

Longfellow Alternative High School

COURSE CATALOG

At Longfellow, we redesign our course offerings each quarter. Students rarely take the same class for the entire year, but, instead, have the opportunity to choose new, interesting classes each quarter that meet their credit needs towards graduation. Our Advisors help students make these choices based on existing credit earnings and student interest.

This catalog is a sample of the courses we offer. Note that these courses listed are not necessarily offered each quarter or maybe not even each year, but students can expect to see some of these courses offered in any given quarter.



English

English 9-12 This class focuses on three areas of English Language Arts: nonfiction reading, writing, and literature. Students also will work on a book project which focuses on the concept of theme. Other skills we will work on include vocabulary building, using voice in writing, journaling, and discussion skills.

Independent Reading In this class you'll have the opportunity to spend time reading a book of your choice. There will be several book project options to choose from to show what you learned from your book. Other English PBL options will be available in this class, too.

Newsletter The Longfellow Kangaroo is a student-managed and student-written newspaper that publishes articles relevant and entertaining to Longfellow High School's student population, neighborhood, and community. This class will give you the opportunity to earn credit and help with The Longfellow Kangaroo.

Creative Writing This quarter is focused on reading and analyzing short stories and parts of a novel to learn about writing creatively. Students will produce writing in response to literature as well as for expressing their ideas. Students will examine figurative language such as metaphor, simile, imagery, and symbolism. They will also examine elements of stories such as theme and characterization.

English Strategies For students with IEPs. Second quarter will include reading the Bluford Series of books: Secrets in the Shadows and A Matter of Trust. Students will also construct vocabulary word walls that include synonyms and antonyms. Students will also learn how to write complex sentences.

Social Studies

Government Ever wished you could change some law or rule in the USA? Luckily, you can since we are a DEMOCRACY! Take this class to learn about what freedoms, rules, and responsibilities of all citizens of the United States have to follow. Students will learn how people can monitor and influence the actions of our government.

Economics Credit Scores?! The Stock Market? Interest payments? Confused by all the “real-world” financial terms that you always hear but do not understand? Real-World Economics is for you! You will learn about how money makes the world go round and how you can plan to make some for yourself.

Geography: Africa Explore how humans and the environment interact to make the diverse range of cultures across the globe. Maps, graphs, and more! This unit will focus on the people and nations of Africa.

National History Day (US or World History) Pick a topic! Do the research! Create a project! National History Day lets students explore history like a historian. This year’s theme is Conflict and Compromise in History, which gives an opportunity for students to push past the antiquated view of history as mere facts and dates and drill down into historical content to develop perspective and understanding.

Ethnic Studies This class will explore how race, ethnicity, and religion all have played a key role in shaping modern America. But the process has not always been fair, equitable, or violence-free. Take this class to learn more about the history and future of diversity here in America.

Latin America (World History) Did you know that Mexico City was built on top of one of the world’s most magnificent cities? Tenochtitlan was the heart of the powerful Aztec Empire founded by the Mexican people. It was a technological marvel and home to thousands. Yet, it all came crashing down when the Spanish Conquistadors arrived. Find out more about the history of Latin America with this class!

Math

Small World (Adv. Algebra) Analyze world population trends. Determine how long it would take until people were squashed up against one another.

Trigonometry (Geometry) What is trigonometry and how is it used in architecture and buildings? Study the fascinating properties of triangles and learn how to use the sin, cos, and tan buttons on your calculator.

Polygon Properties (Geometry) How many sides does a dodecagon have? What's the difference between a rhombus and a square? Learn about all sorts of different shapes in this class.

Pennant Fever (Adv. Algebra) What are the chances that you and your best friend have the same birthday? How many different ice cream desserts can you make at an ice cream shop? Learn this and more!

Geometry of Solids Learn about different formulas for area and volume and how these formulas are usually just a modification of the formula for the area of a rectangle.

POW Math Explore Intermediate or Advanced Algebra concepts through open-ended problem solving. This means reading a problem for information then providing a solution that includes a sequence (table), graph, equation, identifying functions based on these three strategies, and written reflections that explain your thinking.

Patterns (Intermediate Algebra) Use patterns to find the next picture or number. Develop rules and formulas to describe patterns.

Math Strategies For students with IEPs. Students will learn how to construct Histograms, Box and Whisker Plots, and Stem and Leaf Plots. Students will also learn how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions.

Do Bees Build it Best? (Geometry) Why do bees build honeycombs in the way that they do? Learn about shapes and polygons, perimeter, area and volume.

Science

Mindfulness & Brain Anatomy (Biology) We will learn about being present in times of stress, how the body makes neurotransmitters from our food, and the role quality nutrition has in improving our sense of wellbeing.

Investigating Biology Mysteries In session 1, students will investigate if cell phones cause cancer and effects of high-fructose corn syrup. In session 2, students will look at GMOs and effects of detoxifying your body. Each investigation will take 2-4 days.

Nature Hikes (Biology or Chemistry) Learn about foraging and plant identification. Our final project is to plan a nature hike for the High-5 class.

Mindfulness (Biology) Learn about how breathing techniques positively affect our mind and body.

Chemistry 101 Introductory Chemistry. Topics will include types of matter, introduction to the Periodic Table, drawing models of atoms, and basic chemical reactions.

Comparative Anatomy (Chemistry or Biology) We will learn about the digestive system and the circulatory system while dissecting a shark.

Forensics (Biology) Learn lab tests that Crime Scene Investigators use to solve murder mysteries, including blood typing, DNA, and microscopic hair analysis.

Natural Disasters (Physics) Work through a project on how Earthquakes happen, then create a project on a second type of natural disaster of your choosing (tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, tsunami, volcanic eruptions, etc).

Water Quality (Chemistry) Students will learn about where we get our drinking water from, how we clean it, how we can check on the water quality in our city, and what we do to our dirty water before we release it back into the environment.

Fine Arts

Visual Art In art class, the classroom is your studio, and you are the artist. Work independently to follow your own vision with support from the teacher or follow along on a class project that allows for creative choices and individual expression.

Physical Education/Health

Health Learn how to live and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Participate in fun activities to learn about health topics and develop self-paced projects that range from nutrition, social/mental/emotion health & well-being. Students can take multiple sessions.

Fitness For Life Students will learn different exercises, stretches, games and activities to improve overall fitness. Completion of the Fitness Journals and Participation in class for PE credit. Participate in fun class games and activities. Students can take multiple sessions. GET ACTIVE!

Interdisciplinary Classes

Conspiracy Theories (US History & Physics) Shhh, quiet down. You don't want the Illuminati to hear you talking about this class. "They" wouldn't want you to do real research to find out the truth about the Moon Landing, 9/11 and aliens. Conspiracy Theories are everywhere today. Students in this class will use the tools of historians and scientists to debunk and explore the most controversial conspiracy theories floating around on Facebook.

Science & Economics Students will have the opportunity to take a co-taught class with combined Biology and Economics topics! Credit will be given in both areas.

STEM (Math & Physics) Students will have the opportunity to earn both math and physics credit through a variety of activities - going outside, engineering projects, math puzzles, and more!

Serial Podcast (Government & English) Students will listen to 12 podcast episodes of "Serial" Season 1, a story about two star-crossed lovers where the girl ends up murdered. Hae Min Lee, a popular high-school senior, disappears after school one day. Six weeks later, detectives arrest her classmate and ex-boyfriend, Adnan Syed, for her murder...The Case Against Adnan Syed. Did he do it? What do her friends know? You listen and decide.

STEM Students will learn science and math simultaneously. A combination of Advanced Algebra along with biology, and physics - covering the topics of BioStats and the habitable zone in outer space - called the Goldilocks Zone.

Student Support

ELL Academic Applications Get support and guidance to complete your class assignments, to be successful in your courses. Focus on vocabulary and writing.

ELL Language Skills Development Become more comfortable and fluent at speaking, listening, and reading, using English language with practice, activities, crafts, and games.

Math FUNDamentals Struggling in math class? Take this class to strengthen your basic math skills, which will make your other math classes easier.

PBL Project-Based Learning gives you the opportunity to take control of your learning and use your talents to teach others what you've learned. We will learn how to create and develop a project, how to research, and how to present your new knowledge.

Prenatal Learn more about your pregnancy, and how to prepare for labor. The postpartum period. Breastfeeding and parenting your newborn.

Infants (6 weeks to 11 months) Adjusting to parenting and all things important for parenting an infant including sleep, developing positive attachment, calming baby, and self-calming techniques.

Older Infants (12-18 months) Discover how attachment, a close caring relationship with your baby, and predictable routines and environments build your baby's brain and positive self-concept.

Toddlers (19-32 months) Discover how hands-on exploration in a safe, opportunity-filled environment encourages healthy development in all areas including communication, cognitive, physical, and social-emotional skills.

Pre-K (33-48 months) Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. Help your little one thrive during preschool and beyond with learning, resources, discovery of nurturing daily routines, create

meaningful experiences that will meet and encourage your child's development in all developmental areas.