

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



CHARGERS

2023-2024

Jr. High/High School Course Catalog



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GENERAL INFORMATION

This catalog lists courses available at Benjamin Franklin Junior High and High School (BFHS). 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 advisor, and are on track to meet graduation requirements, they may enroll in a minimum of four courses.

Transfer credits from sources outside of BFHS will be accepted from accredited institutions. Credits from unaccredited institutions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In this instance the academic advisor and Assistant Principal will determine if the academic rigor of said course meets BFHS standards for transfer credit as an elective or core academic class, and whether the credit will be used to calculate a student's GPA.

ACADEMIC ADVISING DEPARTMENT

The Benjamin Franklin Advising Department provides guidance for all academic areas including but not limited to:

- Registration/scheduling of new incoming students
- Schedule change requests
- Four year planning
- Conducting credit checks
- ACT/SAT planning
- Assistance with the college application process
- Writing letters of recommendations
- Scholarship searches

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Benjamin Franklin Charter School's Exceptional Student Services Department oversees programming for students with disabilities and maintains compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Benjamin Franklin Charter School provides a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal statutes and regulations.

The Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Department provides an array of support, services and resources to students, general educators, special educators, administrators, and families. Alongside programs that foster high expectations, BFHS is committed to providing comprehensive services to help meet the needs of all students. Our philosophy is that all children can learn, regardless of disability.

ESS works to ensure that every student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) receives all components of their current IEP, including specially designed instruction. All students are provided services in their individual, least restrictive environment. BFHS is committed to providing transition services and programs to facilitate students moving from a high school education to post-secondary opportunities. The IEP Team, consisting of the student, guardian, case manager, teachers, and administration work collaboratively to develop a plan consistent with the student's strengths, needs, and goals for the future.

Each student with an IEP will be assigned a case manager who is responsible for scheduling the annual IEP. Individual case managers ensure that all teachers, including general education teachers, are provided with an IEP Information Sheet. This is an overview of the student's needs, including accommodations, modifications, goals, and services. Quarterly, case managers provide parents with Goals and Performance Objectives Progress Reports, a document that outlines progress towards mastery of the student's individual goals.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The junior high school curriculum at BFHS 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.

Junior high students are able to take one elective each year. If a student is interested in taking a second elective, he/she must enroll in zero hour. Zero hour classes are not in lieu of a 1st or 6th hour class, it is a seventh class added to the schedule.

HIGH SCHOOL

The high school curriculum is designed to provide 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.

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.

WRITING STYLE

Students at BFHS will learn the fundamentals of various formatting styles for written work. English classes teach the fundamentals of APA style which is most commonly used in the social sciences and is becoming the standard format for collegiate level writing. History classes teach the fundamentals of Chicago style which is most commonly used in the history and arts fields. The purpose of teaching two different writing styles is to introduce students to discipline-specific formatting, a skill they will need when they are in college.

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 of a college course and teacher approval is necessary. AP courses are offered in several different disciplines that prepare students to take the national AP examination given in May 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 AP courses and examinations is available from the counseling office. Students are not required to take an AP course to be eligible to take an AP examination; however, students enrolled in AP courses are encouraged to take the AP exam.

DUAL ENROLLMENT (DE)

In partnership with the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD), BFHS offers select high school courses as dual enrollment options. The benefit of dual enrollment is that it allows our students to be taught college-level courses on our campus with our teachers during a

regular school day as well potentially earn college-credit that could be transferable to other colleges and universities.

OUTSIDE SOURCES OF CREDIT

A meeting with the academic advisor is required before a student begins taking courses outside of BFHS. The academic advisor has the necessary resources to guide the student through the proper procedures for obtaining credit outside of BFHS. Please note only courses not currently offered at BFHS will be considered for approval.

It is the student's responsibility to request the transcript be sent to BFHS. **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 the lost credit. BFHS students may participate in Credit Recovery by taking an online course or by retaking the course on campus.

Online Credit Recovery courses are scheduled through the Academic Advisors at BFHS and cost \$50 per semester credit (0.5) at the time of enrollment. These courses are 90-days in length. Recovering core academic credit is necessary for graduation, however it will not replace the student's grade on the transcript. Please contact your (student's) Academic Advisor to schedule credit recovery.

Students also have the option of repeating a failed course on the BFHS campus. The course would be added onto the student's schedule, while Academic Advisors and parents would work together with the student to ensure the student is still on track for graduation. Please contact your (student's) Academic Advisor to add a class into your schedule. If students retake courses at BFHS, the grade that they earn *is* added to their transcript, but the original F grade is not removed.

Any senior who fails a fall semester course must make up the credit prior to graduation. Failure of a class required for graduation in the spring semester of the senior year will result in the student not graduating in May of that year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students, in consultation with their families, will develop a four-year high school plan of study 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. On the following page, there is a four-year plan chart that you may use to plan your high school academic career. *In addition to the following requirements, students are required to pass any state/federally mandated tests.* Students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) are required to complete the course of study as prescribed in their plan.

Curriculum Area	BFHS Graduation Requirements	Arizona University Entrance Requirements	Arizona Graduation Requirements 2024
English	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Math	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Science	3 lab science credits (Students must take Biology alongside two other lab-based science options An advanced level science class may be used to substitute for one of the required courses.)	3 lab science credits (Anatomy and Physiology is not accepted as a lab science.)	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

Our graduation requirements closely mirror the requirements for admission to the AZ state public colleges. Students who may be interested in pursuing admission to out of state colleges or private colleges should consult with their academic advisor when planning their elective courses to ensure they have taken the required courses for admission to those universities

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, variables, 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.

JH Algebra I

Prerequisite(s): Course 3 or Placement Test

Grade Level(s): 7-8

JH 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 JH Algebra I, students begin developing the 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 will look comprehensively at parallel and perpendicular lines, the coordinate plane, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, congruence and similarity, surface area, volume and transformations through the use of proofs and hands-on explorations. The course provides an introduction to trigonometric concepts through the relationships of right triangles.

JUNIOR HIGH SCIENCE

BFHS 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.

7th Grade Science

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

7th Grade Science is a survey course which combines aspects from life, physical and earth sciences and is designed to introduce and provide an overview of topics including but not limited to microbiomes, chemical reactions, natural selection processes, engineering, traits and reproduction, rock transformations, and phase changes. The students will take on roles as chemists, chemical and biomedical engineers, geologists, biologists and paleontologists to investigate unit questions and deepen their understanding within these units of study.

8th Grade Science

Prerequisite(s): 7th Grade Science

Grade Level(s): 8th

8th Grade Science is a survey course which combines aspects from life, physical and earth sciences and is designed to further strengthen the students understanding of these content areas by providing an overview of topics including but not limited to harnessing energy, thermodynamics, phase changes, forces and motion, magnetic fields and matter, chemical reactions and energy in ecosystems. The students will take on roles as energy scientists, chemists, chemical engineering interns, physicists and mechanical engineering interns to investigate unit questions and apply their knowledge of the content within these units of study. This course sets the stage and sparks their interest, acting as an excellent preparation for high school science courses.

JUNIOR HIGH ENGLISH

Introduction to Classical Literature

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

Introduction to Classical Literature will introduce students to some of the greatest works of Western literature. Students will be enthralled by superb writing, theater, and lore such as Homer's *Odyssey*, *Julius Caesar*, and *The Hobbit*. Exposure to these great works of literary art will not only introduce students to stories where virtue is triumphant, but will also 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.

Introduction to American Literature

Prerequisite(s): Introduction to Classical Literature or 7th Grade English

Grade Level(s): 8th

In this class, 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, and basic elements of argumentation.

JUNIOR HIGH HISTORY

Introduction to Western Civilization

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

The ultimate result of any good education is that students will become citizens who are able to contribute to the society around them. Seventh-grade history at Benjamin Franklin Junior High will accomplish this 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.

Introduction to U.S. History

Prerequisite(s): Introduction to Western Civilization or 7th Grade History

Grade Level(s): 8th

The 8th grade history program includes a study of the United States from the Colonial period to the Cold War. 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, and the Cold War. 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

JH Computers

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7th

In this one-semester 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), Introduction 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 one-semester 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.

Introduction to 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 a brief study of Roman culture. 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 ELECTIVE OPTIONS

Junior high students are able to take one elective each year. If a student is interested in taking a second elective, he/she must enroll in zero hour. Zero hour classes are not in lieu of a 1st or 6th hour class, it is a seventh class added to the schedule.

JUNIOR HIGH PHYSICAL EDUCATION

JH Physical Education

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7-8

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. P.E. uniforms may be purchased for **\$15 during Charger Days** or during bookstore hours.

JH Introduction to Weight Training

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 8th

The purpose of JH Introduction to Weight Training is to provide students the same opportunities as the regular Physical Education Class but all activities will center around age-appropriate strength and conditioning in the weight room. Workouts will be geared specifically for the junior high athlete. This is a high intensity class and students will be challenged and pushed to work hard and reach their potential. 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. P.E. uniforms may be purchased for **\$15 during Charger Days** or during bookstore hours.

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. There is a **\$30.00 class fee due at Charger Days**.

Beginning Band

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Levels(s): 7-12

Beginning Band offers the band experience at the introductory level. Students may pick from woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The goal of the class is giving students another way to express themselves while developing fundamental skills needed to perform; students are held to a high standard just like the other ensembles to ensure their success on their chosen instrument and the ability to continue into Concert band. Musical topics covered include reading music, music notation, analyzing and evaluating music, as well as composing and improvising simple melodies. Students will have the opportunity to perform during the concert season as well as various other playing opportunities. Purchase of the *Tradition of Excellence, Book 1*, is required for this ensemble.

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 the *Tradition of Excellence, Book 2*, is required for this ensemble.

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 Frank Erickson books for sight and supplemented reading is required for this ensemble.

Women's Ensemble

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7-8

A non-auditioned choir for women in 7th and 8th graders 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): 7-8

A non-auditioned choir for men 7th and 8th graders 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.

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.

Beginning Strings

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7 - 12

String Orchestra offers beginning instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass for those desiring to learn to play a string instrument. This course will focus on the fundamental skills necessary for progression through the BFHS orchestra programs including long-term success.

Students in grades 7 - 12 are welcome. No audition is required for placement in this course—all that is necessary is the desire and motivation to study a musical instrument! Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality, reading music, notation and rhythm, beginning music theory, ear training, and additional areas of music literacy. Students will have the opportunity to perform in quarterly concerts as well as other playing opportunities. This class is ideal for those who were unable or only partially able to participate in an instrumental music class during previous school experiences as well as for those who may have experience and need a review including: reinforcement of music reading, playing fundamentals and technique that are vital for lasting musical development.

Concert Orchestra

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

Grade Level(s): 7-12

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 Orchestra

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.

Introduction to Ballet/Jazz

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade Level(s): 7-12

This yearlong dance 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): Introduction to Ballet/Jazz or Audition

Grade Level(s): 7-12

The prerequisite for this dance 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.

Yearbook/Journalism

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

Grade Level(s): 7-12

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, copywriting, photography, budget and finance, and promotion and publicity. Students are responsible for producing complete layouts in order to meet publication deadlines. **Teacher approval required.**

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH

Classical Literature

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9th

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 his contemporaries. We will use many hands-on ways to understand these great works, including reading poetry aloud 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, works by William Shakespeare, and 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 Earnest*. 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 Herman Melville, Mark Twain, John Steinbeck, and others, American Literature 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, and research.

AP Language & Composition

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

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11th

The AP Language and Composition course provides students with the opportunity to read rigorous texts from various eras and in different genres, analyzing the big ideas of rhetorical situations, claims/evidence, reasoning/organization, and style. Students use given texts to reach the goal of effective writing and analysis: they will read and annotate texts from a critical perspective in order to craft well-reasoned essays and personal reflections in response.

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. This class is dual enrollment eligible through MCCC.

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

Through the reading and study of a variety of novels, plays, poems, and short stories, this course focuses on the experience of literature, the interpretation of literature, the evaluation of literature, and writing to develop stylistic maturity and sophistication. Students will also learn the fundamentals of literary analysis and discuss and engage in a variety of writing activities focusing on argumentation, interpretation, analysis, rhetorical strategies, exposition, structure, and style.

HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

Prerequisite(s): Course 3 (Pre-Algebra course)

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9th

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

Full Year/1 Credit

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 will look comprehensively at parallel and perpendicular lines, the coordinate plane, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, congruence and similarity, surface area, volume and transformations through the use of proofs and hands-on explorations. The course provides an introduction to trigonometric concepts through the relationships of right triangles. This course is also offered at the Honors Level.

Honors Geometry

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-10

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 will look comprehensively at parallel and perpendicular lines, the coordinate plane, triangles,

quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, congruence and similarity, surface area, volume and transformations through the use of proofs and hands-on explorations. The course provides an introduction to trigonometric concepts through the relationships of right triangles and also includes an in depth examination of Euclid's Elements.

Algebra II/Trigonometry

Prerequisite(s): Geometry

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-11

Algebra II/Trigonometry expands on Algebra I concepts and 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 developed and reinforced, and students are introduced to logarithmic and exponential functions.

Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry

Prerequisite(s): Honors Geometry

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-11

Algebra II/Trigonometry expands on Algebra I concepts and 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 developed and reinforced, and students are introduced to logarithmic and exponential functions. The honors course will expand further into modeling and connections between multiple representations.

College Algebra

Prerequisite(s): Algebra II/Honors Algebra II

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

College Algebra centers around the properties of functions and their use in modeling, including an in-depth analysis of linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, power, and piecewise-defined functions. Students will also further explore systems of equations and matrices. The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to algebra, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. This course is dual enrollment-eligible through MCCC.

Honors Pre-Calculus

Prerequisite(s): Honors Algebra II or College Algebra

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

Honors Pre-Calculus focuses on college algebra and trigonometry concepts, including functions and modeling, exponential and logistic equations, discrete mathematics, properties of right triangles, and the unit circle. The course stresses trigonometric definitions, functions, and identities. Additionally, students are taught polar coordinates and equations. The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to precalculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. This course is dual enrollment-eligible through MCCC.

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.

AP Calculus AB

Prerequisite(s): Trigonometry/College Algebra

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

AP Calculus AB is equivalent to a first-semester college calculus course. Calculus AB covers the concepts of limits, derivatives, and some aspects of integration. The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Students will also draw connections across these presentations. Students who successfully complete the AP Calculus AB exam may receive credit, advanced placement, or both for a first-semester college calculus course. This course is dual enrollment-eligible through MCCCDC.

AP Calculus BC

Prerequisite(s): College Algebra

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12th

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. This course is dual enrollment-eligible through MCCCDC.

Data Science

Prerequisite(s): Algebra II

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

Data Science provides an integrated approach to math, science, and technology. Students will first learn to analyze data in Google Sheets and code in Python. After gaining an understanding of analysis and programming in the first semester, students will use Google Sheets and Python to analyze scientific data. In quarter 3, students will complete projects, including reading scientific articles, analyzing data, and articulating conclusions. During quarter 4, students will create their own project, given a data set

Applied Mathematics

Prerequisite(s): Geometry

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12th

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 and statistics, graph theory, as well as applications of linear functions, non-linear functions, and geometry.

HIGH SCHOOL LAB SCIENCES

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 offered 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.

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 offered at the honors level.

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 provides students with a college-level foundation in the subject, effectively preparing them for future advanced study in any STEM field. The lab oriented course follows the pathway of a typical freshman college class, and serves as comprehensive preparation for the AP exam. The course is structured around 9 fundamental topics, and lessons combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills to reinforce the 6 key

science practices that underpin how scientific investigations are performed. This course is dual enrollment-eligible through MCCCDC.

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.

Earth Science

Prerequisite(s): Biology

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

This course introduces students to the wonder and beauty of our planet. Through investigation and experimentation of geological structures and forces, atmospheric forces, and the waters on our planet, students gain a clear understanding of the dynamic forces at work in the world around them. The course will focus on the four key disciplines of Earth Science: Geology, Oceanography, Meteorology, and Astronomy, and will highlight both the various ways in which our lives are affected by natural forces, and the impact that humanity is having on the planet that we live on.

Dual Enrollment Earth Science

Prerequisite(s): Biology

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

This course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college Geology course, and upon successful completion of the course, students will earn college credit through MCCCDC.

Throughout the course students delve deep into the Earth's structure, composition and geological history, and gain a deeper understanding of dynamic Earth processes, and how they relate to the world around us. Semester 1 focuses on internal geologic processes, plate tectonics, and geologic time. Semester 2 focuses on the history of the Earth, with its dynamic geographic and climate changes, evolution of life as recorded in the fossil record, and the tectonic evolution of major continents.

Anatomy & Physiology

Prerequisite(s): Chemistry

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

The Anatomy and Physiology course explores the organization of the human body, providing an excellent foundation for further study in a health related field. Students will investigate the structure and function of cells, tissues, major body systems, and the mechanisms for maintaining homeostasis; acquiring the knowledge necessary to understand how our bodies work.

Microscopy, dissections and computer based simulations form a significant portion of this course, and possible careers related to this field will be explored.

HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY

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 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 course serves as an introduction to the history of Europe from 1450 to the present. It divides European History into nine units, each of which will be covered thoroughly during the year. Although there are certainly a lot of names, wars, and dates involved, this class is primarily a class about ideas and skills from the time of the Renaissance, when we can see the seeds of many of today's values emerging, through the fall of Communism.

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 American Revolution to the present day. Using the textbook and primary source 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 United States 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. This course is dual enrollment-eligible through MCCCDC.

Government

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

1 Semester/0.5 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.

AP Government

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

1 Semester/0.5 Credit

Grade Level(s): 12th

AP Government frames the acquisition of political knowledge around enduring understandings and big ideas about American government and politics that can be applied to a set of disciplinary practices by using a set of reasoning processes. Through the development of this set of political knowledge, disciplinary practices, and reasoning processes, students will be able to analyze current and historical political events like a political scientist and develop factually accurate, well-reasoned, thoughtful arguments and opinions that acknowledge and grapple with alternative political perspectives.

Economics

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

1 Semester/0.5 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/0.5 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.

Honors 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.

Honors 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 Introduction 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.

Honors 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.

Honors 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.

German II

Prerequisite(s): German I

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

This is an interactive class that builds on the foundational skills students learned in German I. Listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are expanded upon to engage students in more meaningful expression and conversation. Cultural activities are regularly integrated into lessons to familiarize students further with the diversity and traditions of the German-speaking world.

Honors German III

Prerequisite(s): German II

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 11-12

With the foundational skills mastered, interactions in German will be deeper and more meaningful, moving from concrete to more abstract concepts. In this full immersion course, comprehension and fluency start to emerge more naturally and students start to feel more comfortable and confident conversing in the language. The focus will be on fine-tuning grammar structures and broadening vocabulary. The scope of the class will include more authentic materials such as fairy tales and short stories.

HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

AP Music Theory

Prerequisite(s): Music teacher recommendation and prior participation in Band, Choir, or Orchestra *Full Year/1 Credit*

Grade Level(s): 9-12

The AP Music Theory course corresponds to one or two semesters of a typical introductory college music theory course that covers topics such as musicianship, theory, musical materials, and procedures. Musicianship skills, including dictation and other listening skills, sight singing, and harmony, are considered an important part of the course. Through the course, students develop the ability to recognize, understand, and describe basic materials and processes of tonal music that are heard or presented in a score. Development of aural skills is a primary objective. Performance is also part of the curriculum through the practice of sight singing. Students understand basic concepts and terminology by listening to and performing a wide variety of music. Notational skills, speed, and fluency with basic materials are also emphasized.

Beginning Band

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Levels(s): 7-12

Beginning Band offers the band experience at the introductory level. Students may pick from woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The goal of the class is giving students another

way to express themselves while developing fundamental skills needed to perform; students are held to a high standard just like the other ensembles to ensure their success on their chosen instrument and the ability to continue into Concert band. Musical topics covered include reading music, music notation, analyzing and evaluating music, as well as composing and improvising simple melodies. Students will have the opportunity to perform during the concert season as well as various other playing opportunities. Purchase of the *Tradition of Excellence, Book 1*, is required for this ensemble.

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 the *Tradition of Excellence, Book 2*, is required for his 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 Frank Erickson books for sight and supplemented reading is required for this ensemble.

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 Frank Erickson books for sight and supplemented reading is required for this ensemble.

Bella Voce

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Formally named: Advanced Women's Chorale. An auditioned choir for 9-12 grade women. Members of this choir have good music reading ability and can sing a part independently. Students will have the opportunity to grow individually as a musician and vocalist through music reading lessons and exercises, vocal exercises that build healthy technique and repertoire that includes folk songs, spirituals, world music, popular music, and musical theater. This choir performs 4 required concerts per year.

Forte Choir

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Formally named: Concert Choir. 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.

Cantus

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Formally named: HS Honor Choir. 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.

Charger Voices

Prerequisite(s): One year choir and audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

Formally named: Charged Harmonies. 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 Strings

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7 - 12

Beginning Strings offers a beginning instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass for those desiring to learn to play a string instrument. This course will focus on the fundamental skills necessary for progression through the BFHS orchestra programs including long-term success. Students grade 7 - 12 are welcome. No audition is required for placement in this course - all that is necessary is the desire and motivation to study a musical instrument! Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality, reading music, notation and rhythm, beginning music theory, ear training, and additional areas of music literacy. Students will have the opportunity to perform in quarterly concerts as well as other playing opportunities. This class is ideal for those who were unable or only partially able to participate in an instrumental music class during previous school experiences as well as for those who may have experience and need a review including: reinforcement of music reading, playing fundamentals and technique that are vital for lasting musical development.

Concert Orchestra

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 BFHS. 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 Orchestra

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 the 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.

Introduction to 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): Introduction to Ballet/Jazz or Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

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): 8-12

Building upon the intermediate ballet and jazz course, 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 Introduction and Intermediate Dance or have completed a private audition. 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. Please note pointe work requires special shoes and

additional expenses for which students must plan accordingly). Though the class will be primarily 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.

Saltatrix (formerly Advanced Dance Elite)

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 8-12

This class is solely for students who have auditioned and been accepted into this top level curricular dance class. Students most often have taken all dance classes through advanced when they audition or bring a high level of technical experience. Students will perform for various school events, at least one alternate performance opportunity (such as Phoenix Suns or something similar), as well as represent Benjamin Franklin High School in the annual AZDEO High School Dance Festival and a spring competition. Students are expected to maintain eligibility, great team unity, work ethic and growth mindset in this fast-paced group! A class fee of \$75 is required for various costuming needs as well as booster club fees between \$100 to \$150 for a jacket and competition fees.

Ballroom Dance

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This class familiarizes students with 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. This class is also taught at the advanced level. A class fee of \$25 is required for various costuming and other class prop needs.

Advanced Ballroom Dance

Prerequisite(s): Ballroom Dance or audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This class is an intermediate/advanced study of both American and International styles of ballroom with an emphasis on choreography and performance. Students will be introduced to more advanced silver steps and some gold steps. Each semester students will be required to perform in 2-3 school events including the dance concert. Students will be required to buy a pair of suede ballroom or character shoes (est. cost \$30.00-will be purchased as a team). 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. A class fee of \$40 is required for various costuming and other class prop needs.

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): 9-12

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): 10-12

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**

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-Shakespearean 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.

Guitar

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

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. Purchase of the *Christopher Parkening Method, Book 1*, is required for this course.

Guitar 2

Prerequisite(s): Guitar and/or audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 10-12

Guitar 2 will build upon the foundations of musicianship skills through the medium of the guitar. We will progress past the basics of playing guitar (including finger positions, various chords, multiple forms of music notation, chord progressions, etc.), continue to learn its role in music-making (currently and historically), hone in on 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. Purchase of the *Christopher Parkening Method, Book 2*, is required for this course.

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.

Yearbook/Journalism

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

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-12

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, copywriting, photography, budget and finance, and promotion and publicity. Students are responsible for producing complete layouts in order to meet publication deadlines. **Teacher approval required.**

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Junior Varsity Pom (formerly JDC)

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-11

This class is solely for students who have auditioned and been accepted onto the Junior Varsity Pom team. Students will participate in game performances, concerts, assembly routines, and 2-3 competitions. 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 students will be required to attend games and sporting events, elaborated in the course syllabus. Students must maintain an overall “C” GPA. There will be a booster club fee of approximately **\$650-\$750**. This includes uniform fees, competition fees, etc. This course is a recommended prerequisite for Varsity Pom.

Chargerettes – Varsity Pom

Prerequisite(s): Audition

Full Year/1 Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This class is solely for students who have auditioned and been accepted onto the Chargerettes Varsity Pom team. Students will participate in game performances, concerts, assembly routines, and 3-4 competitions including the dance nationals. 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 an overall “C” GPA. 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.

Financial Literacy

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Students will learn to apply financial management practices such as budgeting, banking, saving, investing, and using credit wisely. Students will be able to explain the importance of achieving long-term and short-term financial goals. This class will delve into the various factors that influence consumer decisions such as peer pressure, desire for status, and advertising techniques. The reason many people find themselves lost financially is that the basic tools needed to know how to manage money aren't taught to them during childhood. No student should leave school without the basic knowledge they need to get ahead financially or at least keep his or her head above water.

HS Cheerleading

Prerequisite(s): Must try out and make the HS 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): 9-12

This class is solely for students who have tried out and been accepted onto the Charger Cheer team. Students will participate in game performances, assembly routines, and 3-4 competitions including USA Spirit Nationals. In this course students will work cheer team technique: jumps,

stunts, and dances, and will prepare competition and game performance pieces. Competition pieces will include a focused effort into helping students become better performers. All Charger Cheerleaders will be required to attend games and sporting events as elaborated in the course syllabus. Students must maintain an overall “C” GPA. There will be a booster club fee of approximately **\$825.00- \$900** which will be used to cover camp fees, uniform fees, competition fees, and more. The booster club fee does not include traveling expenses; therefore the team will be required to fundraise for their Nationals trip.

HS 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. P.E. uniforms 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. P.E. uniforms may be purchased for \$15 during Charger Days or during bookstore hours.**

Shakespeare

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

In the course of the next year, we are going to learn as much as we can about one of history’s most influential and profound authors. The course title, “A Year with Shakespeare,” reflects that our course goal is to learn as much about Shakespeare as we might learn if we lived, day by day, beside the man himself: We will learn about his personality, identity, beliefs; about his literature, style, and impact; about his world, culture, context, and influences; lastly, about anything else that we feel compelled to study as it relates to him. As an elective, this course offers more fluidity and volition than a core class; at some times, students will work with the teacher to determine the next project, activity, or direction of the class. Because Shakespeare wrote primarily in plays, we will spend some time watching and reading the plays simultaneously; as the year progresses, we will watch less and read more, in order to better understand the brilliance of Shakespeare’s written word as well as spoken word.

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.

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. **A zero hour or seventh hour class will be required to complete a schedule that incorporates Release Time.**

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.

Writing & Publishing in the Digital Age

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Students will learn the finer points of writing for publications. This includes focusing on Craft, Content, Audience, Media platform. Also distribution of content and its 'Consumption' - print and online. Students will tinker with words, develop your 'voice' and develop a writer's curiosity. Students will also learn effective ways to 'pitch' their work to publishers and the media. Students will also look at emerging technologies (these change every few months) to create their own media platform.

Yoga

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

As this is a Physical Education class, the general purpose of the course is to promote life-long physical activity and to develop an understanding of the benefits of being healthy. Through the practice of yoga, students will become more physically, mentally, energetically, and emotionally fit. Students will practice Hatha Yoga focusing on yoga for strength, flexibility, and relaxation. Breathing exercises and healthy fitness activities will also be taught. Yoga students will learn concepts of physical fitness, identify stress reduction techniques, gain an increased ability to concentrate, and develop a Personal Fitness Plan to support a lifetime of fitness. The class will also cover techniques for increasing concentration and decreasing anxiety which leads to stronger academic performance. **P.E. students must be in appropriate attire, including athletic socks (barefoot optional) and the Charger P.E. uniform. P.E. uniforms may be purchased for \$15 during Charger Days or during bookstore hours.**

PROPOSED NEW ELECTIVES

Interest will determine which classes move through the proposal and approval process

Exploring Personal and Family Narratives (Genealogy)

Prerequisite(s): None

1 Semester/0.5 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Exploring Personal and Family Narratives is a semester-long introductory Genealogy and Family History course aimed at helping students explore and discover their personal identity and how it fits within their family's identity. The first half of quarter 1 will be focused on personal narratives and the remainder of the semester will focus on family narratives, and the course will culminate in connecting the two through an in-depth project. This elective course will be multidisciplinary in nature as it will tie in topics and methods seen in the following courses: English and Language Arts, History, Journalism, Visual and Graphic Arts, Technology, Public Speaking, Social Studies, Science, and Math. The study of Genealogy and Family History benefits students by helping them create a deeper sense of belonging and sense of purpose as well as developing resiliency, all of which can lead to greater emotional health and happiness and lessen the effects of stress. This course is designed to empower students by understanding their place in the world through a greater understanding of themselves and their families.

Roman History

Prerequisite(s): None

Full Year/1 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

From its legendary beginnings, through its rise as Republic, past its epic height as Empire, to its final fall in 476, the story of Rome is not only gripping history but also an important societal exemplar for all modern nations. This course will span the entire known history of the Western Roman Empire, using primarily Roman or contemporary authors or other primary sources. How did a temporary herding village become the Eternal City, and how did that Eternal City pass into eventual obscurity, and how does that matter in present-day America.

Introduction to Engineering Design

Prerequisite(s): None

1 Semester/0.5 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) is a high school level course that is appropriate for students who are interested in design and engineering. The major focus of the IED course is to expose students to the design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards, and technical documentation.

Global Affairs

Prerequisite(s): None

1 Semester/0.5 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

This class will cover world geography, post WWII world history, and current international government organizations and politics. Students will learn about different cultures, economies, and government systems. Students engage in diplomacy by participating in a Model U.N. as a diplomat for a country currently in the U.N. The Model U.N. will occur at the end of the semester.

Sports Psychology

Prerequisite(s): None

1 Semester/0.5 Elective Credit

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Mental Performance is the key to unlocking unshakable confidence, forging unbreakable mental toughness, and gaining an unfair edge over the competition. You have to train your mind intentionally-with consistency, structure, and proven methods. Some of the mental skills you need to be successful include: **Elite Mindset:** As you grow and learn to train your mindset, you will finally be able to blast through mental barriers that have held you back. **Motivation and Commitment:** When adversity comes knocking will you push through... or fold? **Keeping the process over the outcome:** Incredible power is found in being able to identify what you CAN control. **Self-control and discipline:** Being able to identify and consistently do the things that will have the greatest impact on reaching your BIG GOALS. **Confidence:** Learning how to create unshakable belief in yourself and your ability so you can perform consistently under pressure and navigate adversity. These mental performance skills - and others like them - are what can help cultivate a more sustainable YOU.