

9th Grade Course Descriptions

REQUIRED CORE CLASSES

Secondary Math I: The major work of the grade requires students to create, interpret, manipulate, and solve algebraic equations; understand, compare, and represent functions; describe characteristics of functions; understand, apply, and prove congruence and similarity as defined in terms of geometric transformations **Full Year**

Secondary Math I Honors: The major work of the grade requires students to create, interpret, manipulate, and solve algebraic equations; understand, compare, and represent functions; describe characteristics of functions; understand, apply, and prove congruence and similarity as defined in terms of geometric transformations. **Full Year**

Earth Systems: The Earth and Space Science SEEd Standards investigate processes and mechanisms that have resulted in the formation of our Earth, galaxy, and universe. Students develop models to illustrate the life span of the Sun and the role of nuclear fusion releasing energy in the Sun's core. Students analyze and interpret data to construct an explanation for Earth's 4.6 billion year history and explore changes to Earth's systems. Students develop and use a model of Earth's interior to describe the cycling of matter by thermal convection. Students plan and carry out an investigation on the properties of water to determine its effects on Earth materials. Students use computational thinking to explain sustainable and natural resources, focusing on responsible stewardship. **Full Year**

Earth Systems Honors: The Earth and space science SEEd Standards investigate processes and mechanisms that have resulted in the formation of our Earth, galaxy, and universe. Students develop models to illustrate the life span of the Sun and the role of nuclear fusion releasing energy in the Sun's core. Students analyze and interpret data to construct an explanation for Earth's 4.6 billion year history and explore changes to Earth's systems. Students develop and use a model of Earth's interior to describe the cycling of matter by thermal convection. Students plan and carry out an investigation on the properties of water to determine its effects on Earth materials. Students use computational thinking to explain sustainable and natural resources, focusing on responsible stewardship. Additionally, students design and evaluate solutions to problems that exist in these areas. **Full Year**

Language Arts 9: This class is a survey of literature — short stories, novels, poems, videos, articles — which we will use to develop the literacy and critical thinking skills necessary to live productive and fulfilling lives. In order to gain these vital skills, we will read deeply, write clearly, listen empathetically, and speak respectfully. The reading and writing skills we gain from our class work will also prepare students for the state end-of-level test. **Full Year**

Language Arts 9 Honors: This is an intensive survey of literature — short stories, novels, poems, videos, articles — which we will use to develop the literacy and critical thinking skills necessary to live productive and fulfilling lives. In order to gain these vital skills, we will read deeply, write clearly, listen empathetically, and speak respectfully. The reading and writing skills we gain from our class work will also prepare students for the state end-of-level test. **Full Year**

Geography for Life: The class covers physical environment, population, culture, politics, and economics. Several lessons will be thematic in nature and students will explore how to use geography to problem solve, think critically, and understand the world they live in. **Half Year**

Geography for Life Honors: The class goes into depth in the following topics physical environment, population, culture, politics, and economics. Several lessons will be thematic in nature and students will explore how to use geography to problem solve, think critically, and understand the world they live in. Students are expected to complete honors level work. **Half Year**

AP Geography: The class is a college level class with the possibility of earning college credit upon passing the AP exam. Students need to read and write on a college level. They will be reading college level textbooks and material and writing college level papers for assignments. It is a year long course that will help prepare students for future college level classes. The class will focus on the human or cultural aspects of geography. Students will learn about humans and their environment, population and distribution, culture, political systems, economic development, rural and urban development and land use. **Full Year**

Participation Skills: This class utilizes appropriate instructional practices to develop competence and confidence in a variety of lifetime activity and movement forms, including sports, outdoor recreation, and physical fitness activities. The emphasis is on providing success and enjoyment for all students. **Half Year**

Exploring Computer Science: Exploring Computer Science (ECS) is designed to introduce students to the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus on the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. The goal of Exploring Computer Science is to develop in students the computational practices of algorithm development, problem solving and programming within the context of problems that are relevant to the lives of today's students. **Half Year**

ELECTIVE COURSE CLASSES

Ceramics: Introductory exposure to the history of ceramics and a beginning level experience in the use of clay as a fine art medium. Forming techniques, surface development and glazing, and kiln firing practices will be introduced. Both the functional and sculptural ceramic traditions will be explored. Students will learn about the art elements, how to do art, look at art, talk about art, and write about art. **Half Year**

Drawing I: Students will be introduced to one point and two point perspective drawings. Students will learn how to draw block letters, a room, and buildings. Students are also introduced to drawing from direct observation with pencil and charcoal media. Through gesture, line, and value drawing, students learn how to master the technical skills to accurately describe simple and complex forms in an organized composition. Students will learn how to draw a still life and how to do figure drawings. Students will learn about the human body and how to draw correct proportions. Students will observe a lifesize skeleton and draw/label the bones of the body. Students will learn about the art elements, how to do art, look at art, talk about art, and write about art. **Half Year**

Art History: Students refine techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional (2-D) artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students will learn about famous post artists, what art mediums they worked with and their background in art, as well as, different techniques from famous post artists that they can apply in their own artwork. Students will learn about the art elements, how to do art, look at art, talk about art, and write about art. **Half Year**

Advanced Band: Students will continue learning to play their chosen instruments from Beginning Band and perform concerts and band festivals. This class is geared towards second year band students. **Full Year**

Advanced Orchestra: This is a combined class of intermediate and advanced students and expands upon the concepts learned in Beginning Orchestra. The orchestra will attend festivals and will have solo experiences. Private lessons are strongly encouraged. **Full Year**

Guitar I (beginning): Focuses on real-world guitar skills such as chords, strumming, fingerpicking, rock and blues riffs, reading tablature and standard notation, and beginning pieces of music to perform and the holiday or spring concert **Half Year**

Guitar II: This class expands upon the concepts learned in beginning guitar. Performing bass and melody together and accompaniment with chord and melody in small ensembles to perform at a holiday or spring concert. **Half Year**

Stagecraft: Stagecraft is a course for students that are interested in the technical side of theater. Students in Stagecraft will learn and apply their knowledge of theater design, including set, lighting, sound, and other technical aspects of theater, helping students build a strong foundation in technical theater. Combined class of 8th and 9th graders. **Half Year**

Intermediate Theater: Intermediate Theater is a course for students that have an interest in theatrical arts. Students in this class will learn how to perform and speak in front of an audience, how to work and create a scene, stage movement, character creation, and other aspects of the theater. Combined class of 8th and 9th graders. **Half Year**

Advanced Theater: This is a course for students that have completed a drama course before taking this one. Students in this class will practice and apply their knowledge of performance, performance techniques, theater history, social drama, and other aspects of theater. Combined class of 8th and 9th graders. **Full Year**

Spanish I & II: Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. Students will understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners and readers on a variety of topics. **Full Year**

Foods and Nutrition I/II: This course is designed to focus on the science of food and nutrition. Experiences will include food safety and sanitation, culinary technology, food preparation and dietary analysis to develop a healthy lifestyle with pathways to career readiness. **Half Year**

Engineering Technology: Introductory course that focuses on foundational engineering design and that introduces basic problem-solving and documentation skills. Various aspects of engineering will be explored along with technology's environmental, societal, political, and economic impacts on our world. By utilizing problem-solving skills, students will develop essential abilities and attitudes that will in turn expand their occupational opportunities in the world of engineering. **Half Year**

Manufacturing Technology: Introductory course focused on the world of manufacturing technology. Students will gain an understanding of how manufacturing technologies impact politics, the environment, society, and the economy. Students will develop a foundation in essential abilities and attitudes that will in turn expand their occupational opportunities in the manufacturing world. **Half Year**

Robotics Technology: A 9th grade introductory course focused on robotic technologies and what it means to be living in an automated world. Students will gain an understanding of how robotic technologies impact the environment, society, and the economy. Students will develop a foundation in essential abilities and attitudes in

connection with math and science skills that will in turn expand their opportunities in the world of automation. **Half Year**

Construction Technology: A 9th grade introductory course focused on construction technology. Students will gain an understanding of how construction technologies impacts politics, the environment, society, and economy. Students will develop a foundation in essential abilities and attitudes that will in turn expand their occupational opportunities in the world of construction. **Half Year**

Digital Business Apps: This course is designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills to be an asset to the collaborative, global, and innovative business world of today and tomorrow. Concepts include the overall digital experience, digital communications, digital media and the exploration of career choices. This course also provides practical experience in professionalism using various forms of presentation skills, including speaking, podcasting and digital portfolio relating to the globalization of business. **Half Year**

Exploring Business and Marketing: Students will have the opportunity to explore the essential concepts in Business, Finance and Marketing Career Clusters. Students will participate in business basics, marketing, employment skills, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance and leadership learning activities. Students will also be exposed to courses within the Business and Marketing Career Pathways and leadership organizations such as FLBA and DECA. **Half Year**

Introduction to Marketing: Marketing I explores the seven core functions of marketing which include: Marketing Planning – why target market and industry affects businesses; Marketing-Information Management – why market research is important; Pricing – how prices maximize profit and affect the perceived value; Product/Service Management – why products live and die; Promotion – how to inform customers about products; Channel Management – how products reach the final user; and Selling – how to convince a customer that a product is the best choice. Students will utilize knowledge in hands-on projects which may include: Conducting research, creating a promotional plan, pitching a sales presentation, and introducing an idea for a new product/service. **Half Year**

Release Time (Seminary): Students will attend seminary at the church across the street. This class does not provide any credit for graduation. **Full Year**

Weight Training: This class gives students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. **Half Year**

Dynamic Fitness: Intermediate Team Sports/Dynamic Fitness utilizes appropriate instructional practices to develop competence and confidence in a variety of lifetime activity and movement forms, including sports, outdoor recreation, and physical fitness

activities. The emphasis is on providing success and enjoyment for all students. **Half Year**

ROTC: Students will learn to appreciate the ethical values and principles that underlie good citizenship. They will also develop leadership potential, while living and working cooperatively with others and be able to think logically. Students will learn to communicate effectively with others, both orally and in writing. Students will learn to appreciate the importance of physical fitness in maintaining good health and understand the importance of high school graduation for a successful future, and learn about college. **Full Year**

Creative Writing: Creative Writing explores different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Through writing and thinking students will learn to become better readers, writers, and thinkers. The skills focused on in this course will help students in other courses as well, especially English. Writing genres covered are autobiographies, family storytelling, fairy tales, fantasies, short stories, and journals. **Half Year**

Debate: Students will learn how to speak and communicate in a professional and effective manner. They will learn how to prepare for and debate against other students. The class is designed to prepare students to think critically and creatively. Class assignments will consist of speeches and a variety of debate types. **Half Year**

Advanced Debate: Students will prove and continue to advance their speaking and debate skills. They will demonstrate a competence for research and the ability to use that knowledge effectively in speech and debate style assignments. In addition students will be heavily encouraged to continue to think critically and creatively, which includes alternate points of view. Advanced Debate provides a competent challenge for students that want to prepare themselves to be effective and powerful communicators in their future career choices. **Half Year**

AVID: This targets students in the academic middle with the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. Often, students will be the first in their families to attend college, and come from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum with the support of the AVID Elective class. This class places students on the college track, requiring students to enroll in the most rigorous courses that are appropriate for them, such as Honors and Advanced Placement®. To support them in the rigorous coursework, AVID students learn organizational and study skills, develop critical thinking, learn to ask probing questions, receive academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities to make their college dreams reality. **Full Year**

Latinos in Action: Latinos In Action is a program designed to help Latino youth meet their potential by leveraging their personal assets, excelling in education, serving the community, and being a leader. Our model facilitates opportunities to develop that potential for students from elementary school through college. This class does require application and teacher approval. **Full Year**

Peer Tutoring: Peer Tutoring is an opportunity to work with students with different abilities. You will learn to help them with their academics and life skills. We have a Treat Trolley and recycling program that the students participate in. We use these programs to teach the students money management and work skills. This is a great opportunity to earn volunteer hours for your college applications and learn skills to work with others in the field of Special Education. **Half Year**