

SOF Pathways Course Options Fall 2024

Every student will have two Pathway courses in their schedule. Explore your passions & stretch yourself!

(all classes are Semester long unless otherwise noted)

Note: You will have an opportunity to add or drop courses until September 12th. After that date, your Pathways will be on your transcript.

Arts Courses

Advanced Scene Study with Lisa Sobin - This class is to tailor this course to the interests of the students. Anybody who is considering a career in the performance arts will have the opportunity to advance their skills. Students interested in comedy, acting, set design, costumes etc will participate in independent and or group projects that relate to their craft!

Art Portfolio with Ms. Kelly - In this advanced studio arts course, students will design and propose their own course of study in their chosen medium(s). Throughout the semester, students will work independently under guided mentorship to develop their artistic skills and conceptual thinking. The course will culminate in a comprehensive portfolio of work (6-8 pieces) or a final project that showcases their creative journey and mastery of the medium. This course emphasizes self-direction, craft development and presentation.

Graphic Design with Jackie Riutort - Want to learn Photoshop and Illustrator? We'll make cool posters and ads for clubs, and more. Practice making posters, invites, and flyers to improve your graphic design skills All welcome - whether you are just learning or have experience.

Jazz Band with Mr. Sandberg - Jazz band combines creativity, teamwork, and spontaneity in a way that few other musical experiences can. The diverse repertoire, ranging from classic jazz standards to contemporary pieces, keeps rehearsals exciting and performances fresh. Plus, the energy and vibe of live jazz performances are exhilarating, making every concert a memorable event. The high school jazz band is not just about playing music; it's about joining a vibrant community, growing as an artist, and having a blast along the way.

Intro to Music Production & Audio Engineering with Josh Wood - In this course, students will learn how to utilize digital audio software to create and arrange music, along with a bit of fundamental music theory. Topics include beat making, arranging, mixing, and film scoring. Keyboard skills are great, but not necessary. What is required is a desire to be creative!

Remote AP Art History: Explore the history of art across the globe from prehistory to the present. You'll analyze works of art through observation, discussion, reading, and research. For more details, check out the College Boards Course Description.

** This is a one year course and meets in school Monday-Friday. Be aware that other Pathways courses do not meet on Fridays. This class is taught by the DOE's Virtual Learning Classes and we cannot guarantee it will be offered.*

English Courses

Shakespeare and the Bard with Ms. Whittemore - This elective is designed to dig deeply into Shakespeare's plays and sonnets and use them to shine a light onto his life and the world of 16th century Renaissance England. In our semester long course we will read Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, Othello and A Midsummer Night's Dream. We will also watch each play's film adaptations. Each play explores several avenues of the human heart and mind. We will discuss the nature of love and what we are driven to do or not do in its name in Romeo and Juliet. In Macbeth we will question the drive for power, the human impulse to meet conflict with violence, and the power of prophecy on an individual's life journey. Othello will unpack gender and masculinity, race, jealousy, closeted queerness and power and ask us to compare the attitudes of 16th century England to the 21st century United States. Finally A Midsummer Night's Dream will have us consider how we are all on stages in our daily lives, performing roles we have been cast in by others or performing the roles we have cast for ourselves, perhaps influenced with a little fairy magic along the way.

In this course you will become more attune with Shakespeare's language and his ability to turn phrases and unpack the essence of the human heart. You will become more acquainted with the attitudes and philosophical questions being discussed during this time as well as compare it to today's ever changing world.

Remote AP Literature & Composition - AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Students cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works.

** This is a one year course and meets Tuesday-Friday from 2:40-3:40. Be aware that other Pathways courses do not meet on Fridays. This class is taught by the DOE's Virtual Learning Classes and we cannot guarantee it will be offered.*

History, Government, Social Science & Culture Courses

Israel, Palestine & Us with Stacy - Few current topics are more sensitive, misunderstood or fiery than the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Influences like social media make us feel that we must choose sides and many of us have questions that we may be too intimidated to ask in our current 'call out' culture. But in exploring this topic, not only can we understand a complicated history, we can learn to approach tough topics with nuance and curiosity.

In this class, we'll learn about the history of & current events involving the state of Israel. We'll ask: What is just? What is reasonable? What is possible? What role should youth activism play? & What can we learn about human tribalism, conflict & reconciliation?

This class will center on in class readings, podcasts, videos, speakers and discussions. There won't be mandated homework, but there will always be additional sources available for when you want to keep exploring the topic.

Segregation and Civil Rights in the North with Ms Thompson - This class looks at the histories of racial segregation in the North in order to disrupt dominant narratives. We will study the public and private policies and social patterns that characterized housing and education discrimination during the twentieth century and the stories of the community activists who resisted Northern segregation by advocating for housing and educational justice. This discussion-based seminar will pay special attention to the history of racist and ableist segregation in NYC public schools, the tremendous work of civil rights activists to overcome it, the massive resistance to desegregation, and contemporary efforts to integrate NYC's schools.

World War I with Cricket Cooley - The world's first modern war might have been triggered by something as small as a teenager eating a sandwich, but it had profound effects that we still deal with today. Empires fell, democracies rose, and many people were denied the freedom and independence they had been promised. Technology permanently changed the way we view war, and it laid the groundwork for a much larger second world war. In the course read, research, and analyze different texts (nonfiction, fiction, and film), and groove out on the War To End All Wars.

*Mr. Copeland will teach one of the following three classes,
based on student interest.*

Politics and Government I with Mr. Copeland - More Americans can name all five members of "The Simpsons" than can name all five liberties protected by the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution (MSNBC, 2006). What's that all about? This course is designed for both the political novice and political junkie. Its goal is to prepare individuals to be conscious citizens, informed voters and critical thinkers.

We will start off exploring the forces that brought the U. S. Constitution into being and use primary and secondary sources to analyze the intentions of its framers. Next, we will look at the role of the Supreme Court in protecting,expanding, and inhibiting liberty in the United States. We will also examine the so-called culture wars that have come to define the two parties and the degree to which personal values define one's own politics. Lastly, we will examine the role in which different institutions, such as media and interest groups impact and help shape policy.

Students in this course will be expected to keep up with quite a bit of readings, including newspapers and online journals. You will be assessed by your ability to participate in text-based discussions and to share your interpretations of class readings.You will also be expected to participate in a debate tournament and compose several response essays that can be converted into history exhibitions. We will regularly view excerpts from a variety of news programs, ranging from Real Time with Bill Maher to the Daily Show to Face the Nation. You should leave the class with answers and more questions generated from the following:

- Did the Constitution's framers intend to create a revolutionary and democratic government?
- Is the U.S. Constitution outdated?
- How has the Supreme Court been used to expand and inhibit liberty?
- How have race,ethnicity, and class helped to shape the political landscape in the United States?
- How do elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media help to connect citizens and government?

African American History with Mr. Copeland - "How do you romanticize a revolution made possible by the forced labor of your ancestors?" --Hannah Nikole Smith...

For Black Americans, the conventional origin stories of the United States often feel like histories of a country that never existed. And while one can argue many schools are trying to catch up by providing more "inclusive" history courses, it's fair to say that Black Americans' contributions to U.S. history are about more than inclusion. Africans arrived in the British colonies before the pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. Eight out of ten Black people in the United States wouldn't be here had it not been for the Atlantic Slave Trade. Enslaved Black people helped build the White House. It's about more than including Black people in U.S. history, it's acknowledging you can't have U.S. history without Black people.

This course will open with a brief exploration of the West African empires of Mali, Ghana, and Songhai. Next, we will examine the forced migration of Africans to the Americas via the Atlantic Slave Trade. Then we will analyze both the construction of race during the colonial period in British North America and the critical role Blacks played in the development of the colonial economy. We will conclude with

studying the role Black Americans played in the American Revolution. We will explore the following questions:

- In what ways did the Middle Passage strip Africans of their dignity and humanity and how did Africans assert their humanity and show defiance amid captivity and enslavement?
- How and why were some Africans complicit in the Atlantic Slave Trade?
- The construction and evolution of race: How did Africans become "Negroes"?
- How do the recent debates about the American Revolution complicate or challenge the conventional

A Turn to the Right: Ronald Reagan and the Rise of Movement Conservatism with Mr. Copeland - Most folks think of the 1960s as a time of political unrest, marches, sit-ins, and other forms of civil disobedience. The activism of the era transformed our country in many ways, but it's really only half the story of a turbulent time period. It was also the Cold War, and anti-communism stimulated a patriotism rooted in traditional values. A significant number of Americans were suspicious of the Civil Rights, Anti-war, Black Power, Women's Liberation, Student, and Gay and Lesbian Liberation Movements that sought to reshape the political and cultural landscape of the United States. Others took issue with the expansion of social welfare programs such as Medicare, arguing they were communistic and infringed upon individual rights. By 1980 these conservative factions coalesced around the presidential candidacy of Ronald Reagan and set in motion a political revolution that Republicans have never really been able to replicate since. Ronald Reagan was the last Republican to win back to back popular vote majorities, and he ended over a hundred years of Democratic Party dominance in the South.

The purpose of this course is to develop your understanding of the forces that helped to bring about Movement Conservatism in the United States, namely the Cold War, cultural

change, Evangelical Christianity and the Reagan revolution. We will also analyze the "Great White Switch"—the political transformation ushered in the age of Republican

political dominance in the South. We will examine primary and secondary texts, films and documentaries. This course will have a particular focus on critical thinking and analytical reading and writing. Please prepare to be challenged. We will explore the following questions:

- Why then? Why did the Conservative Movement get underway when it did?
- How did Ronald Reagan unite social and economic conservatives?
- How did Ronald Reagan break the Democrats' hold on the South?
- Where do people of color fit in the Conservative Movement?
- Would Ronald Reagan feel comfortable in today's Republican Party?

Remote AP World History: Modern - AP World History: Modern is an introductory college-level modern world history course. Students cultivate their understanding of world history from c. 1200 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

** One year course and meets in school Monday-Friday from 3:00-4:00. Students with other after school commitments cannot take this class. Be aware that other Pathways courses do not meet on Fridays. This class is taught by the DOE's Virtual Learning Classes and we cannot guarantee it will be offered.*

Interdisciplinary Humanities Courses

*Mr. Moore will teach one of the following two classes,
based on student interest.*

Questions of Philosophy with Mr. Moore: This course is an introduction to philosophy of mind, exploring consciousness, reality, artificial intelligence, and more. What is the relationship between the mind and the body? What is reality? In the new era of AI, it's worth asking: can computers think? This course explores these questions and others.

What you'll learn:

- The basics of argumentation
- Some central arguments for and against the view that a sufficiently powerful computer can think
- The main theories of mental states and their relations to physical states
- Some central arguments for and against the view that the world is not as we perceive it to be

Media Studies with Ms. Cooper - In this Media Studies course, we will build our media literacy skills by analyzing the messages encoded within music and film. Students will survey the historic and contemporary influences on the media industry with an emphasis on how this affects what stories get told, what values they represent, and how they are told. Other forms of media, such as TV, social media, photography, and news, may be analyzed as well. We will produce critical reviews of popular and independent film and music that demonstrate our understanding of the domains of cultural production and media literacy.

Remote AP Psychology: Explore the ideas, theories, and methods of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. You'll examine the concepts of psychology through reading and discussion and you'll analyze data from

psychological research studies. For more details, check out the [College Boards Course Description](#).

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Scholarship and Excellence with Mr. Chesler - One of the most important pieces of being a happy, successful adult is identifying your top goals and then steadily working toward them step by step. This class will help you be a more happy, successful person by helping you achieve your big and small life goals, whether they be academic, artistic, athletic, etc. Because this is school, we'll lean more toward academic goals, but non-academic goals will also be an important part of this class.

Writing in the Humanities with tbc - Receive academic support in your Humanities classes (English and History) in the form of 1:1 conferencing, support identifying and completing priority assignments, time to study and complete class assignments with a teacher available for extra support, and supplementary instruction in skills from class.

Science, Math & Engineering Courses

Statistics with Mr. Wilson - Statistics can be used to understand and predict situations in which randomness is involved. Half of the year students will look at data sets and use different metrics to figure out which set is better. The other half of the year students will make educated predictions about groups of people using smaller surveys of data. This is similar to the 12th grade stats course and is a great course to take if you plan to take calculus as a senior or if you are a senior and would like to take both math courses (This is a year long course).

Remote AP Computer Science Principles - AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical. For more detail, check out the [College Board's course description](#).

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AI & Machine Learning Independent Study: Qubit by Qubit's Introduction to Quantum Computing is a cutting-edge course designed to introduce high school students to the exciting world of quantum computing. Quantum is the next frontier of computing technology, and will impact fields such as healthcare, finance, and cybersecurity. We want YOU to be at the forefront of this computing revolution. In this course, high school students will learn concepts that many students do not hear about until well into their undergraduate or even graduate education.

Students do not need a background in quantum computing or computer science to take this course - the only prerequisite is having taken a geometry or trigonometry course. We will teach you everything you need to know, from basic linear algebra and probability, to Python coding basics. We will also spend time exploring the "weird" physics properties of quantum mechanics that make quantum computers so powerful. By the end of this course, you will be able to code quantum gates and circuits, understand quantum algorithms, and even run code on a real quantum computer.

*** This course is an Independent Study. This means that students will have a free period in their schedule and be responsible for completing the work on their own. There is one lecture a week, one zoom "lab session" with a teaching assistant, and independent assignments.*

Introduction to Engineering offered by Brown University - The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the profession of engineering and the important role engineers play in society, as well as to provide a foundation for further study in engineering. The course begins with the consideration of engineering design and introduces a number of tools that are fundamental to engineering. These include vectors, computer aided design (CAD), and basic programming (Matlab). Particular attention is then focused on mechanics of materials and the analysis of static structures, but topics also include professional ethics and the social responsibility of engineers. [Course Flyer](#) | [Syllabus](#)

**** This course gives students college credit from Brown University. The course has a lecture once a week from a professor, meets once a week with a teaching assistant, and then has independent assignments due weekly. Students' grades from this class will go on a college transcript from Brown.*

The Equation Destination with Mr. Longino - This Pathway is an academic support class run in conjunction with the 11th grade Algebra 2, Physics 1, and Environmental Science curricula. Students will receive instruction from the 11th grade math/science Learning Specialist on class content, how to utilize and locate supplemental resources, and prep for in-class assessments. This course is best suited for students who benefit from more intensive, individualized academic support in a smaller setting.

World Language & Courses

AP Spanish with Ms. Sierra - Develop your Spanish language skills and learn about the cultures in Spanish-speaking parts of the world. You'll practice communicating in Spanish and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books. *(This is a year-long course.)*

Mandarin III with Ms. Huang - In Level III, students continue to build communication skills in Mandarin developed in Levels I and II. Specifically, students participate actively in extended oral and written discourse, using compound and complex sentences with cohesive devices to provide information in a coherent and fluent manner. *(This is a year-long course.)*

Internship & Activism Courses

Restorative Justice Internship with Sam Shapiro, Tom Sokol, and Bahiya Craig - Helping younger students solve conflicts, lead circles, making decisions about student discipline, repairing harm and & youth development. Students will work closely with the Student Leadership class at times on various school climate and culture efforts throughout the semester.

Find your own Internship or Apprenticeship with Karissa - Internship is 60 hours of work a semester (*avg. of 3.5 hours a week*) with the guidance of a supervisor. You'll be onboarded to imBlaze, an online platform that will be used to track your progress in securing an internship and to track your hours. We will be in touch with your supervisor (they will confirm your hours via imBlaze) and you will have a class with Karissa 1-2x weekly after you confirm your internship. This is NOT a class where you have an Internship and disappear. There will be assignments (for your benefit.) Some things you'll work on over the course is resume building, cover letters, and email etiquette. You'll have off 8th period Monday-Thursday and 7th and 8th period on Fridays to complete your hours for the week. With Internships, you get to apprentice in possible careers, work, contribute & make a difference. Internships stand out on your transcript & resume and allow you to make important connections. Students have interned with local political organizations, hospitals, museums, STEM labs and in many other careers. (NOTE: Students will attend 8th period in September until their internship is confirmed. We will need the name and contact information of your supervisor and your schedule by Friday, September 20th. If we do not have confirmation by this date, we will place you in another Pathway.)

**** *This is a one year program. For 11th Graders, it takes up one Pathway and the elective in the fall and both Pathways in the Spring. For 12th graders, it is the*

opposite. It takes up both Pathways in the fall and one Pathway and the elective in the spring.