

9th Grade Course Descriptions

*Courses marked with an * require a prerequisite course or experience.*

Accelerated Core

English 9 Honors: Honors English is a year-long course that involves more work for the dedicated advanced student. This course helps to prepare students for the rigor required in AP courses in the future. Required reading will be both self-selected books & teacher assigned books (most reading will be completed outside of the classroom). Books read will be a combination of classical literature, fiction, & non-fiction. Students will also be required to write in several different genres: argument, narrative, & exposition; several short & long essays will be written during the year. In an Honors class the expectations are high; every assignment should meet the established standards. The goal is for students to explore literature, to dive deeply into inquiry, & to apply critical thinking skills to come to new understandings, as well as to gain practice in literary analysis.

Secondary Math 2 Extended: Secondary 2 Honors covers all of the topics in the 10th grade core curriculum. The topics covered during the year continue to prepare each student to be successful in the high school honors curriculum. Concepts covered include: exponents & radicals, quadratic functions, polynomials, trigonometry, statistics & data, similarity, proofs, circles, & conic sections.

Biology Honors: This is an advanced course in life science. It is recommended that students have a 3.5 GPA, or higher, before enrolling as this course presents a rigorous curriculum.

AP Human Geography: This is a year long college level course that focuses on the development of human activity around the world. In this course we will cover topics like population and growth, culture, political

science, agriculture and development, patterns for city and urban development and economics. It is a fast paced course with an emphasis on preparing students to take the AP Human Geography exam that is usually administered within the first two weeks of May. The course is rigorous - that will require nightly homework and reading - grades are weighted heavily toward the unit exams that will be administered at the end of each unit.

Digital Studies

Digital Business Applications: This course prepares students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in sales, advertising, & modern business environments. Students explore digital tools, business safety & security, business communication, & the role of technology in global business. This course is project-based & provides hands-on experience creating real business products such as surveys, advertisements, infographics, presentations, podcasts, audio and video ads, calendars, & travel plans. Students compile their work into a digital portfolio that demonstrates professional skills in communication, creativity, collaboration, & technology use. The course also introduces students to career pathways in sales & advertising, helping them explore certifications, college programs, & high-demand career options in business and marketing.

Web Development: Designed to guide students in a project based environment in the development of up-to-date concepts & skills that are used in the development of today's websites. Students will learn the fundamentals of how the internet works. They will learn & use the basic building blocks of the World Wide Web: HTML5

coding, cascading style sheets (CSS), & JavaScript. Students will follow the steps to create a website by planning, designing, developing, deploying, & maintaining the website projects. Students will learn & use different scripting technologies to create more dynamic & interactive websites. They will learn what it takes for a career in web development as they complete projects & create their own website.

Business Office Specialist: This course teaches foundational office skills using software like word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations, preparing students for real-world tasks with an emphasis on technical proficiency (MS Office/Google Suite), critical thinking, and career readiness, often leading to industry certifications. Students learn to manage data, communicate professionally, and handle administrative tasks, bridging computer tech with business applications.

Fine Art Electives

Beginning Brass: Year-long course. An introduction to brass instruments (trumpet, trombone, tuba, & french horn). The band rehearses and performs marches, classical, & popular music. There are generally 3 performances per school year. There is a \$6 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

Beginning Woodwinds: Year-long course. An introduction to woodwind instruments (flute, clarinet, oboe, & saxophone). The band rehearses & performs marches, classical, and popular music. There are generally 3 performances per school year. There is a \$6 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Intermediate Percussion Ensemble: Year-long course.** Audition and knowledge of

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note reading is required for admission.

Contact Dr. Taylor at

kktaylor@alpinedistrict.org for audition

material. Students will learn a variety of percussion instruments. There is a \$35 per semester class fee. Students will also need to rent a percussion kit from a local music dealer.

***Concert Band:** Year-long course for 2nd year band students. Admission requires teacher approval. There is a \$15 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Symphonic Band:** Year-long course for 3rd year band students; an advanced instrumental ensemble. Admission requires teacher approval. There is a \$15 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Jazz Band:** Year-long course; audition required. Jazz band students must also enroll in symphonic band, concert band, or percussion ensemble; students cannot take jazz band only. There is a \$15 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

Beginning Orchestra: Year-long course. This is an ensemble of beginning string players directed toward attaining basic skills in string music. Lower string instruments (cello & bass) are available for school rental along with a limited number of upper string instruments (violin & viola). No previous experience is required. There is a \$6 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Intermediate Orchestra:** Year-long course. Students with previous experience on string instruments, who are able to read music can sign up for this class. Teacher approval is required. There is a \$10 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Advanced Orchestra:** Year-long course.

Students with more extensive string experience can audition for advanced orchestra. Teacher approval is required. There is a \$10 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Chamber Orchestra:** Year-long course. This is Lakeridge Junior High's premier orchestra. Students should be prepared to play advanced literature and perform frequently. An audition is required. There is a \$10 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Concert Choir:** This intermediate choir class is a year-long course for boys & girls, and a year-long commitment is required. 8th & 9th graders without any Choir experience can register for this choir. Students build upon skills learned in previous choirs, while concentrating on more difficult songs & learn more singing techniques. Students will sing in at least 4 evening concerts and will also participate in the Spring ASD Intermediate Choir Festival (all performances are graded & attendance is required). There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

***Acapella Choir:** Year-long commitment required for this course. This Advanced Choir class is made up of mostly 9th graders that have sung in both 7th and 8th grades. Students that are new to choir must get approval from Mrs. Wagstaff, the choir teacher. Students will continue to build singing & ensemble skills, expand sight singing abilities, & have more performance opportunities. Students will sing in at least 4 evening concerts, and the Fall & Spring ASD Advanced Festivals. (All performances are graded & attendance is required). Students will have the opportunity to compete at the Music in the Parks Festival and attend Lagoon with their choir friends. There is a \$14 per semester class fee.

***Advanced Girls Choir:** Year-long

commitment required for this course. This choir class is for 8th & 9th grade girls with previous Lakeridge choir experience. This class is for students that have excelled in good choral habits & want to sing in a small group. Students will sing challenging repertoire and perform for various functions throughout the school year. Students will sing in at least 4 evening concerts & the Spring ASD Advanced Festival (all performances are graded & attendance is required). Students will have the opportunity to compete at the Music in the Parks Festival & attend Lagoon with their choir friends. There is a \$14 per semester class fee.

Drama 1: Students will be introduced to the dramatic arts through study, which includes movement, voice, characterization, & scene work. There is a \$5 per semester class fee.

***Drama 2:** Students will further their study of the dramatic arts through studying and performance pieces from important historical movements in theatre, participation in children's theatre, including puppetry, & a study of stage combat. There is a \$5 per semester class fee.

***Drama 3:** This is a production class in which students will get hands-on acting experience & work together to produce a show for after-school audiences. Admission requires audition & teacher approval. There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

Musical Theater: This class is a production class that will rehearse and perform the evening school musical. Students will learn how to audition, act, sing, and dance in preparation for the show. There are minimal after school commitments during tech week and performances. Students also need to take another choir, drama, band, orchestra, or dance class along with this course. Exceptions must be approved by the teachers. There is a class fee of \$10.

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Stage Craft: This class offers students an introduction to basic elements of stage design, including costumes, props, set, lighting, sound, & marketing. Students will have opportunities to adapt designs to various concepts.

***Stage Crew:** Students must have taken Stagecraft previously and complete an application. This class offers students hands-on design experience with the shows being produced. Students will further hone their skills of design and play production as they collaborate on a design & concept. There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

3D Design: This class will explore sculptural (3D) art. This class gives students a hands-on art making experience grounded in problem solving. We use a variety of recycled and non recycled materials including: paper, cardboard, clay, and digital media to create original 3D artwork. *Sharp and hot tools are used.* There is a \$20 per semester class fee.

Drawing 1: This class is for students who want to refine their drawing skills. Students will explore different methods & techniques of drawing. Students will also use a variety of drawing materials including: pencil, pastel, and digital drawing. This class will support students in developing their own artistic style.

***Drawing 2:** *Prerequisite: Drawing 1.* This course is a continuation of Drawing 1. Students create art that has a deep meaning. Digital Art is a big focus as students create characters and animate them. Small animated videos are produced for the Art Show! There is a \$20 per semester class fee.

***Studio Art 1:** *Prerequisite: 3D Design OR Drawing.* This class is an advanced art class. Using the knowledge learned in previous art classes, students will apply that to learn painting techniques. Students in the class will become proficient in acrylic painting as well as some photography to create photo

references. Students will explore their own interests to create original works of art. There is a \$20 per semester class fee.

***Studio Art 2:** *Prerequisite: Studio Art 1.* This is a continuation of Studio 1 and is an advanced art class. This class will build upon the skills gained in Studio Art 1 to paint a Lakeridge Legacy Ceiling Tile based on their own original artwork. Students will develop original art by exploring their own 2D art interests in mediums of their choice. Students will also practice with commission work for public display to support learning about collaboration in a career in art. There is a \$20 per semester class fee.

World Language Electives

French 1: Year-long course. Explore the language and culture of French-speaking countries while building fundamental skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This class will require daily home study of French vocabulary to participate in interactive lessons, activities, and real-life scenarios. Communication in class (teacher-student and student-student) is primarily in French.

***French 2:** Year-long course. Students must have taken French 1 (or equivalent) & finished with a C or higher. Students deepen their global view and expand their fluency in the French language as they work through new real-life contexts. Communication in class (teacher-student & student-student) is primarily in French.

***French 3:** Year-long course. Ready to take your French skills to the next level? Students will move to an intermediate low/mid proficiency level. Topics include travel, health, relationships, childhood, and even French literature! Expect lots of real-world practice, holding conversations completely in French. And, explore French-speaking cultures in new and engaging ways. *French 1*

AND 2, or an equivalent, are prerequisites for this course.

Spanish 1: Year-long course. This class will be an introductory language class and require daily home study of the Spanish vocabulary. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills are emphasized through studies of language and cultures from throughout the Hispanic world. No prerequisites.

***Spanish 2:** Year-long course. Students must have taken Spanish 1 & finished with a C or higher.

***Spanish 3:** Year-long course. Students will learn to speak in Spanish at the intermediate low/mid proficiency level. Topics include personality, relationships, environment, professions, travel, hotels, & film.

Prerequisite: Students must have passed Spanish 1 AND 2, or an equivalent, with a C or higher.

***Spanish DLI 5 Honors:** (Year-long course for Spanish/Dual Immersion students only) Immersion students will enroll in this Spanish language course. This is a course that will promote understanding of Spanish culture & literature. The course will be taught entirely in Spanish. *Prerequisite: previous DLI Honors or native Spanish speakers with sufficient academic instruction in Spanish required.*

CTE Electives

Child Development: Welcome to the exciting world of child development! Get ready to dive into hands-on activities, interactive projects, & engaging discussions that teach the mysteries of child psychology & development. From understanding infant milestones to exploring the dynamics of friendships, this class promises a blend of fun & learning, exploring the wonders of childhood growth and behavior. You can even practice your new skills when taking home a mechanical baby whose needs must be met

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by YOU! Join us for a semester filled with laughter & exploration while recognizing the joy kids add to the world.

Game Design: This course is designed to provide students with knowledge and project-based experience of fundamental gaming development concepts relating to STEM. Concepts will include game design, scripting, creation of digital assets, graphic resources, animations, understanding hardware, problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and project management.

Engineering Technology: A foundational engineering design course that introduces basic problem-solving & documentation skills. Various aspects of engineering will be explored. By utilizing problem-solving skills, students will develop essential abilities that expand occupational opportunities in the world of engineering. Possible projects include: hydraulic robot, 3D design, simple machines, electronics, trebuchet, etc.

Manufacturing Woods: This is a hands-on class that focuses on the student's development of skills used in manufacturing engineering. In this class the students will learn the engineering design process as they design & build projects, participate in manufacturing production activities, and learn how to safely use equipment that is used in the manufacturing industry. They will use traditional machinery, such as a table saw and drill press, along with modern equipment like the laser engraver and CNC machine. This course provides students with in-class activities & take-home projects that develop important problem solving & building skills as they relate to the manufacturing industry. There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

Sewing: This semester-long high school course introduces students to the basic skills of clothing construction. These skills prepare students for the apparel industry, provide

entrepreneurial opportunities, and project management in any field. Students will learn basic sewing construction techniques, care of textiles, & machine operation. Students will sew apparel & accessory projects. Materials will be provided, but students are welcome to bring personal fabric. There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

Fashion Design Studio: This course explores how fashion influences everyday life & introduces students to the fashion industry. Topics covered include fashion fundamentals, elements & principles of design, textiles, fashion history, consumerism, & fashion-related careers, with an emphasis on personal application. Students will participate in hands-on fashion-related projects.

Foods & Nutrition: Do you like to eat? Do you know what you should eat? Come learn about MyPlate, carbohydrates, protein, & fat as you explore cooking techniques & basic nutrition. Get a real taste for food facts & fiction with this introductory foods class. And, learn to cook lots of fun & tasty recipes. There is a \$15 per semester class fee.

General Electives

Debate: Debate is an elective class for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. We will focus on the Rhetorical appeals (Ethos, Pathos, Logos) becoming comfortable with speaking in public & mixing rhetoric & public speaking to create arguments for in-class debates. The first term will focus on rhetoric & developing comfort & aptitude for speaking, while the second term will focus mainly on preparing for & having debates.

Film Literature: Students explore the development of the motion picture art form from the silent era to modern films. Essays, reports, & critical analysis of films are included.

Mythology: In this course, you will explore various myths from around the world & focus heavily on Greek mythology. This course helps students develop reading and writing skills, & especially emphasizes collaboration among students.

***Peer Tutor:** Peer tutoring is a fun class where you get the opportunity to help students with disabilities. Peer tutors may assist life skills students in the classroom or accompany a student to another class in the school. Peer tutors will develop positive attitudes & relationships with students with disabilities. Peer tutors must be excellent examples of appropriate behavior. Good attendance is important for peer tutors. Peer tutor expectations include focusing on your student, encouraging learning & participation, being a positive role model, & following directions.

***Peer Tutor - PE:** This is an elective course for students of all ability levels that promotes an inclusive physical education experience. This class incorporates a variety of physical education course content including: team sports, individual sports, fitness, recreation/lifetime activities, cooperative games, & much more! As a peer tutor you will help support students with disabilities in their PE class. All students are expected to fully participate in all physical activities; however, you will not be required to dress in PE clothes but will be asked to dress appropriately for physical activity, including athletic attire and closed-toe shoes.

Social Dance: This course introduces students to the fundamentals of social dance through a variety of styles such as merengue, cha-cha, country two-step, bachata, and other popular partner dances. Students will learn basic steps, rhythm, timing, and partner connection while building

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confidence, coordination, and social awareness. This is a performance class.

JH Dance 1A: Boys and girls will learn a wide range of dance styles from around the world throughout a multitude of cultures & traditions. There is a \$15 per semester class fee.

***JH Dance 1B:** Take this if you have previous dance experience. There is a \$15 per semester class fee.

***Student Council:** Year-long course. This council exists to create an atmosphere of social inclusion by planning & overseeing fun activities as well as to perform service for the school & community. The students learn leadership & social skills by being part of a team within the council. High standards of behavior as well as for grades are required to apply & run for a place on the Council. There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

***Yearbook:** In this year-long course, students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, advanced publishing techniques, copywriting, editing, & photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook, which records school memories & events. There is an emphasis on journalism skills. Participants gain real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, & design principles.

Seminary: Year-long course. Seminary is a religious education course offered at a separate building adjacent to the school. Each year the focus is on a different book of scripture: Old Testament, New Testament, Doctrine & Covenants, or Book of Mormon. The classes are designed to enrich faith & build character through religious devotion. Though operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, seminary is open to interested students of all faiths. Seminary does not count towards credit for high school graduation, as it is a released period from the school. However, a four-year seminary

diploma is available for students who participate in seminary each year from 9th to 12th grades. The diploma is awarded at a separate graduation ceremony & represents a considerable commitment & accomplishment. It is also helpful in college applications to LDS church-owned schools, & it is a prerequisite for serving full-time missions in some countries.

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