

Class Descriptions 2026/2027

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Science:

Space and Earth Science 1/2C: This is a laboratory course that will take an in-depth look at the natural world and its processes. Utilizing inquiry-based performance tasks, labs, and activities, students will master a broad curriculum that gives them a comprehensive understanding of the objects that make up our vast universe, the history of the universe and planet Earth, the materials and processes that shape our world, the interactions between the major spheres of Earth, Earth's natural resources and hazards, and the roles that humans play in altering our planet. This course will cover the Next Generation Science Standards for Earth and Space Sciences while incorporating science and engineering strands, with each unit asking students to develop models, carry out investigations, communicate information, and design solutions to various problems/challenges.

Biology 1/2C: This is a two-semester, laboratory-oriented course in high school biology for college preparatory students in grades 9-12. The curriculum is driven by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and covers core concepts in cell biology, genetics, evolution, ecosystems, and human body systems (homeostasis). This course fulfills the Life Science graduation requirement and the UC "d" science requirement.

Biology 1H/2H: This is an advanced, two-semester, laboratory-oriented high school biology course for students in grades 9-12 with a demonstrated interest and ability in science. The curriculum is driven by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and covers in-depth concepts, including homeostasis, ecosystems, evolution, genetics, cell biology, energy, and biochemistry, with a greater emphasis on chemistry and physics. Students will actively engage in scientific practices such as developing models, conducting investigations, analyzing data, constructing explanations, and using mathematical thinking. This course fulfills both the Life Science graduation requirement and the UC "d" science requirement

Spanish/World Language:

Spanish 1/2C: This course serves as an introduction to the Spanish language by means of the communicative approach. The students encounter the basic grammatical structure of the language in its cultural context through a variety of activities and carry on simple conversations. General emphasis is on listening and speaking in Spanish.

Spanish 3/4C: This two-semester course is the second year of study for the Spanish language. It is a continuation and expansion of the basic language patterns of first-year Spanish.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 3/4C: This course is for students whose native language is Spanish with more advanced grammar, appropriate reading materials, spelling lists, and more advanced vocabulary study.

Visual and Performing Arts:

Art 1: This course is based on the District Curriculum Concepts that include the development of aesthetic perception skills, creative expression, fine arts heritage, and aesthetic discrimination. Instruction in the care and use of basic tools and equipment is included.

3D Design 1: Subject matter is related to the basic principles and elements of art, the historical background of art, and the care and uses of basic hand tools. Emphasis is upon the relation of materials to beauty and function. Projects in wood, clay, plaster of Paris, stone, copper, enamels, mosaic materials, leather, and metal are selected.

Beginning Concert Band: This is a course for the beginning musician interested in exploring wind, brass and percussion instruments. Through standards-based instruction, students develop music literacy by discovering the expressive elements of music, understanding the basic concepts of music, knowing the terminology that is used to comprehend music, developing the skills necessary to produce music, and being able to reflect, critique, and

connect personal experience to music. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Intermediate Concert Band: Intermediate Concert Band 3C, 4C is for wind, brass and percussion players who have successfully completed Beginning Concert Band 1C, 2C (L025/026). Through Standards-based instruction, students continue developing music literacy means discovering the expressive elements of music, understanding the basic concepts of music, knowing the terminology that is used to comprehend music, developing the skills necessary to produce music, and being able to reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to music. Intermediate Concert band members may participate in music department events such as Pep Band or Marching Band throughout the year. Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Beginning Concert Band 1C, 2C (L025/026), or teacher recommendation. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Advanced Symphonic Band: Advanced Symphonic Band 5C, 6C is for advanced wind, brass and percussion players. This course emphasizes students performing at the highest possible standards of playing ability. Through Standards-based instruction, advanced music students continue to discover the expressive elements of music, understand the basic concepts of music, fluently use the terminology that is used to comprehend music, develop the skills necessary to produce music, and to reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to music. Formal concerts, festivals, occasional trips and clinical events are listed on its schedule. Advanced Symphonic Band members are encouraged to participate in music department events such as Pep Band or Marching Band throughout the year. Students play music at the highest level of proficiency. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intermediate Concert Band 3C, 4C or Teacher Recommendation. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Symphonic Band Ensemble H: This is the highest level instrumental music class geared for advanced band musicians ready for college-level material. Through Standards-based instruction, advanced music students continue to discover the expressive elements of music, understand the basic concepts of music, fluently use the terminology that is used to comprehend music, develop the skills necessary to produce music, and to reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to music. Formal concerts, festivals, occasional trips and clinical events are listed on its schedule. Advanced Symphonic Band members are encouraged to participate in music department events such as Pep Band or Marching Band throughout the year. Students play music at the highest level of proficiency. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intermediate Concert Band, or Teacher Recommendation. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Color Guard: Colorguard is a combination of the use of flags, sabers, mock rifles, and other equipment, as well as dance and other interpretive movement. This course is open to students Beginning to Advanced. The course acquaints students with the techniques of marching and performing routines in parade, field and indoor environments. Performance opportunities include home football games, competition parades, spring indoor competitions, competition field tournaments, and a variety of other on and off campus events, many of which occur during the weekend. Students will develop dance, drill and equipment skills; develop an increased sense of self-reliance and interdependence with others to create a satisfactory performance; exhibit mastery in performance techniques and be able to analyze the teams’ and their own performance through articulation of their thoughts and ideas. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Beginning Concert Orchestra: This is a course for the beginning musician interested in exploring stringed instruments, such as violin, viola, cello, and bass. Through Standards-based instruction, students develop music literacy by discovering the expressive elements of music, understanding the basic concepts of music, knowing the terminology that is used to comprehend music, developing the skills necessary to produce music, and being able to reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to music. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Jazz Band: Jazz Band 1C, 2C is open to intermediate to advanced brass, woodwind, rhythm, string bass, bass guitar, piano, drum set, and vibes musicians. Through Standards-based instruction, students study the genre of Jazz music in order to develop music literacy, discover the expressive elements of music, understand the basic concepts of music, know music terminology, continue to develop the skills necessary to produce music, and reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to music. This course stresses advanced musical skills and improvisational techniques of the Jazz genre. Students must play music at the highest level of proficiency and be recommended by the teacher to enroll in this class. Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Intermediate Symphonic Orchestra: This course is for students who have satisfactorily completed Beginning Orchestra 1C, 2C. Through Standards-based Instruction, students continue developing music literacy means discovering the expressive elements of music, understanding the basic concepts of music, knowing the terminology that is used to comprehend music, developing the skills necessary to produce music, and being able to reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to music. Students in this course will perform publicly both as a string orchestra and as part of a full symphonic orchestra. Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Beginning Orchestra 1C, 2C or Teacher Recommendation. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Advanced Symphonic Orchestra: This honors course is for the advanced Orchestra student including violin, viola, cello and bass and piano. Through Standards-Based instruction, this course will focus on continued development of technical skills, tone production, tuning, rhythmic maturity, posture, bowing/articulation, and ensemble rehearsal etiquette in a full ensemble setting. Students continue to develop an appreciation of music, build skills for efficient practicing, follow a conductor, and increase music literacy-- including music reading, recognizing articulations and musical styles, and understanding musical terms. The study of music theory will be embedded into the fabric of the warm-up and concert literature. Students will also explore music's relation to history and art. Emphasis will also be placed on exposing each student to a variety of performing experiences and music in which to apply these skills. Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Intermediate Symphonic Orchestra or Teacher recommendation. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Beginning Guitar: This class offers beginning guitar instruction in basic techniques and music fundamentals. Through Standards-Based Instruction, students developing music literacy, discover the expressive elements of music, understand the basic concepts of music, know the terminology that is used to comprehend music, develop the skills necessary to produce music, and reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to music. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Beginning Piano: Beginning Piano 1C, 2C is designed for Beginning students with little or no piano experience. Through Standards-based instruction, beginning piano students will work on developing music literacy, discovering the expressive elements of music, understanding the basic concepts of music, knowing the terminology that is used

to comprehend music, developing the skills necessary to produce music, and being able to reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to music. This course meets the UC Visual and Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Theater 1/2: Theatre 1C, 2C is the beginning level theatre course for students interested in exploring theatre both on and backstage. Through Standards-based instruction, students discover the expressive elements of theatre, learn the terminology that is used to comprehend theatre, develop a clear sense of what theatre embodies, and reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to theatre. Through hands-on experience, projects, performance and feedback, lecture and projects, students gain an overall appreciation of the basics of theatre, both onstage and backstage. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Theater 3/4*: Theatre 3C, 4C is for second-year theatre students wishing to continue their study of theatre. Through Standards-based instruction, students continue to discover the expressive elements of theatre, apply the terminology that is used to comprehend theatre, expand their sense of what theatre embodies, and reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to theatre. Through hands-on experience, projects, performance and feedback, lectures and projects, students build on the basics of theatre, both onstage and backstage. Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Theatre 1C, 2C, or other acting performance experience, or teacher recommendation. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Technical Theatre 1/2*: Technical Theatre 1C, 2C is an introductory course that covers the basics of backstage theatre roles and responsibilities. Through Standards-based instruction, students discover the expressive elements of theatre in terms of theatre design, learn the terminology that is used in backstage theatre work, discover what behind-the-scenes theatre work embodies, and reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to theatre. Standards-based instruction focuses on Theatre safety and may include instruction in the backstage departments of set, props, costumes, makeup, masks and puppetry, lights, sound, stage management, publicity, box office, and house management. In addition to design projects and assignments, students receive hands-on experience as a member of the design, building, and running crews for the Theatre productions. Students may also serve as crews for outside performances and assemblies. This course serves as a hands-on, lab, and project-based program giving the students real-world experience in the elements of Technical Theatre. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

Beginning Dance: Beginning Dance 1C, 2C has students create movement using the four elements of dance: space, time, force, and shape. Through Standards-based instruction, students will discover the expressive elements of dance; learn dance-based theory, terminology, and symbolic language that is used to comprehend dance; develop a clear sense of embodying dance; and be able to reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to dance and the dance community. The course will also emphasize correct body mechanics and alignment techniques to develop muscle tone and cardiovascular fitness. This course is also listed under the Physical Education section. (P330). Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirements.

Choir: Beginning Choir 1C, 2C is a course for the beginning student interested in exploring and developing their talent as a singer. Through Standards-based instruction, students will develop music literacy, discover the expressive elements of music, understand the basic concepts of music, learn the terminology used to comprehend music, develop the skills necessary to produce music, and reflect, critique, and connect personal experience to music. Due to the performance nature of this class, participation in rehearsals, performances, and other activities before, during, and after the regular school day may be expected. This course meets the University of California Visual & Performing Arts “f” requirement.

* For approval email aecker@guhsd.net for Theater

NJROTC:

Naval Science and Leadership 1/2: This course introduces students to the precepts of citizenship, the basic elements of leadership, and the value of scholarship in attaining life goals. Students learn about military drill and ceremonies, the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including physical fitness, a proper diet, and controlling stress, drug awareness, the principles of health and first aid, geography and survival skills, and Naval ships and aircraft.

Additional Electives:

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID): AVID provides academic instruction and other support to under-represented students to prepare them for admission to the UC and CSI college systems. AVID uses writing as a tool for learning, college tutoring, collaborative study, seminars in note-taking and organizational skills, and emphasizes mastery of concepts in all subject content areas and preparation for college admission.

Automotive General Maintenance: This course provides the theory and skills necessary to properly maintain a vehicle and follows the tasks listed by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence for the Maintenance and Light Repair accreditation. The tasks will focus on how to service and maintain the systems contained within the 7 areas of the automotive industry.

Web Design: This one-year course provides training in web page and graphic design. The skills learned in this course will enhance existing jobs such as photographer, computer programmer, and content developer for the expanding market on the World Wide Web. Instruction includes computer graphics, web page design, multimedia authoring and presentation. This course is articulated with Cuyamaca College

Yearbook*: Project-based learning course focusing on the application of journalism skills and artistic non-literary storytelling. Journalism focus includes story selection and development through expository and narrative writing, interviewing and editing. Artistic storytelling highlights thematic development, graphic layout and design, perspective and extensive application of photography. The culminating purpose of which is to produce a timely, inclusive cultural representation of the student body and the school's activities through collaboration and the production of a professional yearbook. Students learn real-world skills such as meeting deadlines, self-discipline, teamwork, working with advanced and professional technology, communication skills, and independent thinking skills. This course meets University of California "g" elective requirements.

Leadership Development/PRIDE:** This course is designed for students who have demonstrated outstanding potential for leadership. During the course students will examine and analyze the leadership styles of well-known leaders and will focus on leadership principles, as well as the characteristics of successful leaders. Enrollment is by invitation only based on recommendations from teachers. Prerequisite: An interview with an instructor.

* For approval email pgiovengo@guhsd.net for Yearbook

** For approval email jhersch@guhsd.net for Leadership Development/PRIDE