

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



CHARGERS

Jr. High/High School Course Catalog

2019 - 2020



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GENERAL INFORMATION

This catalog lists courses available at Benjamin Franklin Junior High and High School. Although a course is listed, it will not be offered unless an adequate number of students register for the class. It is important that students carefully make their course selections during the spring pre-registration course selection since course offerings and teacher assignments are based on spring registration numbers.

High school credit will not be given for courses taken in 7th and 8th grade. Only students enrolled in grades 9-12 will receive credit for high school level courses. High school math and world language courses taken in junior high may be placed on the student's high school transcript but will not count towards fulfilling high school graduation requirements. Credits are issued in .5 increments.

BFHS has constructed its core curriculum in such a way that our classes are integrated and fulfill a specific purpose within the context of classical education in order to integrate knowledge between disciplines. High School courses are offered at the traditional, honors or AP level. Please refer to the course selection form or speak with the academic counselor for more information.

We are very protective of our core classes in that each plays as a part of the classical education experience. For this reason, we accept dual-credit courses in order to satisfy the elective requirements of students, but not as a substitute for English or history. Governing Board policy requires freshmen, sophomores and juniors to take four core classes and two electives for a total of six credits. If a senior has received approval from the academic counselor, and are on track to meet graduation requirements, they may enroll in a minimum of four courses.

Transfer credits from sources outside of Benjamin Franklin High School will be accepted from accredited institutions. Credits from unaccredited institutions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The academic counselor and principal will determine if the academic rigor of said course meets BFHS standards for transfer credit as an elective or core and whether the credit will be used to calculate a student's GPA. It is recommended that students meet with their counselor before enrolling in outside courses to clarify whether the credit will be granted as an elective or core and to determine what process must be followed.

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The Benjamin Franklin Counseling Department provides guidance for all academic areas including:

- registration of new incoming students
- schedule change requests
- four year planning
- conducting credit checks
- ACT/SAT planning
- writing/implementing 504 plans
- assistance with the college application process
- writing letters of recommendations
- scholarship searches

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Special Education Department at Benjamin Franklin High School works to ensure that each student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) receives specialized services that match the varying needs of the student while providing the least restrictive environment. In meeting those needs, the school follows regulations and procedures that are in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The IEP Team consisting of the student, guardians, case manager, teachers, administration and when appropriate, outside agencies, work collaboratively to develop a plan consistent with the student's strengths, needs, and goals for the future.

The Special Education Department also works to provide transition services and programs to facilitate the student moving from a junior high/high school education to post-secondary opportunities. Each student with an IEP will be assigned a case manager. A special education case manager is a counselor, teacher, and advocate. The case manager is responsible for scheduling, writing, and holding the annual IEP. In addition, the case manager creates a "Snapshot" which is a brief overview of the student's needs and is delivered to all the teachers on the student's schedule. If your student is on a case load, you will be contacted to schedule your child's IEP and you will also receive Quarterly Reports of Progress on the specific goals written in the IEP.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The junior high school curriculum at BFJH is designed to lay a foundation for success in our college preparatory high school. Through a dynamic classroom atmosphere, rigorous curriculum and high expectations, students begin to use the tools given to them at the elementary level in a more exploratory manner.

****7th Graders: Art and P.E. may only be taken one year, unless a “0” hour is also selected during one of these years in order to accommodate a second elective class.**

***Zero hour class is not in lieu of a 1st or 6th hour class, it is a 7th class added to the schedule.**

HIGH SCHOOL

The high school curriculum is designed to provide an excellent preparation for college. Students will continue on the path of a sequential, integrated 7th – 12th grade classical, college preparatory education. The diverse body of knowledge that will be taught, together with the tools of examination and analysis that students will learn to use, will enable students to see the relations between ideas, philosophies and subject areas.

***Zero or 7th hour class is not in lieu of a 1st or 6th hour class, it is a 7th class added to the schedule.**

MATERIAL USAGE FEES

Junior high and high school students may be assessed reasonable fees for fine arts, sports and for optional services, equipment and materials offered to students beyond those required to successfully complete the basic requirements. Any student or family not able to pay these fees because of economic hardship should contact the school’s principal.

ADVANCED COURSES

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are available for all students and are taught at the college level; therefore, the expectations and rigor will emulate that as of a college course and teacher approval is necessary. AP courses are offered in several different disciplines that prepare students to take the national Advanced Placement examination given in late spring of each school year. Students may be granted advanced placement status and/or college credit on the basis of how well they perform on these tests. Information regarding advanced placement courses and examinations is available from the counseling office. Students are not required to take an advanced placement course to be eligible to take an advanced placement examination; however, students enrolled in AP courses are encouraged to take the AP exam.

OUTSIDE SOURCES OF CREDIT

A meeting with the academic counselor is required before a student begins taking courses outside of Benjamin Franklin High School. The academic counselor has the necessary resources available to guide the student through the proper procedures for obtaining credit outside BFHS.

It is the student's responsibility to request the transcript be sent to Benjamin Franklin High School. **Any credit obtained without going through the approval process will not be included on the student's transcript.**

CREDIT RECOVERY

The goal of Credit Recovery is to give high school students the opportunity to graduate in a timely manner. This program allows students in grades 9-12 who have failed one or more core courses (courses required for graduation) a chance to make up a failed class. BFHS students may participate in Credit Recovery by adhering to the guidelines outlined below.

- Students who earned a semester grade below 60% in a course are eligible for credit recovery. A student receiving a final grade below 60% in a core class must take credit recovery through Benjamin Franklin High School. Recovered credit will only be awarded when students have completed all work satisfactorily and met the attendance requirements.
- Students have the option of repeating a failed course at BFHS in order to replace the grade.
- In order to offset the cost of the credit recovery class, students taking credit recovery through BFHS will be charged a \$50 fee per semester credit at the time of enrollment. Coursework will be completed via an online independent study program.
- Any senior failing a fall semester course must make up the credit prior to graduation through an approved institution. Failure of a class required for graduation in the spring semester of the senior year will result in the student not graduating in May.
- Please contact the academic counselor to schedule credit recovery.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students, in consultation with their families, need to develop a four-year high school plan of studies in order to prepare for college, vocational or technical studies, or the job market. To assist with this planning, review the chart below for the high school graduation course requirements. *In addition to these requirements, students are required to pass any state/federally mandated tests.* Special Education students are required to complete the course of study as prescribed in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Curriculum Area	Benjamin Franklin High School Graduation Requirements	Arizona University Entrance Requirements	Arizona Graduation Requirements 2013
English	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Math	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits Students must take Biology and one of the two physical sciences, Chemistry or Physics. Earth Science and Anatomy & Physiology are lab science options that count towards graduation in addition to Biology and one physical science.	3 lab science credits One credit in each of three different laboratory sciences selected from the following: Chemistry, Physics, or Biology. An integrated laboratory science or an advanced level laboratory science may be used to substitute for one required course.	3 credits
Social Studies	4 credits Western Civilization I and II, U.S. History, Government/Economics	2 credits	3 credits
Fine Arts/CTE	1 Fine Arts credit	1 Fine Arts credit	1 credit
Foreign Language	2 credits Two years of the same language	2 credits Two years of the same language	0 credits
Required Courses	18 credits	16 credits	15 credits
Elective Courses	4 credits	0 credits	7 credits
Total Required Credits	22 credits	16 credits	22 credits

FOUR-YEAR PLAN



High School Four-Year Plan

Name _____ Student # _____ Counselor _____ Grad Yr. _____

Please refer to BFHS and Arizona University four year requirements

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
English				
Math				
Science				
Social Studies				
Fine Art				
Foreign Language				
Electives				

Total BFHS Credits required = 22

Student Signature _____ Date _____

JUNIOR HIGH MATHEMATICS

Course 2

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

Course 2 provides, among other topics, in-depth coverage of the following concepts; basic numbers and operations, conversions between decimals, percents, and fractions, proportional relationships, solving one and two-step equations, basic geometry, measurement, and probability. Course 2 will introduce concepts that will prepare students for pre-algebra.

Course 3 (Pre-Algebra)

Prerequisite(s): Course 2 or Placement Test

Grade Level(s): 7-8

Course 3 provides, among other topics, in-depth coverage of the following concepts; number and operations, variable, expressions, equations, and inequalities, geometric properties and relationships of lines, angles, and polygons, solving measurement problems, and probability. Course 3 begins moving students from fundamental math towards algebraic concepts.

Algebra I

Prerequisite(s): Course 3 or Placement Test

Grade Level(s): 7-9

Algebra I provides, among other topics, in-depth coverage of the following concepts; linear equations and functions, rational expressions, inequalities, radical equations, quadratic equations, probability and data analysis. With Algebra I, students begin developing a more complex understanding required for advanced mathematics.

Geometry

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Geometry uses logic and critical thinking skills in the exploration of the properties of points, lines, planes, circles, polygons, and solids in two and three dimensions. Students are taught to find areas, perimeters, volumes, and surface areas, as well as how to perform constructions and formulate proofs. The course also provides an introduction to trigonometric concepts through the relationships of right triangles.

H. Euclidean Geometry

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Honors Geometry provides an introduction to Euclidean and analytic geometry. Throughout the course, students will explore several sections of Euclid's *Elements* – one of the most influential texts in the development of logic and reason in western civilization – to hone their deductive reasoning skill and master elementary topics of quantity in space. Through the study of analytic geometry, students will interpret geometric concepts algebraically to analyze objects of two, three, and four dimensions.

JUNIOR HIGH SCIENCE

Benjamin Franklin offers a survey of the main science disciplines in order to foster a sense of wonder about the ever changing and diverse biological world within our dynamic earth and vast universe. The course will ultimately study how aspects of the main disciplines behave in specific circumstances within the world.

Life Science

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

The seventh grade life science course is designed to introduce and reinforce the concepts of the scientific method in relation to life on Earth. The course is an overview of topics such as the diversity of living organisms, structure and function of cells, heredity, ecosystems, and biological evolution. Students will develop the skills necessary to collect and record observations, and use those records to analyze the data collected. They will use their observations to explain the diversity of living organisms and how the organisms are classified. They will create models to represent systems such as cells, tissues, and organs. They will use the concepts of natural selection and fossil evidence in explanations pertaining to life on Earth. They will also learn how to write instructions, describe observations, and show information in graphical form. When analyzing data, students will be able to recognize relationships in simple charts and graphs and find more than one way to interpret their findings.

Physical Science

Prerequisite(s): Life Science

Grade Level(s): 8th

Physical Science is an exciting introduction to four main units: Chemical Building Blocks; Motion, Forces, and Energy; Sound and Light; and Electricity and Magnetism. Within these units are many opportunities to experience the world around us with hands-on activities and labs. Students will begin to see the world through the eyes of a scientist as they delve into these elements, and will gain a better appreciation of how and why things work as they see the interaction and connection between even the most minute particles of the universe. This course sets the stage and sparks their interest, acting as an excellent preparation for high school science courses.

JUNIOR HIGH ENGLISH

Intro to Classical Literature

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

Intro to Classical Literature will introduce students to some of the greatest works of Western literature. Students will be enthralled by such specimens of superb writing, theater, and lore as Homer's *Odyssey*, *Beowulf*, plays by William Shakespeare, and fictional masterworks of Charles Dickens and C.S. Lewis. Exposure to these great works of literary art will not only steep students in stories where virtue is triumphant, but will, at the same time, allow them the opportunity to emulate the greatest of history's authors. Writing experiences will include narrative writing, expository writing (including report and summary writing), note taking, and poetry, thereby

allowing students the opportunity to gain skills that are applicable not only to the subjects, but to their daily lives as well. The course also includes a practical study of grammar conventions, vocabulary development, and oral speaking.

Intro to American Literature

Prerequisite(s): Foundations of Classical Literature

Grade Level(s): 8th

In Intro to American Literature, students will be given an introduction to great American literature, in the context of the story of American history. Students will learn careful interpretation of the texts, as well as the first steps of making arguments on the basis of literature. The course also emphasizes fundamental grammar concepts. Writing instruction will focus on creating quality thesis statements, the five-paragraph essay, basic elements of argumentation, and APA conventions.

JUNIOR HIGH HISTORY

Intro to Western Civilization

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

Great Leaders, Great Works, and Great Ideas. The ultimate result of any good education is that students will become citizens who are not easily influenced by false ideas and are able to contribute to the society around them. Seventh-grade history at Benjamin Franklin Junior High will accomplish those two goals by introducing students to the people, the books, and the ideas that produced them and the culture in which they live. Students will learn about the lives, work, and ideas of great leaders in history such as Homer, Thucydides, Alexander the Great, Jesus, Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, John Locke, Shakespeare, and Winston Churchill. Through reading, writing, and discussion of historical figures, works, and ideas, seventh-graders will learn to think critically about the people, the books, and the ideas of their own day, preparing them to live moral and influential lives.

Intro to U.S. History

Prerequisite(s): Introduction to Western Civilization

Grade Level(s): 8th

The 8th grade history program includes a study of the United States from the Colonial period through the Modern Era. In addition to the study of historical events within this timeframe, the course encompasses an in-depth study of the American Revolution, the United States Constitution and its past and present implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. Students will also study the causes and aftermath of the Civil War, World War II, the Cold War, and the War on Terror. While history and civics are the core disciplines, the program also incorporates economics, sociology, geography, and the humanities to give students an understanding of and appreciation for the major movements and concepts that have characterized the United States. Students will learn how history relates to the present through current events that connect the past with the present.

REQUIRED COURSES

Computer Applications

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

In this course students will learn the fundamentals of keyboarding including; proper typing, typing position, and benefits of proper keyboarding. Students will also learn the functions and tools in Microsoft Office Suite in the following applications, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, and MS Excel where they will complete various projects in class. The course will include an overview and history of computers, basic hardware and components, Digital Citizenship (Internet Safety and etiquette), Intro to Google Drive, basic digital design, and resource discovery and retrieval tools (using the Internet).

Consumer Economics

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

This course will prepare students to integrate knowledge, skills, and practices in the U.S. economic system and the system's impact on individuals as consumers and citizens. Occasionally, this course will take a project-based approach in order to utilize higher level thinking, leadership, communication, and management techniques. Consumer practices and responsibilities that foster financial security are investigated.

8th Grade Intro Latin

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 8th

Students will begin their study of Latin syntax, grammar, and vocabulary in the historical context of the Roman Republic and Empire. They will learn vocabulary used by Romans during these periods and become accustomed to Latin sentence structure, grammatical rules, declension and conjugation forms, and study Roman culture in brief. In their study of culture, they will focus on Roman historical figures which exemplify the Roman patriotic and familial sense of duty from the Republican and Imperial periods.

JUNIOR HIGH PHYSICAL EDUCATION

JH Physical Education

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th & 8th

The purpose of Physical Education is to provide students the opportunity to acquire the skills needed to make positive decisions about a healthy, physically active lifestyle. This is achieved through physical activity and both individual and team sports. The course will strive to enhance the mental, social and moral development of students and teach them positive life skills. The course will concentrate on fundamentals, sportsmanship, and character building. **P.E. students must be in appropriate attire, including athletic shoes and the Charger P.E. uniform. The P.E. uniform may be purchased for \$15 during Charger Days or during bookstore hours.**

JH Athletic Physical Education

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th & 8th

Athletic Physical Education will not only provide students the same opportunities as the regular Physical Education Class but will also include a strength and conditioning component geared specifically for the junior high athlete. Any student planning on participating in extracurricular athletics should seriously consider enrolling in this class. **P.E. students must be in appropriate attire, including athletic shoes and the Charger P.E. uniform. The P.E. uniform may be purchased for \$15 during Charger Days or during bookstore hours.**

****Two years of Junior High Physical Education may only be taken if a student also takes a zero hour during one of their junior high years in order to accommodate a second elective class.**

JUNIOR HIGH FINE ARTS

Art I

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7-12

Students will learn basic features of visual design as they work through various projects and skills using a variety of mediums. The program's intent is to foster confidence and help budding artists realize their potential. ****\$30.00 Class Fee**

Art II

Prerequisite(s): Art I; teacher recommendation

Grade Level(s): 8-12

This course builds on concepts learned from Art I. Students will create visual compositions as they incorporate the elements and principles of art. Art principles, design techniques and mediums will be introduced to expand the artists' skills and experiences. ****\$30.00 Class Fee**

Concert Band

Prerequisite(s): Audition for students new to BFHS

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The Benjamin Franklin Concert Band is a year-long, performance-related, skill-building class that emphasizes foundational musical technique on specific instruments. This also includes significant creative elements. We perform four concerts per year and one festival; attendance is required for all. These festivals may not necessarily occur during the school day. Students will be graded based on attendance and behavior. This class is the continuation of ensemble instruction from the elementary level, focusing on technical skills that lead to an aesthetically pleasing performance. An audition is required of students new to Benjamin Franklin. An audition will include (but is not necessarily limited to) multiple scales, a prepared solo, and sight reading. While no experience is necessarily required, it is highly recommended that students new to instrumental music speak with the teacher prior to the school year beginning. Purchase of a uniform and a technique book (*Essential Elements, Book 2* ("the red book")) is required for this ensemble. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining an ensemble. Please contact the Music Administrative Assistant with any questions.

Symphonic Band

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The Benjamin Franklin Symphonic Band is a year-long course that offers students great variety and challenge in musical performance. Students will continue the development of advanced instrumental technique, music reading and comprehension skills, independent musicianship, style, a deeper understanding of ensemble music, and wind band literature. Literature will emphasize works from the standard high school repertoire. Students will perform both in small group ensemble projects and as a large group. This also includes significant creative elements. We perform four concerts per year and one festival; attendance is required for all. These festivals may not necessarily occur during the school day. Students will be graded based on attendance and behavior. Fluency in the majority of major scales (at least one octave) and rudiments is required as well as familiarity with chromatic scale(s). Placement within this class is based upon audition. An audition will include (but is not necessarily limited to) multiple scales, a prepared solo/excerpt, and sight reading. Audition requirements: Scales (chosen from major, Db-E), prepared solo/excerpt, and sight reading (most likely repertoire from previous year). Purchase of a uniform and a technique book (*Standard of Excellence, Book 3* (“the green book”)) is required for this ensemble. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining an ensemble. Please contact the Music Administrative Assistant with any questions.

Wind Ensemble

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The Benjamin Franklin Wind Ensemble is a year-long, audition-only ensemble that epitomizes all aspects of excellence in technical and musical qualities. Students will perform both in small group ensembles and as a large group. This also includes significant creative elements. We perform four concerts per year and one festival; attendance is required for all. These festivals may not necessarily occur during the school day. Students will be graded based on attendance and behavior. Fluency in all scales (number of octaves is dependent on instrument, including chromatic) and rudiments is required. An audition will include (but is not necessarily limited to) multiple scales, a prepared solo, and sight reading. Audition requirements: Scales (chosen from all 12 major/minor and chromatic), solo/excerpt, and sight reading (most likely repertoire from previous year). Purchase of a uniform and a technique book set (*Frank Erickson High School Band Course*) is required for this ensemble. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining an ensemble. Please contact the Music Administrative Assistant with any questions.

Women's Ensemble

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7-12

A non-auditioned choir for women in 7th-12th grade who are new to choir or are still developing their music reading and vocal skills. Students will have the opportunity to grow individually and as a choir through music reading lessons and exercises, warm-ups that build healthy vocal technique, and studying choral repertoire that includes folk songs, spirituals, popular music, and musical theater. This choir performs four required concerts per year. Purchase of a uniform is required in place of a class fee. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining choir; please speak to the director if uniform purchase is a burden.

Men's Ensemble

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7-12

A non-auditioned choir for men 7th-12th grade who are new to choir or are still developing their music reading and vocal skills. Students will have the opportunity to grow individually and as a choir through music reading lessons and exercises, warm-ups that build healthy vocal technique, and studying choral repertoire that includes folk songs, spirituals, popular music, and musical theater. This choir performs 4 required concerts per year. Purchase of a uniform is required in place of a class fee. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining choir; please speak to the director if uniform purchase is a burden.

Junior High Honor Choir

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Grade Level(s): 7-8

An auditioned choir for men and women in 7th and 8th grade. Members of this choir have strong music reading abilities and can sing in 3 and 4-part harmony. Students will have the opportunity to grow as musicians and vocalists through music reading lessons and exercises, vocal warm-ups that build healthy technique and studying repertoire that includes classical, folk songs, spirituals, world music, and musical theater. This choir performs four required concerts per year. Students in Junior High Honor Choir are considered for the Arizona Junior High Allstate Choir. Purchase of a uniform is required in place of a class fee. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining choir; please speak to the director if uniform purchase is a burden. The audition includes singing one verse of "My Country tis of Thee," tonal memory, and sight reading. Please email the teacher to schedule an audition.

Concert Strings

Prerequisite(s): Audition for students new to BFHS; Two years' experience on your instrument

Grade Level(s): 7-12

This is the first introduction to the musical expectations held at Benjamin Franklin High School. As the logical next step to an elementary level music education, we start the year with beginning shifting, two octave scales, rhythm counting, the rudiments of vibrato, and basic listening dictations. Placement in this orchestra requires a willingness to challenge yourself to reach the next level of musicianship. No experience is necessary to be placed in the orchestra, but diligence in practicing is required. We strive to create a positive learning environment where students are encouraged to venture out of their comfort zones to create beautiful music. Students are required to perform in four mandatory concerts a year. Students are expected to stay for the duration of each concert and will be graded on their attendance. The orchestra will also be participating in one or two competitions (festivals) that are also mandatory and will be graded based on attendance and behavior. Auditions for this orchestra take place at the beginning of the year (for new students). All materials and requirements are posted on the orchestra website.

Symphonic Strings

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Grade Level(s): 7-12

As is the case for all BFHS orchestras, placement into Symphonic Strings is dependent on skill level and not grade level. Students will begin the year with two octave scales, advanced rhythm counting, shifting, and intermediate listening dictations. Towards the middle of the year, students will be beginning three octave scales, becoming comfortable with vibrato, and fostering a deeper understanding of performance strategy. Placement in this orchestra requires at least

three years' experience on your instrument (exceptions may occur based on ability), an advanced understanding of musical terms such as solfege, key signatures, and time signatures, and most importantly a growing respect for the musical process and high levels of achievement. Students are required to perform in four mandatory concerts a year. Students are expected to stay for the duration of each concert and will be graded on their attendance. The orchestra will also be participating in one or two competitions, called festivals, which are also mandatory and will be graded based on attendance and behavior. There will also be several competition opportunities for students who are interested. Auditions for this orchestra take place at the beginning of the year (for incoming students). All materials and requirements are posted on the orchestra website.

Chamber Orchestra

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The Chamber Orchestra will be composed of high school students who have demonstrated dedication to their instrument in the form of consistent practice and who take private lessons on their instrument from a teacher. Placement in the Chamber Orchestra requires at least four years of experience on their instrument (exceptions may occur based on ability), an extensive knowledge of music theory (including key signatures, time signatures, rhythm reading, and solfege) and a strong command of all major scales. Students in Chamber Orchestra will be encouraged to challenge themselves to achieve at their highest level in a safe environment where mistakes are part of the learning process. They will also learn to respect the process of creating beautiful music through personal practice and classroom diligence. Chamber Orchestra students will be graded on four mandatory concerts a year, and they are required to stay for the duration of the concert. Chamber Orchestra will also be participating in one or two competitions which are also mandatory and graded. Other competition opportunities will also be available at the solo level for students who are planning to further develop their playing. Auditions for this orchestra take place at the beginning of the year (for incoming students). See orchestra website for materials and requirements.

Pep Band / DrumLine

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Grade Level(s): 7-12

Pep Band is a fall semester course that seeks to help students grow as musicians via preparation and performance of pep repertoire. Attendance at all designated sporting events is required. Students will be required to purchase a Pep Band t-shirt. Wind players must provide their own instrument (and any needed accessories). Percussionists must provide their own drum sticks and mallets (when necessary). The purpose of this class is to develop musicians and their musical skills through preparing repertoire appropriate in public performance at sporting events (i.e., "pep band" and "drumline").

Intro Ballet/Jazz

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7-12

This yearlong course is an introduction to the basics of ballet and jazz, this class will include daily technique, introductory ballet, jazz, contemporary, and lyrical repertoire, weekly dance vocabulary, two annual concerts, and student choreography opportunities. In this course, students will learn the rudimentary positions of classical ballet and jazz dance. Students will work on building a dance vocabulary physically and mentally, improving alignment, increasing

flexibility/strength, and increasing artistry through the medium of dance. A focused effort will be made to help students develop the proper muscle groups for safely performing the positions of classical ballet and jazz through a series of floor-barre exercises. Students will be assessed each quarter on technical skills learned in class. Students will be required to learn ballet and anatomical vocabulary in class. There will be weekly quizzes on these terms. The course fee to cover costumes and performance expenses is **\$50.00**. In addition, students will be required to obtain their own dance attire and shoes. There is an extracurricular component to this course. It is essential that all students and parents understand the required dates as outlined in the syllabus, mark their calendars, and plan accordingly.

Intermediate Ballet/Jazz

Prerequisite(s): Intro Ballet/Jazz or Audition

Grade Level(s): 8-12

The prerequisite for this course is Introductory Ballet/Jazz (or by audition). Building upon the basics of ballet and jazz, this yearlong class will include daily technique, intermediate ballet, jazz, and lyrical repertoire, weekly dance vocabulary and history, two annual concerts, and student choreography opportunities. In this course students will build upon the rudimentary positions of classical ballet and jazz dance. Students will work on building a dance vocabulary physically and mentally, improving alignment, increasing flexibility/strength, and increasing artistry through the medium of dance. A focused effort will be made to help students develop the proper muscle groups for safely performing the positions of classical ballet and jazz through a series of floor, barre, and center exercises. Students will be assessed each quarter on technical skills learned in class. Students will be required to learn ballet and anatomical vocabulary in class. There will be weekly quizzes on these terms. The course fee to cover costumes and performance expenses is **\$50.00**. In addition, students will be required to obtain their own dance attire and shoes. There is an extracurricular component to this course. It is essential that all students and parents understand the required dates as outlined in the syllabus, mark their calendars, and plan accordingly.

Advanced Dance

Prerequisite(s): Audition or Intermediate

Grade Level(s): 7-12

Building upon the intermediate ballet and jazz, this yearlong class will include daily technique, ballet, jazz, and contemporary repertoire, two annual concerts, and student choreography opportunities. Students enrolling in this class should have completed intro and intermediate dance or have auditioned privately. In this course, students will build upon the intermediate steps of classical ballet and jazz dance. Students will work on building a dance vocabulary physically and mentally, improving alignment, increasing flexibility/strength, and increasing artistry through the medium of dance. Female students showing sufficient strength may be put on pointe for basic barre work. (Pointe work requires special shoes and additional expenses for which students must plan accordingly). Though the class will primarily be focused on the practice of the art form, students will be expected to develop their understanding of the vocabulary and history of dance. The course fee to cover costumes and performance expenses is **\$75.00**. In addition, students will be required to obtain their own dance attire and shoes.

Chargerettes – Varsity Pom

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Grade Level(s): 7-12

This class is solely for students who have auditioned and been accepted onto the Chargerette Varsity Pom team. Students will participate in game performances, concerts, assembly routines and 3-4 competitions including the USA National Dance Championship. In this course students will work dance team technique: jazz pirouettes, a la seconde turns, leaps, and aerials, and will prepare competition and game performance pieces. Competition pieces will cover a variety of dance styles but a focused effort will be made to help students become better performers. All Chargerettes will be required to attend games and sporting events, elaborated in the course syllabus. Students must maintain a “C” average overall. The course fee to cover curricular costumes and performance expenses is **\$75.00**. In addition, there will be a booster club fee of approximately **\$825.00- \$900**. This includes camp fees, competition uniform fees, competition fees, etc. The fee does not include traveling expenses; therefore, the team will be required to fundraise for their trip.

JUNIOR HIGH ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE

Junior High Cheerleading

Prerequisite(s): Must try out and make the junior high cheerleading team in December.

2nd Semester Only/0.5 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-8

The purpose of the class is to teach the fundamentals of cheerleading to the junior high cheer team. Students will learn cheers, chants, dance and pom routines, motion technique, jumps and stunt sequences. Conditioning will also play a role in the course to maintain cardio fitness, core strength and increase flexibility. The course will place an emphasis on building school spirit through becoming stronger cheerleaders.

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH

Classical Literature

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 9th

Full Year/1 Credit

Classical Literature will familiarize students with some of the most influential writings up to 1600 A.D. We will read, discuss, and write about works such as Homer’s *The Iliad*, the philosophical writings of Plato, the epic poetry of Virgil, the theological writings of St. Augustine, and the masterpieces of Dante and Chaucer. We will use many hands-on ways to understand these great works, including reading poetry aloud, giving speeches, and debating philosophy and theology. Students will be challenged with frequent writing assignments in which they will not only have to wrestle with these great thinkers but likewise to compare them to one another and identify the ways in which their ideas overlap. We will also continue to develop a strong understanding of English grammar rules and how best to apply them in writing. This course is also taught at the Honors Level.

British Literature

Prerequisite(s): Classical Literature

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10th

British Literature will familiarize students with some of the most influential writings from the Middle Ages to the present. We will read, discuss, and write about the poetry of John Milton, the tragedy of *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, the complexities of man's nature in the classic horror of *Frankenstein*. We will also enjoy poetry of Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Blake, and the tensions between social classes in other classics such as *The Importance of Being Ernest*. By devoting themselves to reading, speaking, and writing about these timeless masterpieces, students will learn about the religious, political, social, and philosophical tenets of British literature as it corresponds with their European history course. This course is also taught at the Honors Level.

American Literature

Prerequisite(s): British Literature

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11th

In American Literature, students continue to develop their understanding of how America fits into the Western tradition of thought and art. By studying such authors as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Mark Twain, John Steinbeck, and others, 11th grade will reflect on the evolution of the American literary mind—its dependence on what has come before, as well as those qualities that give it a distinct identity. This course will be supplemented by frequent and rigorous college-preparatory writing activities, focusing on grammar, essays, annotations, research, and APA conventions.

AP Language & Composition

Prerequisite(s): British Literature ("A" in course or teacher recommendation)

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11th

The AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

Modern Literature

Prerequisite(s): American Literature or AP Language & Composition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12th

In Modern Literature, students will read and study great works of modern prose, poetry and theater. The course is structured to be taken in conjunction with the 12th grade government and economics courses and is largely based on reflective reading, followed by discussion and analysis. The novels and other works have been chosen for their timelessness and their portrayal and examination of important historical events, and the ideas that have helped shape the modern world. Practical writing and grammar skills are also a focus in this class, with exercises in clear and concise writing. Additionally, students will be expected to discuss the literature and its relationship to current issues in society.

AP Literature & Composition

Prerequisite(s): American Literature (“A” in course or teacher recommendation) or AP Language & Composition *Full Year/1 Credit*
Grade Level(s): 12th

The AP course in Literature and Composition engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work’s structure, style and themes, as well as smaller-scale elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. Practical and analytical writing and grammar skills are also a focus in this class, with exercises in clear and concise writing, as well as effective editing. Writing assignments will include expository essays, practice in timed writing, and letter writing. The course is structured to be taken in conjunction with the 12th grade government and economics courses.

HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

Prerequisite(s): None
Grade Level(s): 7-9

Full Year/1 Credit

Algebra I provides, among other topics, in-depth coverage of the following concepts; linear equations and functions, rational expressions, inequalities, radical equations, quadratic equations, probability and data analysis. With Algebra I, students begin developing the more complex understanding required for advanced mathematics.

Geometry

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I
Grade Level(s): 8-10

Full Year/1 Credit

Geometry uses logic and critical thinking skills in the exploration of the properties of points, lines, planes, circles, polygons, and solids in two and three dimensions. Students are taught to find areas, perimeters, volumes, and surface areas, as well as how to perform constructions and formulate proofs. The course also provides an introduction to trigonometric concepts through the relationships of right triangles.

H. Euclidean Geometry

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I
Grade Level(s): 8-10

Full Year/1 Credit

Honors Geometry provides an introduction to Euclidean and analytic geometry. Throughout the course, students will explore several sections of Euclid’s *Elements* – one of the most influential texts in the development of logic and reason in western civilization – to hone their deductive reasoning skill and master elementary topics of quantity in space. Through the study of analytic geometry, students will interpret geometric concepts algebraically to analyze objects of two, three, and four dimensions.

Algebra II/Trigonometry

Prerequisite(s): Geometry
Grade Level(s): 9-11

Full Year/1 Credit

Algebra II/Trigonometry teaches students how to solve systems of equations, factor advanced polynomials, and how to graph and identify equations for conic sections. Imaginary and complex numbers, matrices, and sequences and series are also covered in the course. Concepts for

trigonometry are reinforced and developed, and students are introduced to logarithmic and exponential functions. This course is also offered at the honors level.

Pre-Calculus

Prerequisite(s): Algebra II

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

Pre-Calculus focuses on the properties of right triangles and the unit circle. The course stresses trigonometric definitions, functions, and identities. Additionally, students are taught polar coordinates and equations, and how to find limits and derivatives. The topics of exponential and logarithmic functions and conic sections are reintroduced and covered in more detail. This course is also offered at the honors level.

AP Statistics

Prerequisite(s): Algebra II

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

AP Statistics introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Course content is typical of a one-semester, non-calculus introductory college statistics course – often a requirement for majors in social sciences, health sciences, business, and others. Students will be challenged to plan and conduct studies, describe patterns and departures from patterns in data, explore random phenomena using probability and simulation, and perform statistical inference to estimate parameters and test hypotheses. After successfully completing the course, students will have developed basic statistical literacy and competency. Students who successfully complete the AP Statistics Exam may receive credit, advanced placement, or both for a one-semester introductory college statistics course.

Calculus

Prerequisite(s): Pre-Calculus

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

Calculus is an introductory course on single-variable calculus that serves as a foundation for college-level mathematics. Through an intuitive and applied approach, students will explore limits, continuity, differentiation, integration, and the fundamental theorem of calculus. Students will be challenged to apply techniques of differentiation and integration and make careful, deliberate use of definitions and theorems. The course will introduce students to historical motivations for the development of calculus as well as modern applications in the fields of physics, engineering, medicine, and others.

AP Calculus AB

Prerequisite(s): Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

Calculus AB is primarily concerned with developing the students' understanding of the concepts of calculus and providing experience with its methods and applications. The course emphasizes a multi representational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The connections among these representations also are important.

AP Calculus BC

Prerequisite(s): Pre-Calculus

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12

AP Calculus BC is equivalent to a first-semester college calculus course (including all of the content of AP Calculus AB) and a subsequent single-variable calculus course. AP Calculus BC

covers introductory material and strategy associated with limits, derivatives, integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. Students will learn how to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are presented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to draw connections across these presentations. Students who successfully complete the AP Calculus BC Exam may receive credit, advanced placement, or both for a first- and second-semester college calculus course.

Applied Mathematics

Prerequisite(s): Algebra II

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12

This course is for seniors who do not wish to continue on to a calculus based course. Topics include set theory, logic, financial management, probability & statistics, graph theory, as well as applications of linear functions, non-linear functions, and geometry.

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE

Biology

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9th

In this course students gain an appreciation and understanding of the intricacies of the living world as well as the larger processes at work. This course includes an emphasis on the laboratory as a means for gaining knowledge. Contents of the class include: scientific methodology, ecology, cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolutionary classification and history of living things, organisms of the six kingdoms and a survey of human anatomy and physiology. This course is also taught at the honors level.

Chemistry

Prerequisite(s): Biology and Algebra I

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

This course perpetuates the idea that chemistry is the central science, overlapping with all of the other sciences. Students will explore the principles of general chemistry to include a basic understanding of the chemical nature of the world. Laboratory will focus on direct observations and investigations of chemistry topics. This course is also taught at the honors level.

AP Biology

Prerequisite(s): Biology ("A" in course or teacher recommendation)

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

The rigorous AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of the general biology course taken during the first year of college. This course will intensely investigate the complexity of the biological world. This course is structured around the four big ideas articulated in the AP Biology curriculum framework provided by the College Board. A special emphasis will be placed on the seven science practices which capture important aspects of the work that scientists engage in, with learning objectives that combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills. It is a rigorous course, scrutinizing biology concepts in detail. Emphasis is on concept development, critical thinking skills and application in the laboratory.

Physics

Prerequisite(s): Chemistry or AP Biology

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

This course will provide basic physics knowledge including phenomenology, theories and techniques, concepts and general principals. Additionally, motion, forces, energy, heat, thermodynamics, vibrations, wave motion, sound, electricity, magnetism and geometrical optics will be topics covered in this survey course. Students will ask physical questions and obtain solutions to them by use of qualitative and quantitative reasoning and by experimental investigation. Students will gain appreciation of the physical world and the discipline of physics, becoming curious and creative with reasoned skepticism. In this course, students will make connections between physics and other disciplines and to societal issues. This course is also taught at the honors level.

AP Physics 1

Prerequisite(s): Biology and Algebra II/Trig.

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

AP Physics 1 includes topics in both classical and modern physics. A knowledge of algebra and basic trigonometry is required for the course; the basic ideas of calculus may be introduced in connection with physical concepts, such as acceleration and work. Understanding of the basic principles involved and the ability to apply these principles in the solution of problems are major goals of the course. The course should utilize guided inquiry and student-centered learning to foster the development of critical thinking skills.

AP Chemistry

Prerequisite(s): Chemistry or AP Biology (“A” in course or teacher recommendation)

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

The rigorous AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first year of college. For most students, the course enables them to undertake, as a freshman, second year work in the chemistry sequence at their institution or to register in courses in other fields where general chemistry is a prerequisite. This course is structured around the six big ideas articulated in the AP Chemistry curriculum framework provided by the College Board. A special emphasis will be placed on the seven science practices which capture important aspects of the work that scientists engage in, with learning objectives that combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills.

Anatomy & Physiology (Lab Science)

Prerequisite(s): Biology

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

The Anatomy & Physiology course is designed to be a study of the anatomical structure of the human body providing students with a background on the locations and functions of the bones and muscles of the body. Body structure will be studied by organ systems and will involve a balance between anatomical study and histology.

Earth Science (Lab Science)

Prerequisite(s): Biology

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

In this course students will explore the aspects of Earth. Students will learn about Earth as a planet and a member of our solar system and galaxy, the Earth’s development through plate tectonics and current reformation through volcanism and seismic activity, creation of rocks,

minerals, the water cycle and climatic features, which include weathering and erosion. The course will cover investigations of the ecosystems, diversity of biomes, and the effects of biological organisms on the Earth. Students will explore the history of the Earth, including the ages of the dinosaurs. Students will synthesize all of the materials, culminating in two semester projects and students will be further engaged through guest lecturers and field trips.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

Western Civilization I

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9th

Western Civilization I will give students an overview of the history of the Western world from the dawn of civilization to the Late Middle Ages. The class will discuss creation myths, religions, human nature, philosophy, culture, politics, war, and the rise and fall of nations. We will explore the world of ancient philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle; we will study the empirical tactics of Alexander the Great, and heroic deeds of Odysseus; we will read religious texts from the *Bible*, the *Qur'an*, and the *Book of the Dead*, to works of philosophy like *Nicomachean Ethics*, and *De Officiis*. All the while we will be asking ourselves the questions that mankind has been asking since the beginning of time. Who am I? What is my purpose? Is there a Deity, and if there is, what is my relationship with a supreme being? What is the nature of man and government? Using the Socratic Method, students will learn how to think, pursue truth, and apply what they have learned to their own lives. This course is also taught at the honors level.

Western Civilization II

Prerequisite(s): Western Civilization I

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10th

Western Civilization II will give students an overview of Western history from c.1350 A.D. to the end of World War II. The class will discuss the development of philosophy, religion, society, politics, economics, and science and technology. While the class will cover such important events and trends as the decline of feudalism, the rise of the nation-state, and the impact of the printing press, it will also focus on themes such as the relationship between security and freedom, whether or not the ends justify the means, the objectivity of truth, and the debate between progressivism and conservatism. Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Voltaire, Edmund Burke, Karl Marx, Nietzsche, and Solzhenitsyn are only a few of the thinkers the class will cover to delve into these themes. Western Civilization II will also utilize frequent Socratic Seminars and a lengthy research paper to help develop the communication and critical thinking skills necessary for success both in college and everyday life.

AP European History

Prerequisite(s): Western Civilization I ("A" in course or teacher recommendation)

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10th

This class will cover Western Civilization from 1400 A.D. to the present, using the same basic curriculum as Western Civ II. The class will work according to a schedule that will prepare students for the rigorous Advanced Placement test in mid-May. In addition to tracing ideas, technology, art, politics, and war throughout the time period, the class will take numerous practice AP exams. The students will also learn to write quickly and clearly about a myriad of

historical topics. With some hard work and a little extra motivation, students can expect to earn AP credit in advance of college.

United States History

Prerequisite(s): Western Civilization II or AP European History

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11th

This course provides a one-year survey of American history from the Colonial Period and the American Revolution to the present day. Using the textbook and primary documents and current events, students learn about the various political, social, religious, and economic developments that have shaped and continue to shape the United States. Essay writing and critical thinking are emphasized as integral ways of understanding how the past relates to the present and future.

AP United States History

Prerequisite(s): Western Civilization II (“A” in course or teacher recommendation) or AP European History

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11th

The AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program 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. An AP U.S. History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

Government

Prerequisite(s): U.S. History or AP U.S. History

1 Semester/1/2 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12th

In this course, students apply knowledge gained in previous years of study to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American Government. Students are expected to draw on their studies of world and American history, incorporating their knowledge of geography and other societies. This course is the culmination of Western Civilization and U.S. History classes; the class aims to develop within the student a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the American regime, and with that, an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Students will read texts such as *The Politics* by Aristotle, *The Federalist* and *Antifederalist Papers*, and various essays from modern American presidents.

AP Government

Prerequisite(s): U.S. History (“A” in course or teacher recommendation) or AP U.S. History

1 Semester/1/2 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12th

The object of the AP course in United States Government and Politics is to present the student with an in-depth look at how the American government came to be; why the Founders gave it the structure that they did, and how that structure is implemented in our lives in the present day. This will include not only a look at the practices that direct the daily operations of our government, but also an exploration of the political theory that shaped the U.S. government two hundred years ago compared to the political theory that shapes it now. The course examines politically significant concepts and themes, through which students learn to apply disciplinary reasoning, assess causes and consequences of political events, and interpret data to develop evidence-based arguments.

Macroeconomics

Prerequisite(s): U.S. History or AP U.S. History

1 Semester/1/2 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12th

Macroeconomics is an introductory economics course that focuses on the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole. Building from a praxeological foundation, students are introduced to fundamental economic concepts such as scarcity, value, and trade before studying the macroeconomy. The course covers such topics as national accounting, price-level, employment, monetary and fiscal policy, the financial sector, the business cycle, international trade, and economic growth. Students will use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts.

AP Macroeconomics

Prerequisite(s): U.S. History (“A” in course or teacher recommendation) or AP U.S. History

1 Semester/1/2 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12th

AP Macroeconomics is an introductory college-level course that focuses on the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination; it also develops students’ familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. Students who successfully complete the AP Macroeconomics Exam may receive credit, advanced placement, or both for a one-semester introductory college macroeconomics course.

HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish I

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Spanish I is a learning adventure. We'll master the fundamentals of Spanish vocabulary, grammar, writing, listening & speaking skills. We'll practice conversational skills daily with partners, introduce immersion-style language learning through simple classroom instructions, read short novels, sing songs and play games to advance learning. We'll also explore the culture and customs of various Spanish speaking countries around the world.

Spanish II

Prerequisite(s): Spanish I

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

Spanish II is a comprehensive study of the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world, with an emphasis on vocabulary, reading, writing, grammar, speaking/listening, and culture. This is a Spanish language immersion course that prepares the students to travel abroad with vocabulary for everyday situations. It includes short novels, songs and learning games. This is an extension of Spanish I.

Spanish III

Prerequisite(s): Spanish II

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

Spanish III explores the richness of indigenous traditions. Students continue their mastery of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a full Spanish language immersion setting, including short novels, newspaper and magazine articles. Reading emphasizes on culture, current TV programs, radio broadcasts, and tapes comprise the listening component of the course. In addition, students write essays reflecting their understanding and interpretation. Spanish conversation is heavily emphasized. Students receive honors credit for this course.

AP Spanish Language

Prerequisite(s): Spanish III

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

AP Spanish students continue their mastery of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a full Spanish language immersion classroom. Reading is both intensive and extensive. This includes novels, newspaper and magazine articles. Reading emphasizes contemporary history and culture, current TV programs, radio broadcasts, and tapes comprise the listening component of the course. In addition, students write essays reflecting their understanding and interpretation. Spanish conversation is heavily emphasized. AP Spanish continues the teaching in Spanish III.

French I

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

The student will learn the fundamentals of French grammar and pronunciation and be able to converse on a limited scale about topics of everyday importance. He/she will be able to record this same information in writing and will be able to understand written and spoken French within the limits of the grammatical structures and vocabulary introduced in the course. The student will be personally involved in a variety of activities which encourage him/her to read and speak the language. In addition, the student will be exposed to various aspects of the culture of the French-speaking world.

French II

Prerequisite(s): French I

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

In this course, the student will continue his/her development of speaking, reading and writing skills, and increase his/her vocabulary and knowledge of basic French grammar. More emphasis will be placed on readings from topics of general interest. Cultural topics will include further exploration of current and historical events.

French III

Prerequisite(s): French II

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

French III will give students an opportunity to learn more advanced grammar, to increase their speaking and writing abilities and to dive deeper into francophone culture, including discussing global issues and current events in the world as well as comparing/contrasting different cultures. Students will also begin to read and analyze beginning French literature. Students entering French III should have received a B or higher in French II. Students will receive honors credit for this course.

AP French Language

Prerequisite(s): French III

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

AP French will focus on increasing fluency through writing, reading, speaking, and listening comprehension, as well as promoting the necessary skills needed to succeed in college level French. Following the six AP themes, students will be immersed in language and francophone culture through the study of several authentic readings (taken from a variety of sources), film, and appropriate cultural studies to support each theme. As this is a college level course, students should expect daily homework at the college level.

Latin I

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Latin I is the first part of a two year study of Latin. The goal of this class is to present students with an in-depth study of the grammar, vocabulary, and idioms of Latin so that they can be reading excerpts from actual Latin texts by the end of the year. As opposed to the Intro to Latin 8th grade course, this course will be a more rigorous study of Latin as a language. Students will also study Roman history, culture, architecture, and art. These studies will include excerpts from Roman texts and inscriptions as the students' understanding of the language allows.

Latin II

Prerequisite(s): Latin I

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

Students in Latin II will continue their study of Latin using Learn to Read Latin, Part II. In the first semester, the class will continue its development of grammatical forms and vocabulary through memorization and the practical application of translating excerpts from works of Latin literature. In the second semester, the class will transition into reading larger sections of Latin works individually and discussing them in class as literature similar to an English literature course or studying history using primary sources.

Latin III

Prerequisite(s): Latin II

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

Students will polish their understanding of the Latin language through the study of ancient Roman and other Latin authors. This seminar focuses on understanding Latin texts in light of literary themes, oratorical elements, history, and culture. This course is considered an honors level course. Latin III and Latin IV students will meet in the same class section, but the reading curriculum will alternate each year to expose both Latin III and IV students to a wide range of authors and styles. In Year A, the class will translate Cicero's First Catilinarian Oration, Roman lyric poetry, and Vergil's *Aeneid*, Books I and II. Year B will translate a comedy of Plautus, selections from Livy's history of early Rome, and Vergil's *Aeneid*, Books IV and VI. Students will receive honors credit for this course.

Latin IV

Prerequisite(s): Latin III

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

Students will polish their understanding of the Latin language through the study of ancient Roman and other Latin authors. This seminar focuses on understanding Latin texts in light of literary themes, oratorical elements, history, and culture. This course is considered an honors

level course. Latin III and Latin IV students will meet in the same class section, but the reading curriculum will alternate each year to expose both Latin III and IV students to a wide range of authors and styles. In Year A, the class will translate Cicero's First Catilinarian Oration, Roman lyric poetry, and Vergil's *Aeneid*, Books I and II. Year B will translate a comedy of Plautus, selections from Livy's history of early Rome, and Vergil's *Aeneid*, Books IV and VI. Students will receive honors credit for this course.

German I

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This is a one year course focusing on the development of speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension skills of the German language. A variety of thematic units will be presented and students will learn vocabulary and grammar structures within these units that promote proficiency in the German language. Cultural activities will accompany language lessons to acquaint students with food, artistic expression, and the diversity of the German-speaking world.

HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

AP Music Theory

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This class is the “nuts and bolts” of Western Music and is primarily analytical (as opposed to performance-based). AP Music Theory is designed for students who look to pursue some form of musical enrichment at the collegiate level, or for those who would simply like to enhance their own musical skills through a greater understanding of the mechanics of the art of music. It is highly recommended that students be concurrently enrolled in a performance-based class to readily apply what they are learning in a capacity that involved actively making music. This class will also include aural studies.

Concert Band

Prerequisite(s): Audition for students new to BFHS

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The Benjamin Franklin Concert Band is a year-long, performance-related, skill-building class that emphasizes foundational musical technique on specific instruments. This also includes significant creative elements. We perform four concerts per year and one festival; attendance is required for all. These festivals may not necessarily occur during the school day. Students will be graded based on attendance and behavior. This class is the continuation of ensemble instruction from the elementary level, focusing on technical skills that lead to an aesthetically pleasing performance. An audition is required of students new to Benjamin Franklin. An audition will include (but is not necessarily limited to) multiple scales, a prepared solo, and sight reading. While no experience is necessarily required, it is highly recommended that students new to instrumental music speak with the teacher prior to the school year beginning. Purchase of a uniform and a technique book (*Essential Elements, Book 2* (“the red book”)) is required for this ensemble. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining an ensemble.

Symphonic Band

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The Benjamin Franklin Symphonic Band is a year-long course that offers students great variety and challenge in musical performance. Students will continue the development of advanced instrumental technique, music reading and comprehension skills, independent musicianship, style, a deeper understanding of ensemble music, and wind band literature. Literature will emphasize works from the standard high school repertoire. Students will perform both in small group ensemble projects and as a large group. This also includes significant creative elements. We perform four concerts per year and one festival; attendance is required for all. These festivals may not necessarily occur during the school day. Students will be graded based on attendance and behavior. Fluency in the majority of major scales (at least one octave) and rudiments is required as well as familiarity with chromatic scale(s). Placement within this class is based upon audition. An audition will include (but is not necessarily limited to) multiple scales, a prepared solo/excerpt, and sight reading. Audition requirements: Scales (chosen from major, Db-E), prepared solo/excerpt, and sight reading (most likely repertoire from previous year). Purchase of a uniform and a technique book (*Standard of Excellence, Book 3* (“the green book”)) is required for this ensemble. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining an ensemble.

Jazz Band

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Semester 2 / .5 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This course is a performance-based study of instrumental and musical techniques through the medium of jazz literature. The major topics are literature of contemporary and traditional jazz and pop styles. Other aspects of this course include participation in local concerts, regional festivals, and community activities. Appropriate performance attire is required (must be purchased if necessary) as well as a technique book (*First Place for Jazz-* Dean Sorenson). This course requires instructor approval (via audition).

Wind Ensemble

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The Benjamin Franklin Wind Ensemble is a year-long, audition-only ensemble that epitomizes all aspects of excellence in technical and musical qualities. Students will perform both in small group ensembles and as a large group. This also includes significant creative elements. We perform four concerts per year and one festival; attendance is required for all. These festivals may not necessarily occur during the school day. Students will be graded based on attendance and behavior. Fluency in all scales (number of octaves is dependent on instrument, including chromatic) and rudiments is required. An audition will include (but is not necessarily limited to) multiple scales, a prepared solo, and sight reading. Audition requirements: Scales (chosen from all 12 major/minor and chromatic), solo/excerpt, and sight reading (most likely repertoire from previous year). Purchase of a uniform and a technique book set (*Frank Erickson High School Band Course*) is required for this ensemble. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining an ensemble.

Women's Ensemble

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

A non-auditioned choir for women in 7th-12th grade who are new to choir or are still developing their music reading and vocal skills. Students will have the opportunity to grow individually and as a choir through music reading lessons and exercises, warm-ups that build healthy vocal technique, and studying choral repertoire that includes folk songs, spirituals, popular music, and musical theater. This choir performs four required concerts per year. Purchase of a uniform is required in place of a class fee. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining choir; please speak to the director if uniform purchase is a burden.

Bella Vocè

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

A non-auditioned choir for 9th-12th grade women. This choir is ideal for women who are new to choir or are still developing their music reading and vocal skills. Students will have the opportunity to grow individually and as a choir through music reading lessons and exercises, vocal warm-ups that build healthy technique and studying repertoire that includes folk songs, spirituals, world music, popular music, and musical theater. This choir performs four required concerts per year. Purchase of a uniform is required for this choir. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining choir; please speak to the director if uniform purchase is a burden.

Men's Ensemble

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

A non-auditioned choir for men 7th-12th grade who are new to choir or are still developing their music reading and vocal skills. Students will have the opportunity to grow individually and as a choir through music reading lessons and exercises, warm-ups that build healthy vocal technique, and studying choral repertoire that includes folk songs, spirituals, popular music, and musical theater. This choir performs 4 required concerts per year. Purchase of a uniform is required in place of a class fee. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining choir; please speak to the director if uniform purchase is a burden.

Concert Choir

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

An auditioned choir for men and women, primarily 9th and 10th graders. Members of this choir have good music-reading ability and can sing in simple 4-part harmony. Students will have the opportunity to grow individually and as a choir through music reading lessons and exercises, vocal warm-ups that build healthy technique, and studying repertoire that includes folk songs, spirituals, world music, popular music, and musical theater. Students in this choir have the opportunity to audition for the Southwest Regional Choir. This choir performs 4 required concerts per year. Purchase of a uniform is required for this choir. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining choir; please speak to the director if uniform purchase is a burden. The audition includes singing one verse of "My Country Tis of Thee," tonal memory, and simple sight-reading. Please email or speak to the teacher to schedule an audition.

HS Honor Choir

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

An auditioned choir for men and women, primarily 11th and 12th graders. Members of this choir have excellent music reading ability and can sing in parts independently. Students will have the opportunity to grow individually and as a choir through music reading lessons and exercises, vocal exercises that build healthy technique and repertoire that includes classical, folk songs, major works, spirituals, world music, popular music, and musical theater. High School Honor Choir performs four required concerts per year and participates in various Arizona choral festivals. Additionally, they travel out of state for competitions during the spring semester. Students in this choir are encouraged to audition for the Southwest Regional Choir. Purchase of a uniform is required for this choir. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining choir; please speak to the director if uniform purchase is a burden. The audition includes singing one verse of “My Country tis of Thee,” tonal memory, and completing a sight reading exercise. Please email or speak to the teacher to schedule an audition.

Charged Harmonies

Prerequisite(s): One year choir and audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

This is a select group of no more than 20 students. Singers in this choir are able to sing complicated harmonies and rhythms and have excellent sight reading skills. Members of Jazz/Mad are able to sing solos as well as alone on a part. Excellent intonation and round tone are essential for members of “Charged Harmonies”. This class will prepare and perform music specifically from the jazz repertoire and Renaissance period. This music will be performed at choir concerts, but will be prepared specifically for competing in the NAU Jazz/Mad festival held at NAU. Members of this choir are strongly encouraged to audition for the Southwest Regional Choir. These auditions take place in late January/early February and the cost is \$20. Students are given extra credit for auditioning. “Charged Harmonies” typically goes on “tour” to compete and participate in workshops during spring semester. Students are encouraged to fundraise for and attend this activity. Tour provides amazing opportunities for personal musical growth and helps to unify the choir. Every member of the choir is important and helps to make the competition experience successful. This choir performs four required concerts per year. Purchase of a uniform is required for this choir. Financial need should never prevent a student from joining choir. Auditions include singing “My Country tis of Thee”, completing sight reading exercises of varying difficulty, and singing a chromatic scale.

Beginning Voice

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Beginning Voice Class is designed to teach the art of singing to a wide range of students with varying abilities. They will be taught fundamental singing techniques along with a strong foundation in music theory. Music studied in this class varies from classical to modern and will engage them in small ensemble work as well as advancing their solo voices. This class requires group participation in two concerts during the school year.

Concert Strings

Prerequisite(s): Audition for students new to BFHS; Two years' experience on your instrument

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

This is the first introduction to the musical expectations held at Benjamin Franklin High School. As the logical next step to an elementary level music education, we start the year with beginning shifting, two octave scales, rhythm counting, the rudiments of vibrato, and basic listening dictations. Placement in this orchestra requires a willingness to challenge yourself to reach the next level of musicianship. No experience is necessary to be placed in the orchestra, but diligence in practicing is required. We strive to create a positive learning environment where students are encouraged to venture out of their comfort zones to create beautiful music. Students are required to perform in four mandatory concerts a year. Students are expected to stay for the duration of each concert and will be graded on their attendance. The orchestra will also be participating in one or two competitions (festivals) that are also mandatory and will be graded based on attendance and behavior. Auditions for this orchestra take place at the beginning of the year (for new students). All materials and requirements are posted on the orchestra website.

Symphonic Strings

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

As is the case for all BFHS orchestras, placement into Symphonic Strings is dependent on skill level and not grade level. Students will begin the year with two octave scales, advanced rhythm counting, shifting, and intermediate listening dictations. Towards the middle of the year, students will be beginning three octave scales, becoming comfortable with vibrato, and fostering a deeper understanding of performance strategy. Placement in this orchestra requires at least three years' experience on your instrument (exceptions may occur based on ability), an advanced understanding of musical terms such as solfege, key signatures, and time signatures, and most importantly a growing respect for the musical process and high levels of achievement. Students are required to perform in four mandatory concerts a year. Students are expected to stay for the duration of each concert and will be graded on their attendance. The orchestra will also be participating in one or two competitions, called festivals, which are also mandatory and will be graded based on attendance and behavior. There will also be several competition opportunities for students who are interested. Auditions for this orchestra take place at the beginning of the year (for incoming students). All materials and requirements are posted on the orchestra website.

Chamber Orchestra

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The Chamber Orchestra will be composed of high school students who have demonstrated dedication to their instrument in the form of consistent practice and who take private lessons on their instrument from a teacher. Placement in the Chamber Orchestra requires at least four years of experience on their instrument (exceptions may occur based on ability), an extensive knowledge of music theory (including key signatures, time signatures, rhythm reading, and solfege) and a strong command of all major scales. Students in Chamber Orchestra will be encouraged to challenge themselves to achieve at their highest level in a safe environment where mistakes are part of the learning process. They will also learn to respect the process of creating beautiful music through personal practice and classroom diligence. Chamber Orchestra students will be graded on four mandatory concerts a year, and they are required to stay for the duration of the concert. Chamber Orchestra will also be participating in one or two competitions which

are also mandatory and graded. Other competition opportunities will also be available at the solo level for students who are planning to further develop their playing. Auditions for this orchestra take place at the beginning of the year (for incoming students). See orchestra website for materials and requirements.

Pep Band/DrumLine

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Semester 1 / .5 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

Pep Band is a fall-semester course that seeks to help students grow as musicians via preparation and performance of pep repertoire. Attendance at all designated sporting events is required. Students will be required to purchase a Pep Band t-shirt. Wind players must provide their own instrument (and any needed accessories). Percussionists must provide their own drum sticks and mallets (when necessary). The purpose of this class is to develop musicians and their musical skills through preparing repertoire appropriate in public performance at sporting events (i.e., “pep band” and “drumline”).

Intro Ballet/Jazz

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

This yearlong course is an introduction to the basics of ballet and jazz, this class will include daily technique, introductory ballet, jazz, contemporary, and lyrical repertoire, weekly dance vocabulary, two annual concerts, and student choreography opportunities. In this course, students will learn the rudimentary positions of classical ballet and jazz dance. Students will work on building a dance vocabulary physically and mentally, improving alignment, increasing flexibility/strength, and increasing artistry through the medium of dance. A focused effort will be made to help students develop the proper muscle groups for safely performing the positions of classical ballet and jazz through a series of floor-barre exercises. Students will be assessed each quarter on technical skills learned in class. Students will be required to learn ballet and anatomical vocabulary in class. There will be weekly quizzes on these terms. The course fee to cover costumes and performance expenses is **\$50.00**. In addition, students will be required to obtain their own dance attire and shoes. There is an extracurricular component to this course. It is essential that all students and parents understand the required dates as outlined in the syllabus, mark their calendars, and plan accordingly.

Intermediate Ballet/Jazz

Prerequisite(s): Intro Ballet/Jazz or Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

The prerequisite for this course is Introductory Ballet/Jazz (or by audition). Building upon the basics of ballet and jazz, this yearlong class will include daily technique, intermediate ballet, jazz, and lyrical repertoire, weekly dance vocabulary and history, two annual concerts, and student choreography opportunities. In this course students will build upon the rudimentary positions of classical ballet and jazz dance. Students will work on building a dance vocabulary physically and mentally, improving alignment, increasing flexibility/strength, and increasing artistry through the medium of dance. A focused effort will be made to help students develop the proper muscle groups for safely performing the positions of classical ballet and jazz through a series of floor, barre, and center exercises. Students will be assessed each quarter on technical skills learned in class. Students will be required to learn ballet and anatomical vocabulary in class. There will be weekly quizzes on these terms. The course fee to cover costumes and

performance expenses is **\$50.00**. In addition, students will be required to obtain their own dance attire and shoes. There is an extracurricular component to this course. It is essential that all students and parents understand the required dates as outlined in the syllabus, mark their calendars, and plan accordingly.

Advanced Dance

Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Ballet/Jazz or Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

Building upon the intermediate ballet and jazz, this yearlong class will include daily technique, ballet, jazz, and contemporary repertoire, two annual concerts, and student choreography opportunities. Students enrolling in this class should have taken intro and intermediate dance or have auditioned privately. In this course, students will build upon the intermediate steps of classical ballet and jazz dance. Students will work on building a dance vocabulary physically and mentally, improving alignment, increasing flexibility/strength, and increasing artistry through the medium of dance. Female students showing sufficient strength may be put on pointe for basic barre work. (Pointe work requires special shoes and additional expenses for which students must plan accordingly). Though the class will primarily be focused on the practice of the art form, students will be expected to develop their understanding of the vocabulary and history of dance. The course fee to cover costumes and performance expenses is **\$75.00**. In addition, students will be required to obtain their own dance attire and shoes.

Chargerettes – Varsity Pom

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

This class is solely for students who have auditioned and been accepted onto the Chargerette Varsity Pom team. Students will participate in game performances, concerts, assembly routines and 3-4 competitions including the USA National Dance Championship. In this course students will work dance team technique: jazz pirouettes, a la seconde turns, leaps, and aerials, and will prepare competition and game performance pieces. Competition pieces will cover a variety of dance styles but a focused effort will be made to help students become better performers. All Chargerettes will be required to attend games and sporting events, elaborated in the course syllabus. Students must maintain a “C” average overall. The course fee to cover curricular costumes and performance expenses is **\$75.00**. In addition, there will be a booster club fee of approximately **\$825.00- \$900**. This includes camp fees, competition uniform fees, competition fees, etc. The booster club fee does not include traveling expenses; therefore the team will be required to fundraise for their trip.

Ballroom Dance I & II

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Yearlong or semester-long class familiarizes students the fundamentals and benefits of social dance. We will cover the basics of waltz, foxtrot, tango, rumba, cha-cha, East Coast and Lindy swing. Second year students will be introduced to more advanced bronze steps and some silver steps. Each semester students will be required to perform in the dance concert. Students will be required to buy a pair of suede ballroom or character shoes (est. cost \$30.00). Students should wear comfortable modest athletic clothing. Gentlemen must wear modest athletic clothing. Ladies will wear modest athletic tops and modest leggings. Tardiness and disregard for the uniform will adversely affect a student’s participation grade. There is an extracurricular

component to this course. It is essential that all students and parents understand the required dates as outlined in the syllabus, mark their calendars, and plan accordingly.

Art I

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

Students will learn basic features of visual design as they work through various projects and skills using a variety of mediums. The program's intent is to foster confidence and help budding artists realize their potential. ****\$30.00 Class Fee**

Art II

Prerequisite(s): Art I

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 8-12

This course builds on concepts learned from Art I. Students will create visual compositions as they incorporate the elements and principles of art. Art principles, design techniques and mediums will be introduced to expand the artists' skills and experiences. ****\$30.00 Class Fee**

Advanced Art

Prerequisite(s): Art II; teacher recommendation

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This class is for advanced students who have excelled in the High School Art II program. These students must be personally signed in by the class instructor. A recommendation from a former fine arts instructor is encouraged when transferring from another school. The course will reinforce skills and concepts introduced in the High School Art Programs I and II, as well as present new painting techniques through the use of water color, oil pastel and acrylic. In addition to the instructor directed assignments, students will also be responsible for their own "Independent Project" and any "Civic" projects that may be requested. **Teacher approval required. **\$30.00 Class Fee**

AP Art History

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

AP Art History will be a comprehensive class in which students will explore major forms and functions of artistic expression including architecture, sculpture, painting and other media from across a variety of cultures. By investigating specific course content of 250 works of art characterized by diverse artistic traditions from prehistory to the present, the course fosters in-depth, holistic understanding of the history of art from a global perspective. Students become active participants in the global art world, engaging with its forms and content. They experience, research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, responses to, and interpretations of art. The course is designed to critically analyze works of art within diverse historical and cultural contexts, considering issues such as politics, religion, patronage, gender, and ethnicity. There are no prerequisite courses for AP Art History.

Theatre I & II

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): Introductory Class for 9-12

This yearlong course is a performance driven introduction to theatre focusing on acting technique, monologue work, scene work, improvisation, and play production and performance. Students will complement their liberal arts studies with a robust introduction to timeless works of theatre. The philosophy behind this course is that in imitating life, a person who learns to act

learns better what it is to be human. And, the best way to learn theatre is to do theatre. Written homework will be limited, but line memorization will be a huge component of this course. The planned curriculum will include two productions -- a fall Shakespeare play and a spring non-Shakespearian play. All students will be required to act to some degree in each show. All students will also be required to assist at least 8 hours on the musical as stagehands. Students are not required to audition for the musical. In addition, students will have the opportunity to create sets and props, run tech, and sew costumes. There is a course fee associated with this class – **\$40.00** – that goes towards class materials and production expenses. Rehearsal uniform: comfortable and modest athletic clothing. Students and parents will be asked to help with set and prop creation, backstage work, and costume retrieval and creation. There is an extracurricular component to this course. It is essential that all students and parents understand the required dates as outlined in the syllabus, mark their calendars, and plan accordingly.

Beginning Guitar

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

Beginning Guitar will focus on developing musicianship skills through the medium of the guitar. We will learn the basics of playing guitar (including finger positions, various chords, multiple forms of music notation, chord progressions, etc.), its role in music-making (currently and historically), applicable music theory, and the development of popular music (focusing on the 20th century to the present). We will also cover musical styles involving guitar (or guitar-like) instruments. Students will perform music individually, in small groups, and as a large guitar ensemble. There will be a cumulative final project near the end of the course. A primary objective of this course is to prepare students for a life of thoughtful music involvement. The purchase of a technique book is required (Essential Elements for Guitar- Book 1).

Journalism/Yearbook

Prerequisite(s): Teacher recommendation & “B” or higher in previous English class

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This course is designed for students who love to write. Classroom instruction is centered on developing journalistic writing, objective style, and teaching in design, layout, and editing skills. Students are responsible for producing the school newspaper. Students will function as staff members and learn various aspects of the yearbook publication process such as layout and design, copy writing, photography, budget and finance, and promotion and publicity. Students are responsible for producing complete layouts in order to meet publication deadlines. **Teacher approval required.**

Speech & Debate

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This course explores and informs students on a wide breadth of public speaking skills, including: Extemporaneous Speaking, Expository Speaking, Original Oratory, Oral Interpretation (prose and poetry), and Impromptu Speaking. Additionally, students are introduced to basic researching, argumentation, questioning, and rebuttal skills through a variety and range of debate disciplines, including: Policy (Cross-Examination) Debate, Congressional Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Skill focus includes the development of techniques in diction, articulation, enunciation and projection. Students begin to analyze pieces of literature,

create and deliver orations, write arguments, and evaluate performances. Students have the opportunity to participate in local and state level Speech and Debate (Forensic) Competitions.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

High School Physical Education

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

The purpose of Physical Education is to provide students the opportunity to acquire the skills needed to make positive decisions about a healthy, physically active lifestyle. This is achieved through physical activity and both individual and team sports. This course will strive to enhance the mental, social and moral development of students and teach them positive life skills. The course will concentrate on fundamentals, sportsmanship, and character building. **P.E. students must be in appropriate attire, including athletic shoes and the Charger P.E. uniform. The P.E. uniform may be purchased for \$15 during Charger Days or during bookstore hours.**

HS Weight Training

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

The purpose of Weight Training is to provide students the same opportunities as the regular Physical Education Class but all activities will center around strength and conditioning in the weight room. Workouts will be geared specifically for the high school athlete. Any student planning on participating in extracurricular athletics should seriously consider enrolling in this class. **P.E. students must be in appropriate attire, including athletic shoes and the Charger P.E. uniform. The P.E. uniform may be purchased for \$15 during Charger Days or during bookstore hours.**

Intro to Sports Medicine

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

The Introduction to Sports Medicine and Athletic Training Beginning Course is a two (2) semester course designed for students who are interested in fields such as athletic training, physical therapy, medicine, nursing, fitness, physiology of exercise, kinesiology, nutrition, EMT, and other sports medicine related fields. It is offered as a classroom and lab course to provide students with an avenue through which to explore these fields of study. This course focuses on the basic information and skills important in the recognition of, care, prevention, and preliminary rehabilitation of athletic injuries. The course includes class work and hands on application, including attending after school athletic events. (One 50 minute class period per day). This course is required to be a team manager.

Cheerleading

Prerequisite(s): Must try out and make the Varsity cheer team or is a freshman planning to try out in August. Freshmen who do not make the team in August will have to drop the course at that time.

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The purpose of the class is to teach the fundamentals of cheerleading. This class is for anyone, at any level of experience, who is interested in learning cheerleading skills. Students will learn cheers, chants, dance and pom routines, motion technique, jumps and stunt sequences. Conditioning will also play a role in the course to maintain cardio fitness, core

strength and increase flexibility. The course will place an emphasis on building school spirit through becoming stronger cheerleaders. High school cheerleaders will be divided into JV and Varsity.

Student Government (STUGO)

Prerequisite(s): Elected and appointed students

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This course is for elected and appointed student body officers and student representatives. The purpose of this class is to develop and encourage the leadership skills needed by an effective student leader. Students will learn parliamentary procedure and meeting facilitation skills ; the planning and implementation of class, club and school activities; budget management; resource and time management skills; communication and public speaking skills; organizational and problem solving skills; marketing and promotional skills; and community service awareness. Students will need to attend one or two summer meetings. The number of hours that will be required outside of class will be determined at the beginning of the quarter and will vary based on the number of student body activities.

Shakespeare

Prerequisite(s): English teacher recommendation

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Shakespeare is an elective class that will enable students to study Shakespeare's most famous works on stage, on screen, and on page, plus expose students to the question of his historical authorship. Students will read from all three major categories: Tragedy, Comedy, and History, as well as memorize multiple sonnets, and, in addition to studying Shakespeare's unparalleled commentary on human nature and psychology, will compare and contrast multiple versions of play productions and modern adaptations in order to better appreciate the influence on and the foundation for classical education that Shakespeare produced.

Philosophy

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

The Philosophy Elective is broken up into two sections over the course of the two semesters. The first semester is an overview of the Western Philosophies from the Presocratics through the post-modernist. The goal of the first semester will be to learn how one is to practice philosophy, while also learning about the major philosophical ideas and how they built upon, or diverged from, one another. The second semester we will be focusing on the practice of philosophy. The topics of our class will be dealing with Morality. Moral Philosophy is at the core of many disciplines, and is also a large part of living a good life. We will use the tools and philosophies from the first semester to have deep conversations about three major stages in western philosophy, as well as other topics. The goal is to allow the students to contemplate, discuss, and seek truth as a group. This will only be successful if the students take an active role in their education.

Senior Capstone Thesis

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 12

The senior thesis represents the capstone of a classical education. The thesis project challenges the student to exercise his command of the disciplines of grammar, logic, and rhetoric to investigate and explicate a well-supported position on a topic of import or controversy. Students

will research and prepare an academic paper of at least 5,000 words on a topic of their own choosing, under the guidance of the course instructor and a faculty advisor. They will also present and defend this thesis before a panel of interlocutors. This presentation and process must be infused with a love of truth and virtue, which should be reflected in the student's argument.

Academic Decathlon

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This course is a yearlong elective which introduces the student to interdisciplinary study. Each year, Academic Decathlon chooses a theme, and students conduct research pertaining to the overall theme and an array of academic disciplines. The school team then competes in ten events: art, music, science, literature, social science, economics, math, essay, speech, and interview. Students will attend competitions in the late fall and early spring.

Release Time

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/No Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Release time is not a course at BFHS. Choosing the course will enable students to have a designated class period that will be excluded on their course schedule in order to attend religious instruction.