composition (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>Students in AP English Literature & Composition will be expected to do college-level work on a daily basis. This class examines many of the most profound and demanding texts in American and world literature. Some of the works studied in this course include <i>Crime and Punishment</i>, <i>Hamlet</i>, <i>King Lear</i>, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>, <i>The Sound and the Fury</i>, plays of <i>Sophocles</i> or <i>Euripides</i>, and selected essays and poems from college-level texts. An important component of the curriculum is preparation for the AP exam in Literature and Composition which is given in May for the purpose of earning college credit or exemption from certain required college courses. Students will be asked to read and write extensively and to exhibit a level of scholarship consistent with those who have dedicated their energies to academic pursuits. Small classes require consistent participation. Students should feel comfortable challenging the views of others in the class, including those of the instructor, and having their own views challenged. AP students must be motivated enough to explore topical issues with additional self-initiated readings and research, and they must be eager and willing to share their discoveries with others. The focus is on individual growth and development with the teacher acting as the facilitator of learning. Students will also be required to complete an extensive assignment during the summer prior to the course.</p>		

Advanced Placement Capstone Program

AP Capstone is a two-year high school pilot program developed by the College Board, which consists of two courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These courses are not discipline specific, but currently fall within Humanities. Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students’ skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different AP Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world. Additionally, English 2: AP Seminar will also serve as an option for 10th grade students to fulfill their graduation requirement. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or

higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

Participating in AP Capstone can help students:

- Stand out to colleges in the application process.
- Develop key academic skills they'll use in college and beyond.
- Become self-confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers.

Capstone Foundations: Preparing for AP Capstone Success	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p>Prerequisites: 8th grade English Honors or English 1 Honors</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking Periods 1 & 2 combined average of “A” or higher in English 1 Honors or 8th grade English Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA scores 790 or higher <i>or</i> PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p><i>*An additional placement test may be administered to help determine eligibility.</i></p> <p>Capstone Foundations is a course specifically designed to equip students with the essential skills required to thrive in the challenging academic setting of the AP Capstone Program. This course aims to introduce students to the fundamental principles of research across various disciplines and foster critical thinking skills that transcend subject boundaries. Throughout the course, students will receive guidance on the entire academic research process, including utilizing available resources effectively, enhancing their writing and critical reading abilities, and cultivating collaborative skills for working with peers. Furthermore, students will gain experience in presenting their findings in a public setting. The culmination of the course will involve a sample assessment resembling the ones they will encounter in AP Seminar, serving as an indicator of their readiness for the subsequent stages of the AP Capstone Program. This course will be weighted as an AP-level course.</p>		

Advanced Placement Seminar	5 credits	Grade 11
<p>Prerequisites: English 2 Honors and completion or currently enrolled in Capstone Foundations</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “A” or higher for English 2 Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA scores at or above 790 <i>or</i> PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p><i>*An additional placement test may be administered to help determine eligibility.</i></p> <p>AP Seminar has students investigate real-world issues such as sustainability, innovation, and technology from multiple perspectives. Students examine materials like news stories, research studies, and literary works. Students learn to synthesize information from different sources, develop their own lines of reasoning in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team.</p>		

Advanced Placement Research	5 credits	Grades 11- 12
<p>Prerequisites: AP Seminar</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “A” or higher for English 3 Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>Taken in either Grades 11 or 12, AP Research allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, students design, plan, and conduct a year-long research-based investigation to address a research question. In the AP Research course, students further their skills acquired in the AP Seminar course by understanding research methodology; employing ethical research practices; and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information as they address a research question. Students explore their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of the development of their scholarly work in a portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of approximately 4000–5000 words (accompanied by a performance or exhibition of product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.</p>		

Mathematics

Core Mathematics Courses

Algebra 1	5 credits	Grade 9
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “C” or below in Math 8; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-Math score 724 or below</p> <p>This course is designed for students who will need to explore the fundamental components of algebraic functions at a more deliberate pace. Students enrolled in this course will be given the opportunity to gain a thorough grounding in those algebra skills that will be assessed formally by the State prior to graduation and which will be critical to successful performance on college entrance and placement exams.</p>		

Algebra 1 College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grade 9
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “C+” or higher in Math 8; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-Math score 725 or higher</p> <p>In this course, consideration is given to fundamental properties of real numbers. Included are: algebraic applications of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, exponents, extracting roots, equations and inequalities, factoring, ordered pairs, and graphing. Introductory concepts in data analysis and probability and statistics are covered. Much attention is devoted to problem solving.</p>		

Algebra 1 Honors	5 credits	Grade 9
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in Math 8; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA score above 760</p> <p>This course emphasizes the fundamental properties of real numbers. Included are: algebraic applications of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, exponents, extracting roots, equations and inequalities, linear and quadratic functions, factoring, ordered pairs, and graphing. Introductory concepts in data analysis and probability and statistics are covered. Students will be required to explain their thinking and analyze diverse problems. Much attention is devoted to real-life problem solving and reasoning.</p>		

Geometry	5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of an Algebra 1 course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “D+” or below in Algebra 1 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-Math score 724 or below</p> <p>This course is designed for students who will need to explore the fundamental components of geometric functions at a more deliberate pace. Students enrolled in this course will be given the opportunity to gain a thorough grounding in the skills that will be assessed formally by the State prior to graduation, and which will be critical to successful performance on college entrance and placement exams.</p>		

Geometry College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra 1 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in Algebra 1 or a “D+” or below in Algebra 1 Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-Math score 725 or higher</p> <p>This course includes the undefined terms, basic definitions, postulates, and theorems of geometry. Topics include: angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, application of congruent triangles, similar polygons, right triangles, symmetry, circles, areas of polygons and circles, areas and volumes of solids, the coordinate plane, the distance and midpoint formulas, the slope of a line, parallel and perpendicular lines in the coordinate plane, the equation of a line, and mathematical modeling. Transformations, which include reflections, translations, rotations, and dilations will also be included in the course. Throughout the course, students are asked to apply geometric facts and reasoning to problem solving.</p>		

Geometry Honors	5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra 1 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “B” or higher in Algebra 1 Honors or “A” or higher in Algebra 1 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-Math score 760 or higher</p> <p>This course includes key topics of Euclidean Geometry. Traditional topics such as: angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, circles, areas, and volume are covered. In addition, transformations are explored. These include: reflections, translations, rotations, symmetry, and dilations. The formulas of analytic geometry and the equation of a line are also covered. This course is for students who are able to work independently and in cooperative groups. Reading is emphasized throughout the course. Students are asked to apply geometric facts to problem solving, and are involved in mathematical modeling. Included proofs will require the use of both deductive and inductive reasoning.</p>		

Algebra 2	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of a Geometry course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “D+” or below in Geometry; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-Math score 724 or below</p> <p>This course is designed for students who will need to explore the fundamental components of algebraic functions at a more deliberate pace. Students enrolled in this course will be given the opportunity to gain a thorough grounding in those algebra skills that will be assessed formally by the State prior to graduation and which will be critical to successful performance on college entrance and placement exams.</p>		

Algebra 2 College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of a Geometry course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “A” or higher in Geometry or “D+” or below in Geometry Honors; (2) teacher recommendation; (3) NJSLA-Math score 725 or higher</p> <p>The aim of the course is to provide some insight into the nature of mathematical thought, as well as to prepare the students to perform certain manipulations with facility. Knowledge of the number system is extended to include complex numbers. Included in this course are: the function concept and the linear function, quadratic functions and quadratic equations, systems of equations in two and three variables, exponents and logarithms, matrices, sequences and series, and the binomial theorem. Problems involving data analysis and mathematical modeling are included. Throughout the course, students are asked to apply skills and concepts to problem solving.</p>		

Algebra 2 Honors	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of a Geometry course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 average of a “B” or higher in 8th grade Geometry or “A” or higher in Geometry CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-Math score 760 or higher</p> <p>This course emphasizes four dimensions of understanding: skill in carrying out various algorithms, developing and using mathematical properties and relationships, applying mathematics in realistic situations, and representing or picturing mathematical concepts. The topics studied include: equations, linear and quadratic functions, systems of equations, conics, polynomials, logarithms, matrices, complex numbers, sequences and series, and the binomial theorem. Reading and problem solving are emphasized throughout. The graphing calculator is used frequently to enhance instruction. Students are expected to work well independently and in cooperative groups.</p>		

Algebra 3 & Trigonometry	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “D+” or below in Algebra 2 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score below the 30th percentile</p> <p>This course is designed to continue beyond the Algebra 2 course and lead into fundamental concepts in trigonometry. Topics such as linear functions, quadratic functions, complex numbers, matrices, probability, data analysis, trigonometric and circular functions will be covered. Supplemental activities involving the graphing calculator will be part of the curriculum.</p>		

Probability & Statistics	5 credits	Grade 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “D+” in Algebra 2; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score below the 30th percentile</p> <p>Probability and Statistics is a math course that aims to help students apply statistics ideas to real-world situations. From weather reports to medical test results, from election polls to census data, probability and statistical language and concepts inform every aspect of our society. An introduction to probability and statistics allows high schoolers to judge whether the conclusions drawn from data are accurate. This course will help students become informed, critical users of data who can apply them meaningfully in their everyday lives. It is ideal for students needing an alternative math credit who may not wish to pursue more advanced mathematics courses. (<i>NOTE: This course is not intended to prepare students for the AP exam in Statistics.</i>)</p>		

Precalculus	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in Algebra 2 or “D+” or below in Algebra 2 Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score 30th percentile or higher (Algebra 2) or 40th percentile or lower (Algebra 2 Honors)</p> <p>This Precalculus course includes the study of the theory and application of trigonometric functions and such topics as polar coordinates, vectors, permutations, combinations, probability, polynomial functions, determinants, matrices, data analysis, and descriptive statistics and limits. The computer and/or graphing calculator are frequently used to enhance instruction.</p>		

Precalculus Honors	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Algebra 2 CP or Algebra 2 Honors</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in Algebra 2 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score 40th percentile or higher</p> <p>This Precalculus course is designed to help prepare students to study mathematics at the college level. The course will include the study of functions, including trigonometric, root, power, logarithmic, and polynomial functions. Units on probability and statistics, vectors and matrices, and sequences and series will also be included. The emphasis of the course is applications, problem solving, reasoning, and communication. The graphing calculator is frequently used to enhance instruction. This is a challenging course. Students will be expected to work well independently and in cooperative groups.</p>		

Calculus	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Precalculus or Precalculus Honors</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “C” or higher in Precalculus; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score above the 40th percentile</p> <p>This course deals with the differential and integral Calculus. Included is a study of limits, continuity, derivatives, differentials and their applications, integration, areas, the Fundamental Theorem of the Integral Calculus, methods of integration and application, and the Calculus of transcendental functions (exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric). The importance of Calculus as a tool for problem solving is emphasized. The computer and the graphing calculator are used to enhance instruction.</p>		

Calculus III	5 credits	Grade 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course deals with the calculus of vector-valued functions and differentiation and integration of functions of two or more variables. Topics include partial derivatives, double and triple integrals, vector fields and line integrals. Fundamental theorems of vector analysis such as Green’s Theorem, Stokes’ Theorem, and the Divergence Theorem will also be discussed. Use of graphing calculators will enhance instruction. Students who successfully complete this course will qualify to purchase, at a significantly reduced rate, 4 credits from Seton Hall University under their Project Acceleration Program.</p>		

Math Elective Courses

Innovation of Design	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of an Algebra 1 course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The course will provide students the opportunity to engage in a number of design challenges: open-ended projects that encourage students to work collaboratively to achieve a desired goal within given, limited parameters. Students will utilize the design thinking process which could have several stages: Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype and Test. Within these steps, problems can be framed, the right questions can be asked, more ideas can be created, and the best answers can be chosen. Students will use Tinkercad to work on techniques like 3D design, Circuit Design, and Codeblock.</p>		

Math Lab	2.5 credits	Grade 9
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) threshold scores on previous standardized assessments; (2) final LinkIt! Benchmark assessment score; (3) teacher recommendation</p> <p>Students who qualify will automatically be enrolled for content area academic support.</p>		

Topics in Mathematics: The Stock Market	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of an Algebra 2 course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course is designed for juniors and seniors who would like to take a fourth-year mathematics course or a mathematics elective. The course will examine the stock market from a mathematical perspective. Students will participate in simulations involving stock purchasing and trading and such an activity as the Stock Market Game. They will be engaged in a variety of project-based learning experiences and will gain exposure to guest speakers who work in the actual field of practice.</p>		

Advanced Placement Math Courses

Advanced Placement Precalculus	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Algebra 2 CP or Algebra 2 Honors</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "A" or higher in Algebra 2 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score 40th percentile or higher</p> <p>AP Precalculus will provide students with superb preparation for AP Calculus. The course will include the study of functions, including trigonometric, root, power, logarithmic, and polynomial functions. The units on circular functions, probability and statistics, vectors and matrices, and sequences and series will also be included. The emphasis of the course is applications, problem solving, reasoning, and communication. The graphing calculator is frequently used to enhance instruction. This is a challenging course. Students will be expected to work well independently and in cooperative groups. AP Precalculus fulfills a math requirement at a diverse range of colleges and universities, including the majority of public institutions. However, most highly selective colleges do not treat Precalculus as a college-level course, and thus college credit for AP Precalculus may not be available at such institutions. Students will be expected to complete a summer assignment in preparation for this course.</p>		

Advanced Placement Calculus AB	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Precalculus, or Precalculus Honors, or Calculus</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "A" or higher in Precalculus or "B" or higher in Precalculus Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>This course deals with the differential and integral calculus and is equivalent to beyond a first semester college-level calculus offering. A broad range of topics is covered with depth and rigor. Included is a study of functions, limits, continuity, derivatives and differentials, integration, rate of change, areas and volumes, the Fundamental Theorem of the Integral Calculus, the calculus of transcendental functions (i.e. exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric), and differential equations and slope fields. The importance of calculus as a tool for problem solving is emphasized. The computer and graphing calculator are used to enhance instruction. Students will be expected to complete a summer assignment in preparation for this course.</p>		

Advanced Placement Calculus BC	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Precalculus, or Precalculus Honors, Calculus, or Advanced Placement Calculus AB</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “A” or higher in Precalculus Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>This course deals with the differential and integral calculus, and is equivalent to a first-year college-level calculus offering. A broad range of topics is covered with depth and rigor. Included is a study of functions, limits, continuity derivatives and differentials, integration, rate of change, areas and volumes, the Fundamental Theorem of the Integral Calculus, the calculus of transcendental functions (i.e. exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric), and differential equations and slope fields. Extensions of calculus to be covered include advanced integration methods, treatment of parametric, polar, and vector functions, Euler’s method of solving differential equations, L’Hospital’s Rule, logistic equations, and Taylor series. The importance of calculus as a tool for problem solving is emphasized. The computer and graphing calculator are used to enhance instruction. Students will be expected to complete a summer assignment in preparation for this course.</p>		

Advanced Placement Statistics	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Algebra 2 Honors or Algebra 2 CP</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “B” or higher in Algebra 2 Honors or “A” or higher in Algebra 2 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>AP Statistics is a college level course designed to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Topics include exploratory data analysis and descriptive statistics, probability for anticipating patterns in the distributions of data, designing experiments, and confirming models through statistical inference. This course prepares students to take the College Board AP Statistics Exam. The computer and graphing calculator are used to enhance instruction. Students will be expected to complete a summer assignment in preparation for this course.</p>		

Science

Science at the high school is unique in the sense that the courses are not tied into the grade level of the student. Students are required to take three years of science, with one of those years being Biology, in order to fulfill graduation requirements. ALJ strongly encourages students to take four years of science, as this is not only a requisite of many colleges and universities, but also prudent in a society where STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields play a major role in our culture and economy.

Core Science Courses

Environmental Science	5 credits	Grade 9
<p>Prerequisites: None</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>Environmental Science is a lab-based, interdisciplinary science concerned with the study of scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies which require students to understand the interrelationships of the natural world; to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made; to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems; and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. The curriculum is less rigorous than the Environmental Science College Prep Course.</p>		

Environmental Science College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grade 9
<p>Prerequisites: None</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “C” or higher in Science 8; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA Math score of less than 770</p> <p>Environmental Science College Prep is a lab-based, interdisciplinary science concerned with the study of scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies which require students to understand the interrelationships of the natural world; to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made; to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems; and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. The curriculum includes topics such as the scientific method, introduction to earth processes, ecology, populations, land, air and water quality, pollution, climate change, biodiversity, endangered species, mineral and energy resources, our health and our future, and legal aspects of conservation. The aim of this course is to produce enlightened citizens aware of the needs of the environment and the methods of conserving nature’s beauty for future generations.</p>		

Biology	5 credits	Grade 10
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of an Environmental Science course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “D+” or below in an Environmental Science; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA Math at or below 724</p> <p>This is a full-year, lab-based course about living things, their diversity and how they function. It is for the student who wants a general knowledge of the living world. It provides a less rigorous approach than the Biology College Prep course and allows time for skill reinforcement throughout. Laboratory work with living and preserved materials is an important part of this course offering.</p>		

Biology College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grade 10
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of an Environmental Science course; completion of or concurrent enrollment in a Geometry course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “B+” or below in Environmental Science CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA Math score at or above 725</p> <p>This is a full-year, lab-based course about living things, their diversity and how they function. It is for the student who wants a general knowledge of the living world. It provides a less rigorous approach than the Biology Honors course, and it includes some discussion of biochemistry and molecular biology. Laboratory work with living and preserved materials is an important part of this course offering.</p>		

Biology Honors	5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in a Geometry course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “B+” or higher in Science 8 or “B+” or higher in Environmental Science CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA Math score 770 or higher</p> <p>This course is a full-year, lab-based, rigorous approach to the study of living things. Emphasis will be placed on biochemistry and molecular biology, the unifying concepts applicable to all life forms. In addition, study of living things, their diversity, and their function will be undertaken. Laboratory work will involve living and preserved materials, as well as chemical materials and scientific instructions. Comprehensive lab reports will be required.</p>		

Geophysical Science	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of a Biology course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>This is a full-year, lab-based course that infuses the study of earth systems with the principles of chemistry and physics. Students will investigate earth's history and geologic structure, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering, erosion, mass movements, surface and groundwater systems, meteorology, climatology, and astronomy. Students will manipulate algebraic relationships and collect and analyze data to explain the various observable phenomena that drive our dynamic planet. This course is less rigorous than the Geophysical Science College Prep course.</p>		

Geophysical Science College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of a Biology course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "C" or higher in Biology CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA Math at 710 or below</p> <p>This is a full-year, lab-based course that infuses the study of earth systems with the principles of chemistry and physics. Students will investigate earth's history and geologic structure, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering, erosion, mass movements, surface and groundwater systems, meteorology, climatology, and astronomy. Students will manipulate algebraic relationships and collect and analyze data to explain the various observable phenomena that drive our dynamic planet.</p>		

Chemistry College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of a Biology course; completion of or concurrent enrollment in an Algebra 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "B+" or higher in Biology CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA Math score at 711 or higher</p> <p>This is a comprehensive full-year, lab-based course in Chemistry. It includes a study of matter: its composition, properties, and interactions as described by modern chemical theories, and a discussion of how these principles apply to contemporary issues. While primarily intended for the non-science college-bound student, the treatment is sufficiently theoretical and mathematical to meet the needs of students who later choose to enter a science career. Laboratory work in which the student handles chemical materials and scientific instruments supplemented by teacher lecture demonstrations constitutes an important part of this course.</p>		

Chemistry Honors	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of a Biology course; completion of or concurrent enrollment in an Algebra 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "B+" or higher in Biology CP and in Algebra 1 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA Math score 770 or higher</p> <p>This is a full-year, lab-based, rigorous course in Chemistry for the science-oriented, college-bound student. It includes a study of the composition of matter, its properties, and how matter undergoes change and interacts with other kinds of matter. The unifying principles of the subject are developed in a logical way with extensive laboratory work, during which the student will handle various chemical materials and scientific instruments, providing a basis for this development. This offering involves a rigorous mathematical approach. Therefore, successful completion of Algebra 1 and Geometry is required. This course also stresses higher order thinking skills and excellent reading comprehension. Comprehensive lab reports will be required for laboratory activities.</p>		

Physics	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Chemistry CP or Chemistry Honors; completion of or concurrent enrollment in Precalculus or Precalculus Honors</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “C” or higher in Chemistry CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA Math score 710 or higher/ PSAT 40th percentile or higher</p> <p>This is a full-year, lab-based course designed to offer students an introduction to the basis upon which scientists make mathematical descriptions of systems as they appear in nature. Laboratory work and problem-solving techniques are stressed. Students should have had thorough preparation in mathematics prior to entry into this course. The methods and theorems of Algebra and Geometry are used in problem solving. An understanding of simple trigonometric principles is helpful, although not required. Students seriously considering four-year colleges and universities are strongly encouraged to complete the ALJ Science sequence by adding Physics to their transcript.</p>		

Physics Honors	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Chemistry CP or Chemistry Honors; completion of or concurrent enrollment in Precalculus or Precalculus Honors</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “B+” or higher in Chemistry CP and Geometry CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA Math score 770 or higher/ PSAT 60th percentile or higher</p> <p>This full-year, lab-based, honors level of Physics covers the concepts of Physics in greater depth and at an accelerated rate. Students will complete all units in the text. The course is geared for the student who plans to study science or a science-related field at the college level. It is an excellent foundation for AP Physics.</p>		

Science Elective Courses

These elective courses are offered to enable students interested in careers that will require scientific knowledge to enrich their existing understanding. The appearance of upper level core Science courses like Chemistry and Physics produces a far more appealing transcript for colleges and universities. These electives are designed to be offered in supplement to, not in place of, the core Science courses.

Anatomy & Physiology	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in a Geophysical Science course, Chemistry or Chemistry Honors; concurrent enrollment in an Algebra 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>This is a full-year, lab-based course designed for students seeking to take an enriching fourth year of science. Students will explore the following concepts and topics: cells and tissues, bones, muscles, all aspects of the skeletal and muscular system, and other systems and processes of the human body. This course is lab intensive involving multiple dissections. It includes detailed studies of the cardiovascular system and blood composition, which includes a series of lab activities and a heart dissection. Opportunities to witness live surgery are also embedded in this program.</p>		

Forensic Explorations	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Chemistry, Chemistry Honors or Geophysical Science; completion of an Algebra 2 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>This is a one-semester, lab-based, introductory course in laboratory sciences for the advanced student. Topics include observation skills, crime scene investigation and evidence collection, the study of hair, fibers, and textiles, fingerprinting, blood and blood spatter, drug identification and toxicology, casts and impressions, as well as handwriting analysis and forgery investigations. Students serious about a career that will involve laboratory science, including forensics, would be well served by this course.</p>		

Marine Biology	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Chemistry, Chemistry Honors or Geophysical Science; completion of an Algebra 2 course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This is a one-semester, lab-based course that embraces the study of the phenomena of the oceans. It is intended to be an introduction to the physical, chemical, biological, and geological aspects of the greater portion of our earth's surface. Laboratory work could include field studies of both marine and aquatic areas, and emphasis is placed upon the interconnectedness of earth's systems with reflections upon the relationship humans and the economy share with those systems.</p>		

Premedical Studies	5 credits	Grade 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Chemistry or Chemistry Honors; completion of Anatomy and Physiology</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This is a full-year, lab-based course designed for students who are serious about pursuing a career in medicine, pharmaceutical science or sales, or laboratory technical fields. The course is a rigorous exploration of their systems, structures, functions, and afflictions of the human body. Students will complete a multitude of challenging dissections and have opportunities to witness live surgeries.</p>		

Advanced Placement Sciences Courses

Advanced Placement Biology	6 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Biology or Biology Honors; completion of Chemistry or Chemistry Honors; completion of or concurrent enrollment in Precalculus or Precalculus Honors</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "B" or higher in an Honors or AP science course or an "A" or higher in on-level science course; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math section 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>AP Biology is an intensive, full-year, laboratory-based course that will include those topics regularly covered in a college Biology course for majors or in the syllabus from high-quality college programs in introductory Biology. The college course in AP Biology differs significantly from the usual Biology Honors course with respect to the kind of textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, the kind of laboratory work done by students, and the time and effort required by students. The textbooks used for AP Biology are those also used by college Biology majors. The types of labs done by AP students equate to the types of labs experienced by college students. Students will be expected to complete a summer assignment in preparation for the 6-credit course.</p>		

Advanced Placement Chemistry	6 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Chemistry or Chemistry Honors; completion of or concurrent enrollment in Precalculus or Precalculus Honors</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "B" or higher in an Honors or AP science course or an A in an on-level science course; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math section 60th percentile or higher</p> <p>This intensive, full-year, laboratory course is designed for the student who wishes to pursue a rigorous, college-level course in Chemistry. It is recommended that any student pursuing this program should have a strong mathematical background in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. The course may include field trips to local chemistry facilities. Students will be expected to complete a summer assignment in preparation for this 6-credit course.</p>		

Advanced Placement Environmental Science	6 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Biology Honors, Chemistry or Chemistry Honors</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “B” or higher in an Honors or AP science course or an A in an on-level science course; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>This intensive, full-year, laboratory Science course is designed to reflect the same rigor and expectations as a first-year Environmental Science course from a four-year college or university. The course is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.</p>		

Advanced Placement Physics 1	6 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Chemistry or Chemistry Honors; completion of or concurrent enrollment in Precalculus or Precalculus Honors</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “A” or higher in Chemistry Honors and “B” or higher in Physics Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math section 60th percentile or higher</p> <p>This is an intensive, full-year, laboratory-based Science course designed to reflect the expectations and content found within the freshman Physics syllabi of accredited 4-year colleges and universities. Topics will include units from both mechanics and electromagnetism.</p>		

Advanced Placement Physics 2	6 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of AP Physics 1; completion of or concurrent enrollment in Calculus, AP Calculus AB or BC</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “B” or higher in AP Physics 1; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math section 60th percentile or higher</p> <p>This course is an intensive, full-year, laboratory-based Science course designed to challenge students interested in pursuing a career in a S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) field. The topics covered in this course are an extension of the requisite AP Physics 1 and involve much more intensive mathematical principles and more in-depth problem-solving.</p>		

Social Studies

All students are required to take a full year each of Modern World History, United States History 1, and United States History 2. Advanced Prep United States History and AP United States History qualify for NJ state graduation requirements.

Core Social Studies Courses

Modern World History College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grade 9
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Modern World History is a required history course taken normally in the freshman year. The curriculum, which utilizes information from the entire world, takes a thematic approach to studying various forms of history from the 14th century to the present day. The major areas of study will include the development of the modern world, the subsequent “shrinking” of the world, industrialization and western global hegemony, great wars in the global context, the development of the modern world, and the modern world’s effects on the future. The development of skills such as higher-order thinking and reasoning, organization and analysis of information, oral and written communication, and group dynamics is an integral part of the course. Writing emphasis will focus on the analysis and evaluation of primary source documents.</p>		
Modern World History Honors	5 credits	Grade 9
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in History 8; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 785 or higher</p> <p>The honors curriculum expands upon the previously described Modern World History course. At the honors level, students will read primary sources and supplementary materials on a regular basis in addition to the textbook. They will be expected to use critical thinking processes learned in previous courses and will complete extensive research resulting in written and oral reports. Writing emphasis will also focus on the analysis and evaluation of primary source documents.</p>		
United States History 1 College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grade 10
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> A Modern World History course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “C” or higher in English 1 CP or Modern World History CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 750 or higher</p> <p>United States History 1 CP examines the study of American History from 1600 to 1890. The course follows chronological lines, but is selective in content. Certain themes are prioritized including the multicultural character of the United States, geography as a factor in historical development, and the role of the U.S. in the world. The social studies skills that were learned in Modern World History will be reinforced in U.S. History 1 College Prep. In addition, students will work to build additional skills such as interpretation of historical documents, problem solving, and decision-making. Writing emphasis will focus on the analysis and evaluation of primary source documents.</p>		

United States History 1 Honors	5 credits	Grade 10
<p>Prerequisites: Modern World History CP or Modern World History Honors</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in Modern World History CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 785 or higher</p> <p>United States History 1 Honors examines the study of American History from 1600 to 1890 and expands upon the previously described United States History 1 CP course. At the honors level, students will read and analyze primary sources and supplementary materials on a regular basis, apply the content learned and make connections to broader themes in U.S. History. Writing emphasis will focus on the analysis and evaluation of primary source documents.</p>		

United States History 2 College Prep (CP)	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: A US History 1 course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “C” or higher in English 2 or United States History 1; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 750 or higher/ PSAT 30th percentile or higher</p> <p>United States History II CP examines American History from 1890 to the present. While the course is taught in chronological order, particular emphasis is placed on formative events in that timespan, especially World War II and the Civil Rights Movement. Throughout the course, events in history will be tied to current events and conditions in the US and the world. Students will be assessed using a variety of traditional and nontraditional assessment methods to gauge understanding and comprehension. Students will continue to build on skills developed in US History 1 CP including those related to research and development of projects and/or presentations. Writing emphasis will continue to focus on the analysis and evaluation of primary source documents as well as discerning valid sources.</p>		

United States History 2 Honors	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of US History 1 CP or US History 1 Honors</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in United States History 1 CP; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 785 or higher/ PSAT 45th percentile or higher</p> <p>United States History II Honors examines American History from 1890 to the present. While the course is taught in chronological order, particular emphasis is placed on formative events in that timespan, especially World War II and the Civil Rights Movement. Throughout the course, events in history will be tied to current events and conditions in the US and the world. At the honors level, particular emphasis will be placed on the development of historical argumentation through the use of primary and secondary sources to develop fact based defensible arguments. Writing emphasis will focus on the analysis and evaluation of primary sources and their use in argumentation.</p>		

Social Studies Elective Courses

Archeology: Techniques & Discoveries	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 11
<p>Prerequisite Courses: Completion of or currently enrolled in a Modern World History course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>This class teaches real-world crime-scene investigation techniques. From evolution to the medieval period students will learn how we uncover the past and the science behind it. Real bones and labs based on actual events will expose participants to skills also useful in the field of criminal justice. If you enjoy true-crime stories or are fascinated by the ancient wonders of the world this class is for you.</p>		

Conspiracy Theories Throughout History	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course provides an opportunity for students to investigate historical contradictions by allowing each student the ability to determine for themselves what they choose to believe. Utilizing search engines and watching podcasts/documentaries, opens each student to different perspectives on the subject. The exposure to multiple sources and perspectives without consequence frees our students to engage in ideas and concepts they would not have attempted on their own. Skills developed will be research, format, sourcing, understanding historical context, and communication.</p>		

Criminal Justice	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Criminal Justice is a semester-long course that allows students the opportunity to examine the intricacies of the United States criminal justice system. Throughout this course, students will cover such topics as the United States Constitution as it relates to the rights of the accused, the investigation process, the trial process, federal laws and state laws, and criminal law versus civil law. Current events will be incorporated throughout the course to make connections between the content being taught in class and real events that are ongoing in our country.</p>		

Diversity Studies	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to cultural traditions and institutions throughout our Western culture, with emphasis on Latino cultures and Asian American and Black Americans. There will be opportunities for students to investigate the immigrant experience of various cultural, ethnic, and/or religious backgrounds about their history, culture, values, and notable achievements. Students will examine problems and issues that may arise from differences (including but not limited to gender, age, ability, and social class), and opportunities to learn how to deal constructively with them. The purpose of this interdisciplinary humanities course is to make students aware of the differences and similarities between the cultural groups that make up our American society. Topics may include arts, economics, history, and current events. With this awareness, students will develop their ability to positively affect society through acceptance and action. Emphasizing self-discovery, self-awareness, and tolerance/acceptance, the course will make use of many disciplines including literature, history, psychology, sociology, music, and film.</p>		

Global Issues	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of or currently enrolled in a Modern World History course <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Global Issues is a single-semester course designed to introduce students to the pressing issues facing the global community. The course is divided into six units and explores current issues, the causes, and the potential solutions to those issues. After students research current circumstances and conditions around the world, we will examine demographics and the impact of disease, the environment, and our dependence on various energy sources, economics, and the consequences of globalization, human rights, and geopolitics.</p>		

History of Art & Music	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of or currently enrolled in a Modern World History course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The History of Art & Music is a single-semester course that will introduce students to the cultural, social, political, and economic influence of art and music throughout the world and the United States of America since roughly 1450. Throughout this course, students will study and analyze various artworks, research artists, and develop projects geared to demonstrate the significance of prominent individuals, movements, trends, and pieces of work that have impacted human societies on a local and global scale.</p>		

Holocaust and Genocide Studies	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12 (priority to seniors)
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> A grade of “B” or higher in any full-year history course. Anything lower will require a teacher's recommendation.</p> <p>Holocaust and Genocide Studies is a full-year Social Studies elective open to juniors and seniors. The college-level class offers students the opportunity to obtain three credits from Kean University as part of a dual enrollment option. This option requires a tuition payment, as well as an overall grade of B or higher. Individual units of study focus on the relationship between the Holocaust and human nature, how the Nazi Party rose to power, the Holocaust, children, resistance, and rescuers, liberation, post-World War II, and its legacy, genocide, and prejudice. In addition, the course will explore several other atrocities including the Armenian, Ukrainian, and Rwandan Genocides. Various methods of presentation including primary source analysis, literature, video testimony, and scholarly readings will be used.</p>		

Introduction to American Civics	2.5 credits	Grades 11-12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of or currently enrolled in a United States History II course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>American Civics will reinforce students' understanding of the branches of the American government, our division of powers, and our system of federalism through the analysis of historical and contemporary case studies. The course aims to promote civic values and duties as outlined in our founding documents and subsequent historical events. Students will apply content knowledge, develop citizenship skills, improve media literacy, and prepare for the 21st-century political landscape.</p>		

Introduction to Philosophy	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Successful completion of United States History I Honors</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Introduction to Philosophy is an elective for students interested in the development, the impact, and the power of reason on the human condition. It is split into five units: Ethics, Politics, Religion & Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Art & Aesthetics. All units are conducted in a purely academic setting with an emphasis on theory and the promotion of abstract thought. Prominent philosophers and their theories, from Ancient Greece through postmodernism, will be explored in the context of historical events, hypothetical circumstances, contemporary issues, and various case studies.</p>		

Introduction to Speech/Debate	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Students will be coached in public speaking skills and competitive events in the National Speech and Debate League. Performance skills will be cultivated as well as acting skills. Participants will learn to present professional proposals for solutions to current public issues while honing information literacy, which is a core college readiness skill and a central concept of the class. Everyone will find themselves speaking to a room full of people at some point. This class offers a supportive environment to begin confronting a basic fear most people struggle with and familiarizes students with what the ALJ Speech and Debate team does in competitions.</p>		

Debate and Rhetoric (Speech II)	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Introduction to Speech/Debate <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course expands on what students learn in Speech I in a more competitive environment. National Speech and Debate Association events like public forum debates, policy debates and student congress will familiarize students with current events, and politics and continue to hone information literacy skills. Though not an NSDA event, mock trials are offered at the state level and cases are prepared by the Bar Associations in each of the 50 states. This class will host actual mock trials complete with evidence and expert witnesses.</p>		

Psychology	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 10
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> For 9th graders, enrolled in Modern World History Honors or Adv. Prep US 1 <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Psychology provides an introduction to the field of human behavior. The development of individuals is presented concerning six specific units: Historical Approaches to Psychology, Careers in Psychology, Influential Research Studies in Psychology, Biological Bases of Behavior, Human Development, Conditioning and Learning, Personality, and Psychological Disorders. Student examination of psychological theories is encouraged. For example, generalized personality tests, conditioning demonstrations, solution-finding and problem-solving techniques, self-evaluation, and experiments in creativity and perception may be included.</p>		

Child Development Psychology	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Psychology <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course is designed to provide various perspectives on child and adolescent development as it is shaped and experienced within different social contexts. We will focus on personal development, using theories and relevant literature to incorporate the biological, cognitive, humanistic, behavioral, emotional, and socio-cultural development of the growing child and adolescent. We will examine a variety of lenses to understand child and adolescent development, as well as models of psychosocial, cognitive, and social-emotional development within the various relevant contexts in this course.</p>		

Psychology of the Personality & Mindfulness	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: None</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>This course will explore personality dynamics in light of the major theories of personality, including Freudian, Behavioral, Trait, Cognitive, Socio-Cultural, Humanistic, and other perspectives. The first half of the course will include an introduction to personality assessment and encourage views of the personality through various perspectives and psychological lenses while allowing guided opportunities for self-awareness for the student. The course will lay the foundation that emphasizes the impact of how decisions can influence an individual's growth and development in all dimensions of wellness, and then the second half of the course will transition into a discovery of mindfulness. Psychology theory suggests that healthy individuals demonstrate the ability to prevent and resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways, and deep diving into mindfulness will allow students to use these techniques to become positive members of their communities. During the course, students will learn to develop a stronger sense of self-awareness and enhance their understanding of wellness within daily living practices. Mindfulness can help increase self-confidence, develop positive personal traits, limit stress, and recognize individual limitations and strengths that can have a direct effect on the mental and emotional development of an individual. This is a project-based course that includes research of psychological theories and the practice of self-evaluation as well as class presentations and writing reflections.</p>		

WW2 Collaboration and Resistance	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of or currently enrolled in US History 2 (any level)</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>The brutality of the Imperial Japanese Army and the Nazi's conquests were answered with courage from some and cooperation from others. From the jungles of the Pacific, Asia, Africa, and across all of Europe, resistance forces undermined the occupiers and helped the allied armies while risking everything in the process. This course also documents those who betrayed their people and collaborated in some of the greatest crimes of the 20th century. Additionally, students will learn of the events of World War II that led individuals to choose their place in history.</p>		

Advanced Placement Social Studies Courses

All students enrolling in an AP Social Studies course will be required to complete a summer assignment prior to beginning the course.

Advanced Prep United States History	5 credits	Grades 9 - 11
<p>Prerequisite Courses: Modern World History Honors or History 8</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an "A" or higher in Modern World History Honors or History 8; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 790 or higher</p> <p>Advanced Prep United States History focuses on concepts and skills with maximum value for high school, college, careers, and civic life. This course examines the study of American History from 1600 to 1890 at a fast pace utilizing AP-style questioning, writing, and research strategies to help students succeed in AP US History. At this level, students will read, analyze, and evaluate primary sources and supplementary materials on a regular basis, apply the content learned, and make connections to broader themes in U.S. History, all while understanding the structure and components of the AP exam to prepare students for a college-level United States History course. This 5-credit course will be offered to students in Grades 10 as a precursor to AP United States History. The AP exam will be taken after AP United States History.</p> <p><i>This course will be weighted as an AP course.</i></p>		

Advanced Placement United States History	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisite Courses: Completion of US 1 Honors or Advanced Prep United States History</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” or higher in US History 1 Honors or a “B+” or higher in Advanced Prep United States History; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 790 or higher <i>or</i> PSAT Critical Reading score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>This course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials, their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Writing skills will be refined through the writing of a number of essays, a thesis paper, and numerous document-based essays.</p>		

Advanced Placement Government & Politics: United States	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of US 1 Honors or Advanced Prep United States History</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “B+” or higher in Modern World History Honors or United States History Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 790 or higher <i>or</i> PSAT Critical Reading score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>AP Government and Politics is a year-long study and analysis of the United States government from a historical, as well as a modern perspective. The course requires that students examine various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that, when viewed together, form our understanding of the U.S. government and politics. Such ideas include the multiple interpretations of the U.S. Constitution, the formation of government, and contemporary voting trends and influences. Additional study is dedicated to the examination of the institutions of government focusing on the presidency, congress, the judiciary, and the bureaucracy.</p>		

Advanced Placement European History	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of US History 1 Honors or Advanced Prep United States History</p> <p>Placement Criteria: Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average for US History 1 Honors of “A” or higher <i>or</i> Advanced Prep United States History of “B+” or higher; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 790 or higher/ PSAT 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>This AP seminar is a full-year college-level course. The emphasis is on the general narrative of European History from 1450 to the present and includes a political, diplomatic, intellectual, cultural, social, and economic history of Europe. The students develop the ability to distinguish trends, establish causes, and recognize results. They use and analyze primary sources in studying historical events and improve their skills in reading and in oral and written expression.</p> <p><i>*Running alternating years; will run again in 2026-2027</i></p>		

Advanced Placement Human Geography	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of currently enrolled in Modern World History with a B+ average or better.</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “B+” or higher in Social Studies 8 or a “B+” or higher in Honors History or Advanced Prep United States History; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 790 or higher <i>or</i> PSAT Critical Reading score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>This course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography, which introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth’s surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socio-economic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications.</p>		

Advanced Placement Psychology	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12 (priority to seniors)
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of United States History 1 Honors or Advanced Prep United States History</p> <p>Placement Criteria: <i>Differs for 11th and 12th graders:</i></p> <p><u>11th graders:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 average of “B+” or higher in English 2 Honors, a History Honors course, or AP History course; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score between 820-850</p> <p><u>12th graders:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 average of “A” or higher in English 3 CP or a US History CP course; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Critical Reading score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. The AP Psychology course is designed to be the equivalent of the Introduction to Psychology course usually taken during the first year of college.</p> <p><i>*Priority will be given to seniors. Juniors will be admitted on a space-available basis ONLY.</i></p>		

Advanced Placement World History: Modern	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Modern World History Honors and/or concurrent enrollment in Advanced Prep United States History</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of a “B+” or higher in Modern World History Honors or United States History Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 790 or higher <i>or</i> PSAT Critical Reading score 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>The AP Modern World History coursework will begin in 1200 CE, rather than 1450 CE, with an emphasis on the civilizations in Africa, the Americas, and Asia that are foundational to the modern era. The purpose of the AP World History course is to develop a greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts, in interaction with different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. The course emphasizes relevant factual knowledge deployed in conjunction with leading interpretive issues and types of historical evidence. The course builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technological precedents that, along with geography, set the human stage. Periodization, explicitly discussed, forms an organizing principle for dealing with change and continuity throughout the course. Specific themes provide further organization to the course, along with consistent attention to contacts among societies that form the core of world history as a field of study.</p> <p>Additionally, students are expected to construct and evaluate arguments based on historical evidence, analyze bias, point of view, and context to interpret historical documents, assess change over time, identify global patterns, and draw comparisons within and among societies. To achieve these goals, students will read both primary and secondary sources, write critical essays both inside and outside of class, and conduct, analyze, and present historical research in both written and oral formats.</p>		

World Languages

All World Language courses are academic courses that reflect the same rigor and expectations within their respective, comparable levels. While only one year of a World Language is required for graduation, students who are seriously considering a four-year college or university are strongly encouraged to take at least three years of the same World Language. With World Languages being cumulative, the students will be instructed on how to maintain a binder in their target language that follows them from one school year to the next as a vital resource. Further, students will expand upon a list of phrases presented only in the target language as they progress from one level to the next.

A student who believes he/she has successfully mastered the content, concepts, and skills of a particular language may request an examination for appropriate placement.

Italian 1, Spanish 1	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Level 1 World Language courses are designed for the entry-level student. This level will cover very basic vocabulary and grammar, as well as note some important cultural aspects connected to the target language. There is a select list of phrases that will be introduced at the onset of class, and thereafter only referred to in the target language.</p>		

American Sign Language 1	5 credits	Grades 9 - 11
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Students will learn about American Sign Language and Deaf Culture. Students will engage in conversation and obtain information about Deaf Culture. Students will be able to present information and ideas through fingerspelling and introductory level signs.</p>		

Italian 1 Honors, Spanish 1 Honors	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "B+" or higher; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) - NJSLA-ELA score 785 or higher</p> <p>This is a faster paced, more in-depth approach to the level 1 course. This level is designed to culminate with AP Language and Culture in 12th grade when taken by 9th grade students.</p>		

Italian 2, Spanish 2	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Level 1 course <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Level 2 World Language courses are at an intermediate level and are a continuation of the Level 1 courses. Any vocabulary or grammar covered in the Level 1 courses is expected to be retained and will not be re-taught, but rather reviewed as part of the natural progression of the course. In addition to the key phrases used only in the target language from the Level 1 courses, an additional set of phrases will be introduced at the onset of the Level 2 courses.</p>		

American Sign Language 2	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Level 1 Course <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Advanced grammatical constructions and vocabulary are introduced. Goals for the course include improved conversational fluency, as well as continued familiarity with American Deaf Culture.</p> <p><i>*Students who miss a year and wish to continue must complete a placement test administered by the current ASL teacher prior to scheduling for a final determination. If a satisfactory score is not achieved, the student will not be eligible to continue the ASL sequence.</i></p>		

Italian 2 Honors, Spanish 2 Honors	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Level 1 or Level 1 Honors Course <u>Placement Criteria:</u> Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "B+" or higher in level 1; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 785 or higher</p> <p>Level 2 Honors World Language courses are more rigorous, faster-paced courses that pose a challenge to students truly desiring to master a second language. Greater emphasis is placed on listening comprehension and speaking in comparison to a higher weight on the reading comprehension components in the standard Level 2 courses.</p>		

Italian 3, Spanish 3	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Level 2 or Level 2 Honors Course <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course is taught at the upper end of the intermediate level bordering on expert level. Level 3 courses will add to the list of key phrases used only in the target language from Levels 1 and 2. Students enrolled in a Level 3 World Language should expect to speak very little English in the classroom, and should be comfortable with their listening and reading comprehension in the target language. Grammar and vocabulary from the Level 1 and 2 courses is expected to be retained and employed by students.</p>		

American Sign Language 3	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> ASL 1 and ASL 2 <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>ASL 3 provides the opportunity to further advance the study of American Sign Language. Emphasis will be placed on improvements in speed and fluency along with reinforcement of appropriate grammar usage and conversation skills. ASL 3 will be presented with no voice.</p> <p><i>*Students who miss a year and wish to continue must complete a placement test administered by the current ASL teacher prior to scheduling for a final determination. If a satisfactory score is not achieved, the student will not be eligible to continue the ASL sequence.</i></p>		

Italian 3 Honors, Spanish 3 Honors	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Level 2 or Level 2 Honors Course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of “B+” or higher in level 2; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) NJSLA-ELA score 785 or higher</p> <p>Level 3 Honors courses are reserved for students who have excelled in previous courses in the target language. Greater emphasis is placed on listening comprehension and speaking in comparison to a higher weight on the reading comprehension components in the standard Level 3 courses.</p>		

Italian 4, Spanish 4	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Level 3 or Level 3 Honors Course</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Level 4 World Language courses are intensive and operate almost exclusively in the target language at the expert level. Like the prerequisite levels before it, Level 4 adds to the list of key phrases used exclusively in the target language. Students must have retained the skills from the requisite courses in order to be successful in a Level 4 World Language course.</p>		

American Sign Language 4	5 credits	Grade 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> ASL 2 and ASL 3</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>ASL 4 is a continuation of level 3, comprehension and production skills emphasizing on grammar, short stories, narratives, and interactive use of the ASL. The student will continue to study in depth about the Deaf Community and Deaf Culture globally. It provides the opportunity to further advance the study of American Sign Language. Emphasis will be placed on improvements in speed and fluency along with reinforcement of appropriate grammar usage and conversation skills. ASL 4 will be presented with no voice.</p> <p><i>*Students who miss a year and wish to continue must complete a placement test administered by the current ASL teacher prior to scheduling for a final determination. If a satisfactory score is not achieved, the student will not be eligible to continue the ASL sequence.</i></p>		

Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> (1) Teacher recommends the course; (2) placement test</p> <p>This course is designed specifically for native/heritage speakers of Spanish who already have some oral language proficiency. The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in Spanish by providing them the opportunity to listen, speak, read, and write in a variety of contexts and for a variety of audiences including the family, school, and the community. Students will explore the cultures of the Hispanic world, including their own, and it will enable students to gain a better understanding of the nature of their own language, as well as other languages to be acquired. This course is weighted and students receive Honors level credit.</p>		

Spanish for Heritage Speakers 2	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1</p> <p>Placement Criteria: Teacher recommends the course</p> <p>This course is a continuation of Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1. Taught exclusively in Spanish, this course is designed for heritage or native speakers only. The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to continue to develop and enhance proficiency in Spanish by providing them the opportunity to listen, speak, read, and write in a variety of contexts and for a variety of audiences including the family, school, and the community. Special attention is given to building vocabulary, acquiring and effectively using learning strategies, and strengthening composition skills in Spanish. Cultural projects and readings reinforce learners' understanding of the multiple issues related to Hispanic cultures.</p>		

Italian 4 Honors, Spanish 4 Honors	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Level 3 or Level 3 Honors Course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of "B+" or higher in level 3; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>Level 4 Honors courses are rigorous and should only be taken by those students capable of reading, writing, and speaking the target language with confidence. This course is reserved for students who have demonstrated elite performance in the target language in requisite courses.</p>		

Advanced Placement World Language Course

The AP World Language Course is intensive and reflects the fluency in writing, reading, and speaking that four-year colleges and universities would expect in their freshman level courses.

Advanced Placement Spanish Language & Culture	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Level 3 or Level 3 Honors Course</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an A in level 4 or a C+ in level 4 honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>This 5-credit course is comparable to a high intermediate or advanced low level college or university world language course. Speakers at the Advanced Low sublevel are able to handle a variety of communicative tasks. They are able to participate in most informal and some formal conversations on topics related to school, home, and leisure activities. They can also speak about some topics related to employment, current events, and matters of public and community interest. Advanced low speakers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe the major time frames of past, present, and future in paragraph-length discourse with some control of aspect. In these narrations and descriptions, Advanced Low speakers combine and link sentences into connected discourse of paragraph length, although these narrations and descriptions tend to be handled separately rather than interwoven. They can appropriately handle the essential linguistic challenges presented by a complication or an unexpected turn of events. Emphasizing use of the world language for active communication in real life tasks, it focuses on developing your abilities in the three modes of communication (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational) and strengthening your cultural competencies through theme-based instruction based on a variety of authentic resources, such as: newspapers, magazines, podcasts, blogs, advertisements, television programs, films, music, video clips, and literature. Grammar and vocabulary are developed through contextualized study. This course includes a summer assignment to be completed the summer prior to the start of the course.</p>		

World Language (Educere Online Platform)	5 credits	Grades 9-11
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to register for a world language through our partnership with Educere, an online educational provider. World language options include: Latin, Japanese, German, French or Chinese. Students registered for this self-paced class will complete online coursework with supervision during the school day.</p>		

Business Education

Students are required to take 2.5 credits in Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy. All of the courses listed below may be used to fulfill this requirement. For students who are serious about operating their own business and/or pursuing a career that will require four-year college or university courses involving business, finance, and/or marketing, it is advisable to take a sampling of these courses.

Elective Courses

Introduction to Business	2.5 credits	Grade 9 (beginning 2025-2026 school year)
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This introduction to business course is designed to prepare students for future business courses at the high school. Students will be provided exposure to the areas of Marketing, Accounting, Money Management and Economics while learning valuable life skills that tie to the business world. Students will also learn about interviewing skills, how to properly make a resume, online banking, and other tangible life skills that will help them long-term.</p>		

Business Leadership	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Previous enrollment in Intro to Business (starting with the class of 2029)</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This semester course focuses on communication skills, elevating confidence, and building leadership skills through practical exercises and theory. Students would learn the fundamentals of effective public speaking, including speech structure, body language, vocal techniques, and audience engagement. They would practice delivering speeches, participating in debates, presenting persuasive arguments, all while receiving constructive feedback from their instructor.</p>		

Business Management	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Previous enrollment in Intro to Business (starting with the class of 2029)</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This semester course is a study of our American business system with an emphasis on information one will need to know to work or manage his/her own business. Topics to be studied include our American business environment, finance, marketing, communications, human resources, and challenges in the rapidly evolving business world. Students will also have the option to participate in the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program where they will have the chance to compete on the state and national levels at competitions around the country. This course will prepare students for future business studies in college and entrance into the workforce. Students will have a better understanding of the responsibilities of employees in different areas of the business organization for their own future career aspirations.</p>		

Business Technology	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Previous enrollment in Intro to Business (starting with the class of 2029)</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This half-year elective is rooted heavily in the use of the spreadsheets to conduct web-based research, track data, and make fiscally responsible decisions when running and marketing a business. Students will explore how emerging technologies—such as artificial intelligence, automation, machine learning, and cloud computing—are revolutionizing business practices. Understanding these tools is crucial for companies aiming to maintain a competitive advantage in today's fast-evolving market.</p>		

Business of Fashion	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Previous enrollment in Intro to Business (starting with the class of 2029)</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course focuses on the influence of fashion on the economy, management, and merchandising. Students will gain an understanding of the basic principles, and attention will be paid to how these ideas are currently being used in the actual field of practice. They will study and explore different phases of the product development cycle, keeping in mind the future shopping trends of online versus brick and mortar shops. Students will work on a capstone project where they will create a virtual fashion collection stemming from their analysis of future trends and market demands. Upon completion of this course, students will have the skills & portfolio to continue their education and build careers in the fashion industry.</p>		

Computer Applications	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course is designed for those interested in learning basic computer skills like keyboarding, shorthand, preparing business presentations using Google slides, sheets and forms. It will help students in improving their skill and communicating in classmate discussions on a variety of subjects. Students will work with the Microsoft Office Software Suite program, as well as specific typing programs to develop proficiency in business office skills. It will focus on speed, efficiency, and privacy of note taking for high school, college classes, and business meetings. This class is meant to inspire, motivate and fill you with a greater knowledge of keyboarding, shorthand and other business tools available to make reports, presentations and surveys.</p>		

Introduction to Accounting	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Previous enrollment in Intro to Business (starting with the class of 2029)</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The aim of this course is to introduce students to the basic concepts of accounting. Students will gain an understanding of basic accounting skills and attention will be paid to how these are used in the actual field of practice. Throughout the semester, students will be engaged in projects that allow them to actively apply the ideas of the course.</p>		

Introduction to Economics	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Previous enrollment in Intro to Business (starting with the class of 2029)</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The aim of this course is to introduce students to the basic concepts of economics. These include fundamental economic concepts, microeconomics, macroeconomics, institutions and issues, and the global economy. Throughout the semester, students will be engaged in projects that allow them to actively apply the ideas of the course.</p>		

Introduction to Marketing	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Previous enrollment in Intro to Business (starting with the class of 2029)</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This is an introductory course in the basics of marketing. It is an exploratory course designed to introduce students to marketing careers and basic marketing concepts. Students will learn what it takes to successfully market products and use real-world situations to understand key business concepts. These concepts will include the core marketing functions such as sales, promotion, product/service management, information management/research, pricing, and distribution. Individuals in marketing occupations rely on various foundations such as economics, communication and interpersonal skills, business management, and entrepreneurship to lead and make decisions. Students will also have the option to participate in the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program where they will have the chance to compete on the state and national levels at competitions around the country. The understanding of these marketing skills used as a career choice or as a consumer will better prepare students for life after high school.</p>		

Personal Finance	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Previous enrollment in Intro to Business (starting with the class of 2029)</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course provides students with the tools necessary to manage their personal finances now and in the future. The need for solid financial skills is imperative to any student interested in succeeding financially in both their personal lives and the business world. Students will learn to create a budget, use a checkbook, manage savings and investments. In addition, students will learn how to complete tax forms, take out loans, use credit wisely, and buy and insure a car.</p>		

Sports Management (formerly known as Principles & Contemporary Issues in Sports Management)	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Previous enrollment in Intro to Business (starting with the class of 2029)</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course introduces the student to sport management concepts and sectors through an examination of problems and issues faced by contemporary sport management. In addition, students will delve into the impact of technology and data analytics in sports management, examining how data-driven decisions enhance performance, boost fan engagement, and inform strategic planning. Students will also explore the critical role of sports marketing and branding, including how teams and athletes build their brands and connect with audiences through social media. The course also includes an in-depth look at event management, where students will analyze the logistics and sponsorships necessary for successful sports events, as well as an exploration of legal and ethical issues, including contracts, intellectual property, and high-profile controversies.</p>		

Advanced Placement Business Courses

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of United States History 1 or United States History 1 Honors; completion of, or concurrent enrollment in Precalculus/Precalculus Honors</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” in US History CP or a “B” in US History Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math section 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>AP Macroeconomics focuses on understanding the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Topics include economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. This course and AP Microeconomics will be offered in alternate years.</p> <p><i>*This course is offered on an alternating schedule with AP Microeconomics and is scheduled to be offered in the 2026-2027 school year.</i></p>		

Advanced Placement Microeconomics	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of United States History 1 or United States History 1 Honors; completion of, or concurrent enrollment in Precalculus/Precalculus Honors</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Marking periods 1 & 2 combined average of an “A” in US History CP or a “B” in US History Honors; (2) teacher recommends the course; (3) PSAT Math section 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>AP Microeconomics is a course designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the principles of economics as they apply to individual decision-making units, including individual households and firms. Students taking the course will spend time examining the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, and the behavior of profit-maximizing firms under various market structures. They will evaluate the efficiency of the outcomes with respect to price, output, consumer surplus, and producer surplus. Students will have an opportunity to examine the behaviors of households and businesses in factor markets and learn how the determination of factor prices, wages, interest and rent influence the distribution of income in a market economy. Students will also consider instances in which private markets may fail to allocate resources efficiently and examine various public policy alternatives aimed at improving the efficiency of private markets.</p> <p><i>*This course is offered on an alternating schedule with AP Macroeconomics and is scheduled to be offered in the 2025-2026 school year.</i></p>		

Technology

Students are required to take 5 credits in 21st Century Life and Careers Courses. Any of the courses listed below may be used to satisfy those requirements. The technology curriculum offered to students of Arthur L. Johnson allows students to obtain the appropriate college and career readiness skills while offering an advanced curriculum for those students who are serious about pursuing a college major or advanced schooling that will incorporate computer programming.

Technology Elective Courses

Introduction to TV	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: None</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>Students will have a “hands-on” experience in both the creative and technical aspects of making a TV program from the pre-production phase to the post-production phase. The course includes video camera techniques, sound mixing and</p>		

recording, special effects, graphics, script writing, and basic digital editing. Students will learn of the jobs of TV personnel from producer and director to reporter and camera operator. A cable TV show will be produced.

Advanced TV	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
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Prerequisites: Intro to TV

Placement Criteria: Must have earned a B+ or better in Intro to TV or the permission of instructor

Students will learn more about the organization and operation of broadcast and cable television systems. All aspects of television production learned in the introductory course will increase in complexity. This course is designed to provide students with a realistic production experience. Students will work in groups and independently to create documentaries, short films, television shows, and commercials. Work completed by students in this course may be used by the school for production of the morning show.

**NOTE: Students selected for this course will be expected to videotape major school events, even those that may take place in the evening. In addition, students may be required to videotape and edit before and after school.*

Independent Study in Broadcast Production	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
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Prerequisites: Advanced TV

Placement Criteria: Teacher Recommendation

Students who have already completed both Intro to TV and Advanced TV that wish to consider work in broadcast production, with a specific emphasis on advanced editing of pre-recorded materials to produce masterfully finished final products, would be best served by this course. Students will focus on advanced techniques with camera angle, lighting, and computer-aided editing. Students may enroll in this semester course for credit. Work completed by students in this course will be used by the school for the production of the morning show and videos aired during school events including back to school night and orientation events.

Sports & Activities Broadcasting	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
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Prerequisites: Intro to TV

Placement Criteria: None

This is a half-year elective course where students will be introduced to the production and actual announcing and broadcasting of events. Students will be required to do live broadcasts of events, including the coordination of taping events and announcing events. Work completed by students in this course may be used by the school in a variety of ways including production of the morning show and use by the athletic department.

**NOTE: Students selected for this course will be expected to videotape major school events, even those that may take place in the evening. In addition, students may be required to videotape and edit before and after school.*

Computer Science 1: Introduction to Programming	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
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Prerequisites: None

Placement Criteria: None

This one-semester course introduces students to Computer Science through the use of the Python programming language. Students will learn the fundamentals of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The material emphasizes computational thinking and helps develop the ability to solve complex problems. Topics include number calculations and data, making decisions, repetition and loops, and graphics. Computers are the

foundation of many future careers; this course introduces the essential topics and career opportunities available in computer science.

Computer Science 2: Computer Science & Its Applications	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Computer Science 1</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course builds upon what students have learned in Computer Science 1 and uses the Python programming language. It gives a foundation in the tools used in computer science. It will introduce students to more advanced Computer Science topics, including basic Java concepts, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Web Design, Networking, and the Internet. It prepares students for advanced study in computer science, including AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A courses. Computers are the foundation of many future careers; this course prepares students and helps them explore various career opportunities available in these fields.</p>		

Introduction to Java	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Computer Science 1</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>In this one semester course, students will be introduced to Object Oriented Programming (OOP) using the JAVA programming language. The JAVA subset for this course will include: primitive types; arithmetical, logical, and relational operators; String operations; arrays (one and two dimensional); the JAVA API standard classes; user-created classes (implementation and revision); event-driven programming. Students will work in Greenfoot, a framework for two-dimensional games and simulations.</p>		

Introduction to Robotics	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The students will be introduced to the field of robotics through a hands-on approach integrating technology, the engineering design process, and mathematics. Students will begin with CoderZ virtual robotics platform and then work towards building and programming robots that perform automated motions and tasks. The VEX robotic hardware and accompanying software will be a resource that is used heavily throughout the course.</p>		

Introduction to Web Design	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This one-semester course includes contents needed to create websites. The curriculum teaches students how to develop websites entirely by hand-coding valid HTML5, CSS3, and Bootstrap. Students will learn HTML (HyperText Markup Language), which provides a web page structure, CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) provides the visual layout to style HTML pages, and Bootstrap to create a modern layout to develop mobile responsive websites. The course covers basic HTML tags for formatting, image, table, list, heading, paragraph, CSS elements, style sheets, and Bootstrap layouts. The course also includes a detailed discussion of design practices such as the appropriate use of text and graphics, font and color selection, navigation techniques, and enhancing user experience. Learners don't need any prior knowledge of coding or design for this course. All students enrolled in this course will design a college and career-ready portfolio website using HTML5, CSS3, and Bootstrap.</p>		

Advanced Placement Technology Courses

Advanced Placement Computer Science A	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Computer Science 2 and/or completion of Introduction to Java</p> <p>Placement Criteria (3 of 4): (1) Final grade of “B+” or higher in Computer Science 1; (2) Final grade of “B+” or higher in Intro to Java; (3) teacher recommends the course; (4) PSAT Math section 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>This is an intensive, full-year course designed to reflect the rigor of a first-year, freshman level course in computer science at a 4-year college or university. Since JAVA is a large and complex language, the AP Computer Science (APCS) course will focus on a subset of JAVA as recommended by the Educational Testing Service, IEEE, and ACM. Only students serious about pursuing a career in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) field should pursue this course. Topics for the course include: relational logic and operators; increment/decrement operators; the design and implement of JAVA classes; primitive data types (int, char, double and Boolean); Strings; one and two dimensional arrays; binary and hexadecimal representation; JAVA methods; sorting and searching algorithms; and, introduction to recursion.</p> <p><i>*This course is offered on an alternating schedule with AP Computer Science Principles and is scheduled to be offered in the 2026-2027 school year.</i></p>		

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles	5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Computer Science 1 and/or completion of Introduction to Java</p> <p>Placement Criteria (3 of 4): (1) Final grade of “B+” or higher in Computer Science 1; (2) Final grade of “B+” or higher in Intro to Java; (3) teacher recommends the course; (4) PSAT Math section 50th percentile or higher</p> <p>AP Computer Science Principles is a complete, full-year course developed in partnership with the University of Texas at Austin’s UTeach Institute that focuses on the 7 “Big Ideas” in computer science using project-based approaches. The course introduces students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity, and how computing impacts our world. Students will develop the computational thinking skills needed to fully exploit the power of digital technology, and help build a strong foundation in core programming and problem solving.</p> <p><i>*This course is offered on an alternating schedule with AP Computer Science A and is scheduled to be offered in the 2025-2026 school year.</i></p>		

Fine and Performing Arts Elective Courses

Lesson Period - Instrumental	0 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Participation in a music ensemble</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>The objectives of this course are to have the flexibility to pull students out for more personalized instruction. Students who are struggling with the pace of a full ensemble class will have the opportunity to receive specialized instruction to address their needs. Students who are far above the average student in an ensemble will also receive personalized instruction that is more suited to their advanced needs. Lessons will be based on the instrument group and will be an average of 20 minutes.</p>		

Lesson Period - Choir	0 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Participation in a music ensemble <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The objectives of this course are to further develop the vocal skills, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation aimed for in concert choir; and to develop the highest possible standards of performance. Consisting of a small group of students (mixed voices), chosen by audition for tonal blend and high musicianship, this course is open to students with at least one year singing in a vocal group and who can demonstrate a high level of ability to the director. Performances and rehearsals outside of school hours are required, and failure to participate may adversely affect a student's grade.</p>		

Concert Band (Percussion)	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> 1 year in band or choir <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The objectives of this course are for students to develop proficiency playing their chosen percussion instrument (all percussion instruments including mallets, snare drum, bass drum, auxiliary percussion, etc.) further develop their musicianship, and obtain performance experience. This course is designed for students who have at least two years of study of an instrument, or have been approved by the director. This is a full-year course and enrollment in Concert Band will also allow students to participate in other instrumental groups (i.e. Pep Band/Marching Band, Jazz Band or small ensembles). Performances and rehearsals outside of school hours are required and failure to participate may adversely affect a student's grade. This course may be repeated for credit.</p>		

Concert Band Honors (Percussion)	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Audition <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The objectives of this course are for students to develop proficiency playing their chosen percussion instrument (all percussion instruments including mallets, snare drum, bass drum, auxiliary percussion, etc.) further develop their musicianship, and obtain performance experience. This course is designed for students who have at least two years of study of an instrument, or have been approved by the director. This is a full-year course and enrollment in Concert Band will also allow students to participate in other instrumental groups (i.e. Pep Band/Marching Band, Jazz Band or small ensembles). Performances and rehearsals outside of school hours are required and failure to participate may adversely affect a student's grade. This course may be repeated for credit.</p>		

Concert Band (Winds)	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> 1 year in band or choir, or audition <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The objectives of this course are for students to develop proficiency playing their chosen wind instrument (flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, any saxophone, bassoon, oboe, trumpet, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba, etc.), further develop their musicianship, and obtain performance experience. This course is designed for students who have at least two years of study of an instrument, or have been approved by the director. This is a full-year course and enrollment in Concert Band will also allow students to participate in other instrumental groups (i.e. Pep Band/Marching Band, Jazz</p>		

Band or small ensembles). Performances and rehearsals outside of school hours are required and failure to participate may adversely affect a student's grade. This course may be repeated for credit.

Concert Band Honors (Winds)	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Audition <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The objectives of this course are for students to develop proficiency playing their chosen wind instrument (flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, any saxophone, bassoon, oboe, trumpet, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba, etc.), further develop their musicianship, and obtain performance experience. This course is designed for students who have at least two years of study of an instrument, or have been approved by the director. This is a full-year course and enrollment in Concert Band will also allow students to participate in other instrumental groups (i.e. Pep Band/Marching Band, Jazz Band or small ensembles). Performances and rehearsals outside of school hours are required and failure to participate may adversely affect a student's grade. This course may be repeated for credit.</p>		

Concert Band/Jazz Band Hybrid Honors	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Enrollment in 8th grade concert band and choir or at least 1 year of high school concert band <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course is for students who are interested in joining both Jazz band and Concert Band Ensembles. During this class, students will learn the fundamentals of music through both the Concert Band repertoire and the Jazz Band repertoire. This is a performance-based class with an emphasis on ear training and public performances. Participants will be expected to attend after school performances, such as the winter and spring concerts, and the Clark Winter Festival. Students are also expected to join the school competitive ensemble that performs in multiple festivals throughout the spring months against other competing high schools from the tri-state area. Therefore, in addition to regular class time, students are required to attend after school rehearsal sessions during the winter and spring.</p>		

Concert Choir	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The objectives of this course are for the student to develop a deep appreciation for music and to attain a high standard of performance. Membership is open to any student who is interested in singing. It may be repeated for credit. Performances and rehearsals outside of school hours are required, and failure to participate may adversely affect a student's grade.</p>		

Concert Choir Honors	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Audition and/or one year in a vocal group <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The objectives of this course are to further develop the vocal skills, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation aimed for in concert choir; and to develop the highest possible standards of performance. Consisting of a small group of students (mixed voices), chosen by audition for tonal blend and high musicianship, this course is open to students with at least one year singing in a vocal group and who can demonstrate a high level of ability to the director. Performances and rehearsals outside of school hours are required, and failure to participate may adversely affect a student's grade.</p>		

Music Tech	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This introductory course is open to all students, not just those that currently play an instrument. Students use digital instruments, such as keyboards, guitars, and drums, as well as computer platforms to compose and produce music. Students learn teamwork, creativity and problem solving skills as they prepare for stage and music productions at their school and showcase their crew's work at regional competitions. The creativity and innovation skills are essential to any firm requiring design or communication specialists, and skills learned in these courses crosses over to all careers and higher education programs.</p>		

Music Theory	5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Must have completed at least 1 year of Chorale, Concert Band or Jazz Band Hybrid <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>The Music Theory course focuses on concepts and skills emphasized in introductory college music theory courses. The goal of this class is to help students become more sophisticated and thoughtful music listeners, performers, and composers. Music Theory students learn to recognize, understand, describe, and produce the basic elements and processes of performed and notated music. To become proficient with these skills, students need to consistently practice applying course concepts through aural analysis, score analysis, sight-singing, dictation, and composition. Students wishing to take this course should have the ability to read music at a basic level before joining.</p>		

Art Appreciation	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>In a classroom atmosphere that is split between academic work and art making, this semester course provides students the skills necessary to analyze and judge visual art more thoroughly. Students will become versed in a basic survey of art history and aesthetics, as well as a vocabulary of critical and artistic terms. Throughout history and today, artists have given careful consideration to which materials and techniques will best communicate their ideas, and students in this course will attempt to involve this decision making into their own work. Exposed to themes expressing belief systems, the natural world, power, etc., students will make connections between the values and experiences of others, and their own lives. Students considering AP Art History in the future will benefit from material covered at this level.</p>		

Crafts & Mixed Media	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This is a course in which students focus on developing their technical skills and their artistic process through the exploration of various techniques used to manipulate a wide range of 2D and 3D media. Emphasis is placed on the elements of art, principles of design, craftsmanship, and creative problem solving.</p>		

Advanced Crafts & Mixed Media	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Crafts and Mixed Media <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course will allow students who have enjoyed Crafts & Mixed Media to further develop their skills and creative process through continued explorations of techniques and media used to compose and construct original 2D and 3D artwork. Emphasis is placed on composition, craftsmanship, and creative problem solving.</p>		

Ceramics & Three-Dimensional Forms	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Crafts and Mixed Media <u>Placement Criteria:</u> Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>This course includes ceramic processes of hand-building, wheel techniques, and glazing. Sculpture and other three-dimensional processes are explored.</p>		

Digital Photo 1	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This one-semester course is designed to introduce students to the field of photography as an artistic medium in terms of its historical development and its potential. Students will examine the photographic work of many of the most respected international photographers. Included are the principles of simple photographic theory and photographic technique. A student portfolio and critiques of composition and technique are an integral part of the course. Though owning a 35 mm and /or digital camera is not required, students are welcome to bring in their own equipment.</p>		

Digital Photo 2	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Digital Photo 1 with a "B" or higher; successful review of portfolio <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This one-semester course is designed to allow students to work on advanced techniques associated with photography. Students will work on projects exploring the techniques and style of a number of photographers and complete an assignment examining one artist's work in depth. Students will also attend a field trip to the International Center for Photography or a museum retrospective. Portrait and special effects photography will be emphasized, along with the advanced techniques to enhance images. Students will critique their own work and prepare a personal portfolio. Though owning a 35 mm and /or digital camera is not required, students are welcome to bring their own equipment.</p>		

Introduction to Studio Art	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course is designed to prepare students for advanced art courses by focusing on traditional studio techniques and materials, as well as the elements and principles of art and design. Understanding that drawing and line are the cornerstone of artmaking, this approach will help foster an awareness of compositional theories and applications. The use of value to define form, aspects of color theory, and linear and aerial perspective are highlights of this course. <i>Note that Introduction to Studio Art is a prerequisite for further courses in art.</i></p>		

Art of Fashion	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Introduction to Studio Art</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This semester course focuses on creating a variety of themed fashion illustrations, developing personal collections, and exploring accessorizing in the form of jewelry making. Students will be able to apply the elements and principles of art and design throughout their creative processes while cultivating their own aesthetics and styles as fashion designers.</p>		

Drawing & Painting	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Introduction to Studio Art</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course is designed for students that wish to take their drawing and painting skills beyond the foundational level, as well as make preparations for higher-education artistic study. With a variety of drawing and painting media and techniques providing guidance, students in this semester course will utilize compositional techniques of visual organization to develop dynamic, compelling work. Students will explore studio traditions such as the figure, portraiture, still-life and the landscape, as well as abstract and expressive subject matter. Practices related to media, composition, and subject matter will be used to develop meaningful work that communicates ideas. Art history will continue to provide insight into the human condition and provide inspiration.</p>		

Printmaking	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Introduction to Studio Art</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Printmaking focuses on techniques that produce multiple images of a design prepared to be printed from a block, plate, or screen. Utilizing a wide variety of tools and materials, students will experience the communicative possibilities of techniques involving relief printing, monotypes, and screenprinting. Students will be expected to think creatively, utilizing brainstorming techniques and compositional approaches explored in other art courses in order to develop solutions to visual problems. In addition to fine art, we will consider the practical applications of printmaking as well, such as graphic design, illustration, and typography.</p>		

Graphic Design 1	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Introduction to Studio Art</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This one-semester course introduces and familiarizes the student with the principles of graphic design and explores the technology aspects of the commercial art field. Students will visually solve problems utilizing Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Topics introduced in the course are typography, layout and design, and visual concepts. Students will understand how technological systems function by exploring various computer programs and tools used in the graphic design industry. Technology and graphic design history will be discussed throughout the course.</p>		

Graphic Design 2	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Completion of Graphic Design 1</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This semester course is an in-depth exploration of the Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop programs and the principles learned in Graphic Design 1. Greater emphasis is placed on color, type and images when resolving visual communication problems. Assignments will be based on several 'real world' publications using advanced skills to develop and create advertising campaigns. Research, design, marketing, and presentation will be further developed.</p>		
Puppetry Workshop	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>In this course students will develop their skills in language through their investigation of the art and craft of puppetry. Rod puppets and glove puppets will be constructed and manipulated around stories that have been created by the students. Students will learn to work cooperatively through a sequence that will culminate in a production. The production will instill a sense of commitment and responsibility. This one-semester course may include a field trip to a local school, children's hospital, or nursing home to showcase the production.</p>		
Puppetry Workshop 2	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Puppetry Workshop</p> <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course will allow students who have enjoyed Puppetry Workshop to further develop their creative process and continued skills in language through the art and craft of puppetry. Original rod puppets, marionettes, and hand puppets will be constructed and manipulated around themes and stories that have been created by the students. Students will continue to work cooperatively through a sequence that will culminate in multiple productions. The productions will instill a sense of commitment and responsibility.</p>		
Open Studio/Advanced Art - Half Year (Semester 1)	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> Students must have successfully completed at least one course from each of the 3 categories below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: Introduction to Studio Art, Crafts and Mixed Media, Art Appreciation, Puppetry Workshop • Category 2: Drawing and Painting, Advanced Crafts and Mixed Media, Ceramics and 3D Forms, Printmaking, Art of Fashion • Category 3: Graphic Design 1, Graphic Design 2, Applications in Graphic Design: The Ad Agency, Digital Photo 1, Digital Photo 2 <p><u>Placement Criteria:</u> Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>This is an advanced course, which culminates the various sequences offered in the art program. Working from their imaginations, as well as observations, students are challenged to perform at their highest level, and to continue their investigation of materials, techniques, individual style and expression. Portfolio development, which may include two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces, is available for those who plan to continue their formal art education. A museum/gallery experience is included as an integral part of the course.</p>		

Open Studio/Advanced Art - Full Year	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Students must have successfully completed at least one course from each of the 3 categories below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: Introduction to Studio Art, Crafts and Mixed Media, Art Appreciation, Puppetry Workshop • Category 2: Drawing and Painting, Advanced Crafts and Mixed Media, Ceramics and 3D Forms, Printmaking, Art of Fashion • Category 3: Graphic Design 1, Graphic Design 2, Applications in Graphic Design: The Ad Agency, Digital Photo 1, Digital Photo 2 <p>Placement Criteria: Teacher recommends the course</p> <p>This full year advanced art course is an extension of the semester course. Students in this expanded version are expected to complete a more advanced, diverse portfolio. These portfolios may include two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces. Full year courses are strongly suggested for students who are interested in pursuing a future career in the arts. <i>Note that Open Studio is a prerequisite for AP Art and Design.</i></p>		

Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement Art & Design	5 credits	Grade 12
<p>Prerequisites: Minimum of four previously completed art courses with the following recommended selections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Studio Art • Drawing & Painting • Graphic Design • Open Studio (required) <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Interview and portfolio review with AP Art and Design Teacher; (2) Art Teacher recommends the course; (3) Completion of summer assignment prior to course entrance in September</p> <p>AP Art and Design is a year-long course designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. Fast paced and intense, this class prepares students for the rigors of a college level art studio environment. AP Art and Design is not based on a written exam; instead, students create a portfolio (15 art works digitally submitted = "Sustained Investigation") to submit to CollegeBoard in May. Portfolios will focus on two-dimensional pieces. The College Board and/or ALJ's Art department staff will evaluate the portfolios.</p> <p>AP Art and Design focuses on three skill areas that are constants in the teaching of art: (1) Investigating the materials, processes, and ideas that artists and designers use; (2) Practicing, experimenting, and revising as you create your own work; (3) Communicating your ideas about works of art and design. The AP portfolio usually requires two years of preparation. Students develop an advanced portfolio in conjunction with the Open Studio Advanced Art class. It is strongly suggested that the students enroll in Open Studio their junior year in order to complete the breadth of work required of the AP art student.</p> <p>Click here to view additional information on the AP Art and Design Program:</p>		

Advanced Placement Art History	5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: Completion of Art Appreciation</p> <p>Placement Criteria: (1) Art Teacher recommends the course; (2) English or History Teacher recommends the course</p> <p>AP Art History is designed to provide the same benefits to secondary school students as those provided by an introductory college course in art history: an understanding and enjoyment of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within historical and cultural contexts. In the course, students examine major forms of artistic expression from the past and present and from a variety of cultures. They learn to look at works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to articulate what they see or experience. No prior exposure to art history is required. Students who have done well in other courses in the humanities, such as history and literature, or in any of the studio arts are especially encouraged to enroll.</p>		

Health & Physical Education

Each student is required to take Health and Physical Education each year in attendance.

Physical Education 1, 2, 3, 4	3.75 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Physical fitness is stressed with emphasis on activities that have a strong carry-over value for adult life. The successful completion of Physical Education each year a student is in high school is required unless the student is excused medically. By State regulation, time devoted to Physical Education and Health shall aggregate at least two and one half hours in each school week or proportionately less when holidays fall within the week. Required each year in attendance.</p>		

Physical Education: Core Strength Training (CST)	3.75 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Core Strength Training (CST) will emphasize an understanding of the benefits and goals of resistance training. Students will learn to follow a designed weight training program customized to the current strength level of each student, as well as the proper techniques necessary to perform each exercise within that program. The course will also examine fitness center safety procedures and related preparatory topics.</p>		

Health 1, 2, 3, 4	1.25 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>Over a four-year period, the Health curriculum course covers the study of many topics. Drug education is one topic required by the State in each Health education course. Other major areas are: Health 1- structure and function of the human body, drug abuse, nutrition; Health 2- driver and traffic safety education; Health 3- community health problems and emergency health care; Health 4- mental health and family living. Required each year in attendance.</p>		

Elective Courses

Coaching & Sports Through Film	2.5 credits	Grades 11 - 12
<p><u>Prerequisites:</u> None <u>Placement Criteria:</u> None</p> <p>This course assists students in cultivating a healthy and age-appropriate athletic experience. There will be a focus on the current events within the coaching profession. Students will leave this course with NFHS certification in both concussion and heat acclimatization. The history of sports emphasizes helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces. The objective of sports through film will be to analyze the representation and misrepresentation of athletes and sports in film, documentaries, and in media culture. Students will examine various films for the purpose of exploring underlying themes that illuminate the role of sports in American society.</p>		

Unified Physical Education	2.5 credits	Grades 10 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: None</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>This course combines students of all abilities to participate in developmentally appropriate activities including lifetime activities, physical fitness, and sport. Students will work together to increase competence and confidence in a variety of physical activities and health curriculums. Through ongoing leadership opportunities, members of this course will be empowered to help create a more inclusive and accepting school environment for all students. This course also fulfills all New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.</p> <p><i>*This course cannot be taken in lieu of the New Jersey high school education requirement for Physical Education.</i></p>		

Career Education

Work Based Learning (WBL)	15 credits	Grade 12
<p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Sheet: The student intern must maintain the time sheet of hours spent in the workplace to be applied for course credit. • Journal Form: Student keeps written account of internship experience. • Skill Assessment Evaluation: Business mentor will assess the student's abilities in areas related to NJSLS. • Record of Communication: School internship coordinator will maintain communication with business mentor and student. • Final Project Options: All final project options will include a career internship presentation during which the student intern will display his/her final project and conduct a presentation on the career internship experience, using technology such as PowerPoint. • Career Internship Collage: Intern presents the career internship experience through a collage or poster. • Career Internship Portfolio: Intern presents the career internship experience through a portfolio that includes work samples, photographs, and other items that highlight the career internship. • Career Internship Term Paper: Intern writes a research paper explaining the career internship experience, and some important aspects of the field in which he/she interned. <p>The ALJ Internship Program allows seniors to participate in paid or unpaid work experiences or service-learning experiences. Students interested in different career areas can be placed in work or service experiences with companies or organizations in the local area or within the school. Experiences within the school can range from work with teachers at different grade levels of the school to opportunities with the school trainer. Students can also find work experiences at various local businesses. Other internship experiences include the opportunity to work in the fields of accounting, law, medicine, government, law enforcement, hospitality, and much more. The Internship Program Coordinator and the student's school counselor will make every effort to help facilitate a position, but the student is ultimately responsible for acquiring and maintaining a position.</p>		

Academic Learning Lab	0 credits	Grade 9 - 12
<p>Prerequisites: All graduation requirements must be in place.</p> <p>Placement Criteria: Counselor and Teacher Recommendation, open to students in dual enrollment, AP College Board classes, 504s or I&RS plans, cannot be concurrently enrolled in Study Skills</p> <p>This half year course is designed to support all learners in their academic pursuits. As an alternative to study skills, this course is structured for students that are not classified (for example, AP enrollment, 504, I&RS plan). Students enrolled in this course need or desire support in some of the following areas - structure, technique, time management skills, school/life balance. For seniors, this course includes a community service requirement, hours for which must be completed before the start of the course, and maintained while enrolled.</p>		

Introduction to Education	2.5 credits	Grade 11
<p>Prerequisites: Interest in pursuing a career in education; previously discussed a career in education as a postsecondary option with their school counselor</p> <p>Placement Criteria: None</p> <p>This semester course provides juniors with an introduction to education and teaching as a profession. Students will explore the history of education, educational psychology, and the foundations of learning. The course helps students become better acquainted with themselves as individuals, learners, and community members, appreciate the diversity of others, and examine the various growth and development of learners. Field observations at local schools and educational conferences are significant components of the course.</p>		

Tomorrow's Teachers	5 credits	Grade 12
<p>Prerequisites: Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, completion of Introduction to Education</p> <p>Placement Criteria: Interview with Tomorrow's Teachers Instructor and/or Essay</p> <p>This full-year elective course seeks to provide seniors with insight into the nature of teaching, the problems of schooling, and the critical issues affecting the quality of education in America's schools. It is presented in four themes: Experiencing the Learner, Experiencing the Profession, Experiencing the Classroom, and Experiencing Education. This course includes a practicum requirement where students work under the direction of teachers in our local schools.</p>		

Special Education

Federal and State of New Jersey laws mandate that all public-school districts be responsible for identifying, classifying, and prescribing educational plans for pupils with disabilities from ages 3 to 21. Once a student is found eligible for special education and related services, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed. The goal of the Clark Public School District's Special Services Department is to provide the least restrictive environment for students, as well as the opportunity for academic success, while promoting skills necessary to become responsible, participating citizens of their community. Students are scheduled in the general education setting as per their IEP and are offered the appropriate support as needed. In addition, all students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities to enhance social and emotional growth.

Study Skills	2.5 credits	Grades 9 - 12
<p>Study skills instruction is available to classified students under the guidance of a special education teacher. The class provides structure, techniques, and strategies to support students in their regular education classes.</p>		

In-Class Resource (ICR)
<p>In-class resource is a program option which supports classified students in a general education class. A special education teacher works collaboratively with the subject area specialist in a co-teaching environment to develop supportive strategies for the student.</p>

Resource Class Replacement
<p>Resource classes are available to classified students requiring a more intensive program. A special education teacher provides appropriate modifications to the curriculum in a smaller group instructional setting.</p>

Learning and Language Disabled (LLD-4 Program)

The LLD Program is designed to meet the needs of the learning and language disabled student whose educational goals are met in a program that incorporates English, History, Math, and Science, as well as behavioral and social skills, functional daily living, and community based opportunities.

Career, Community, and Life Readiness Program (18-21 year old eligible students)

A community based instructional program offering students career exploration, recreation and leisure activities, and independent daily living skills for 18 to 21 year old students eligible under Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) as per their IEP.

Crusaders Achievement Program (C.A.P.)

C.A.P. is designed to provide students with a safe, secure, and structured learning environment that addresses academic, social, and emotional needs. Through an online program, students will acquire the skills and strategies they need to be successful in school, home, and within the greater community. This systematic approach to learning bridges the gap between academic and therapeutic interventions thus, preparing students to become lifelong learners.

Honor Societies

Each honor society has its own application process contingent upon factors including academic achievement and service requirements.

INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN HONOR SOCIETY
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
ITALIAN HONOR SOCIETY
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY
RHO KAPPA HISTORY HONOR SOCIETY
SCIENCE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY
TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY
NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

Seal of Biliteracy

In order for students to be eligible to receive the Seal of Biliteracy, they must meet certain criteria:

- Students must demonstrate a proficiency level of Intermediate Mid in a World Language via a State prescribed qualifying assessment.
- ELL students must demonstrate proficiency in English by meeting State high school graduation requirements in English or its alternatives, including through State ELA assessments.

The district will administer a state approved language assessment to qualifying students. Qualifying assessment data will be reported to the NJDOE. The Commissioner of Education will prepare and deliver Seals of Biliteracy to participating school districts. The certificate will be awarded to the student.

Affirmative Action

The approved Board of Education policy on Affirmative Action is as follows: Nondiscrimination in Education Programs and Activities. Further information can be found in the Student – Parent Handbook

The Clark Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Any person having

inquiries concerning the district's compliance with the regulations, implementing Title VI, Title IX, The Americans with Disabilities Act, or section 504, is directed to contact:

Affirmative Action Officer, Dr. Heather Austin
Clark Public Schools
Arthur L. Johnson High School
365 Westfield Ave.
Clark, NJ 07066
732-382-0910 ext. 3333

Non—Discrimination

Board of Education policy states that the assignment of students to subject areas is to follow all pertinent federal and state laws and regulations and such assignment will not be predicated on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, social or economic status, or disability.