

# **SAM HOUSTON**



## **2025 - 2026**

# **COURSE GUIDE**

# SAM HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

### ENGLISH I

This course is a study of various forms of literature and fundamentals of composition. Reading comprehension and analytic skills are expanded through the study of short stories, novels, nonfiction prose, poetry, and drama. One Shakespearean play and some modern works are included. Writing skills move from strengthening the paragraph essay. A minimum of ten writings is required. Improvement in vocabulary is stressed. Independent readings each nine weeks are also included. Required state testing: LEAP 2025

### ENGLISH I ADVANCED

Students taking this course will complete the English I requirements at an increased pace in conjunction with honing skills of annotation and literary analysis, while also focusing on vocabulary and mythological allusions in preparation for the English II advanced course which will prepare them for Advanced Placement English courses. The literature assigned will cover a wide range of world literature with both anchor and supplemental texts designed to expose the students to all genres of literature (and teach them how to analyze each). Required state testing: LEAP 2025

### ENGLISH II

In English II, students will study different genres of literature within the realm of four major thematic units. These units are designed so that students are reading at or above grade level. These units also prepare the students to take the LEAP 2025 over English II material at the end of the school year. Students will be expected to think and engage in formal discussion about the literature they are reading. Students will also write formal essays in which they cite from the texts. All course material is aligned with the Louisiana State Standards which can be accessed through [www.louisianabelieves.com](http://www.louisianabelieves.com). Required state testing: LEAP 2025.

### ENGLISH II ADVANCED – Prerequisite: English I LEAP 2025 Mastery or Advanced or Teacher Recommendation

In Advanced English II, students will study different genres of literature within the realm of four major thematic units. These units are designed so that students are reading at or above grade level. These units also prepare the students to take the LEAP 2025 over English II material at the end of the school year. Students will also be learning and practicing strategies that align with AP standards to prepare students to continue their AP journey to Lang and Lit. Students will be expected to think and engage in formal discussion about the literature they are reading. Students will also write formal essays in which they cite from the texts. All course material is aligned with the Louisiana State Standards which can be accessed through [www.louisianabelieves.com](http://www.louisianabelieves.com). Required state testing: LEAP 2025.

### ENGLISH III

This course studies the complex texts of American Literature. English III encompasses literature, composition, grammar, vocabulary, oral communication, and ACT practice testing strategies. Emphasis is placed on literature and composition. This course covers the literature of the United States, from the colonial days to the modern age. Students will be required to write compositions focusing on argumentative/persuasive and rhetorical choices, and a research paper as well as other required writing assignments. Outside reading will be required for the course.

### ENGLISH III AP - Prerequisite: English II Advanced or English II, Summer assignment required

This course will teach students skills in analyzing prose passages and crafting compositions in various rhetorical modes focusing on argument and rhetorical analysis. This course follows the requirements set by College Board and focuses on non-fiction texts. It will involve extensive college-level reading and writing. The final high school credit for the course will be computed on a five-point scale (A=5 points). Qualifying scores on the exam may earn college credits (3-6) at most universities. Required test: AP Language and Composition exam.

## **ENGLISH IV**

This course emphasizes literature and composition. The literature program covers the development of the English language from the literature of Anglo-Saxon England to modern literature of England. Special emphasis is placed on thematic units and literary analysis. Outside reading of novels is required for this course. Multiple research papers based on literary themes and rhetorical modes are required. In addition, a comprehensive ACT English preparation unit is included.

## **ENGLISH IV AP - Prerequisite: English III AP, Summer assignment required**

This course is a college-level course in literature and composition. It will involve extensive college-level reading and writing. The final high school credit for the course will be computed on a five-point scale (A=5 points). In addition, those who score well enough on the AP exam at the end of the year could earn 3-6 hours of college credit. Required test: AP exam

## **GIFTED ENGLISH I, II, III, IV**

Students are selected for these courses based on English grades and their classification in gifted program. These classes have more extensive reading and writing than the regular English classes. Prerequisite: Counselor & Teacher Approval.

## **TECHNICAL WRITING (Open to juniors and seniors ONLY on the JumpStart pathway)**

An introductory course in communicating information about technical subjects within a work setting. This course is designed to aid in the development of skills that enable students to produce clear and effective technical documents such as reports, instructions, summaries, emails and memos. This course does not count as an English on the TOPS University pathway.

## **BUSINESS ENGLISH (Open to juniors and seniors ONLY on the Jumpstart pathway)**

This English course, designed for Jumpstart Diploma students, equips them with skills for success in business. It covers business correspondence, information management, IT, and telecommunications. Students will focus on writing and reading business documents like letters, emails, memos, brochures, and reports, while improving grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary for business transactions. Note that this course does not count as an English credit on the TOPS University pathway.

# **MATH DEPARTMENT**

## **ALGEBRA I**

Students taking this course should be average and above in their math skills. Topics studied are variables, operations and properties of real numbers, solving and graphing first-degree linear equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, and solving simple quadratic equations. Required state testing: LEAP 2025

## **ALGEBRA I ADVANCED – Prerequisite: students scoring Advanced or Mastery on LEAP2025 or teacher recommendation**

All areas of the regular Algebra I course are included, but the assignments are more complex than in the regular course. More time is spent on problem solving with more complex problems. This course provides challenge and enrichment for strong math students. Required state testing: LEAP2025

## **ADVANCED MATH PRE-CALCULUS - Prerequisite: "B" average in Alg. II and Geometry**

This course serves as a foundation course for entry into Calculus or a potential foundation for testing into college calculus. Topics covered: linear relations & functions, matrices, theory of equations, nature of graphs, trigonometric functions, graphs & inverses of trigonometric functions, polar coordinates and complex numbers, conics, sequences and series, vectors and exponential and logarithmic functions.

## **ALGEBRA II -**

This course sharpens the understanding of concepts taught in Algebra I and extends the use of functions as models for real-world situations. Topics studied include logarithmic, trigonometric, and higher-order polynomial functions; sequences; and matrices.

## **ALGEBRA II Advanced: Prerequisite – Mastery or Advanced on Math LEAP 2025 or Teacher Recommendation**

### **ALGEBRA III - Prerequisite: Algebra II**

This course is designed to prepare students for their first mathematics course in college. Includes the following topics: functions, real number properties, trigonometry and trigonometric functions, limits, sequences, logs, and matrix algebra.

### **BUSINESS MATH (Open to juniors and seniors ONLY on the JumpStart pathway)**

The course content includes the fundamental processes of mathematics with emphasis on problem-solving techniques. Students will perform basic arithmetic operations and solve word problems. They will recognize and understand the techniques of measurement in the English and Metric systems as well as understand and apply concepts of algebra and their use in formulas related to occupational areas of study. This course does not count as a math on the TOPS University pathway.

### **CALCULUS AP – Prerequisite: “C” average or higher in previous course in subject area**

This course consists of a full academic year of work in calculus comparable to courses in universities. It is primarily concerned with developing students’ understanding of functions, derivatives, and integrals, and providing experience with its methods and applications. The course will emphasize a multidimensional approach which will include geometrical, numerical, analytical, and verbal methods. Graphing calculators will be used in the classroom daily and it is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED each student purchase their own calculator. The grade will be weighted and as such an ‘A’ will receive 5 quality points. Required test: AP exam

### **FINANCIAL LITERACY**

This course will serve as a foundation for students to learn to make mathematically sound decisions in their roles as consumers and/or entrepreneurs. Course topics include insurance, personal banking, financial planning, and analysis of financial management tools. This course is required for entering ninth grade students in 2024-2025 and beyond.

### **GEOMETRY - Prerequisite: Algebra I**

This course focuses on the study of the physical universe and representations of mathematic concepts. Students use inductive and deductive reasoning to confirm conjectures through proof. Topics studied include measurement formulas; geometric and spatial visualization; drawing skills; properties of congruence, similarity, parallelism, and perpendicularity; proofs; and properties of plane and solid figures. Testing: LEAP 2025

### **GEOMETRY ADVANCED – Prerequisite: Scored Mastery or above on Algebra I LEAP 2025 or recommendation of teacher**

All areas of the regular geometry course are included, but the assignments are more complex than in the regular course. Problem-solving, critical thinking skills and enrichment provide students with a greater challenge. Students must be prepared to be rigorous in their schoolwork. Required state testing: LEAP2025

**Gifted Algebra I and II, Geometry, Advanced Math Precalculus, and Calculus** – Students are selected for these courses based on math grades and their classification in the gifted program.

### **MATH ESSENTIALS**

This course is a survey course that includes basic Algebra I and Geometry concepts. This course does not count as a math on the TOPS University pathway.

### **PRE-CALCULUS**

This course serves as a foundation course for entry into Calculus at Sam Houston High or potential foundation for testing into college calculus. Topics covered: linear relations & functions, matrices, theory of equations, nature of graphs, trigonometric functions, graphs & inverses of trigonometric functions, polar coordinates and complex numbers, conics, sequences and series, and exponential and logarithmic functions. Vectors covered as time permits.

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### BIOLOGY I

The life processes common to all organisms from bacteria to humans are the focus of the course. These processes include growth, heredity, energy use, adaptation, and homeostasis. A variety of class and lab experiences encourage observation, analysis, and interpretation skills. Students may be required to complete class projects applying these skills in addition to the regular lab work. Required state test: LEAP2025

### BIOLOGY I ADVANCED - Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I for incoming 9th graders

As an advanced course, this course goes beyond the curriculum expectations of a standard course offering by increasing the depth and complexity. This course investigates the composition, diversity, complexity, and interconnectedness of life on Earth. Fundamental concepts of cells, heredity, evolution, and ecology provide a framework through inquiry-based instruction to explore the living world, the physical environment, and the interactions within and between them. Required State Testing: LEAP 2025

### BIOLOGY I GIFTED - Prerequisite: classification as gifted Counselor & Teacher Approval.

This course focuses on the same areas of science as does the college preparatory course but is faster paced and in addition requires the completion of advanced lab projects and outside reading assignments. Required State Testing: LEAP 2025

### BIOLOGY II - Prerequisite: Biology I

This course expands on the biological principles and concepts presented in Biology I. It is intended to strengthen students' background for a career in medicine or the biological sciences.

### BIOLOGY II AP - Prerequisite: "C" average or higher in Chemistry

This course provides a study of biological concepts at a much more challenging level than a normal high school course. The demands of the class are equivalent to those made by a freshman college course. AP Biology is challenging and, compared to other high school courses, takes more time and requires more homework. It also gives greater opportunity for individual progress and accomplishment and goes into greater depth. Students may earn up to 8 hours of college credit through testing. Required test: AP exam

### CHEMISTRY - Prerequisite: Enrolled in Algebra II (or previously passed)

This course is the study of the various phases of matter, their characteristics, and their atomic and molecular structure.

### CHEMISTRY GIFTED- Prerequisite: classification as gifted Counselor and Teacher Approval

This course is designed for students who wish to broaden their knowledge base in chemistry. Topics include organic and inorganic chemistry as they apply to environmental and biochemical processes.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This course is the study of the biological, chemical, and physical aspects of the environment. Emphasis is placed on environmental problems and remedies as well as on consumer education in the field.

### PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Physical Science is the foundation course for Chemistry and Physics. The first semester is an introduction to Chemistry which includes the topics of the periodic table, chemical bonds, chemical reactions, and matter. The second semester is an introduction to Physics which includes the topics of motion, work, energy, electricity, waves, and light. These topics will be learned through observation, experimentation, and problem solving.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

### **CIVICS**

This course is a study of the American political heritage and the American political process as well as the structure of national, state, and local governments. Students will engage in projects understanding how real-life situations have affected government. In addition, students will analyze the steps taken to build the foundation of our government today, "The Constitution." Students will analyze the characteristics of the American economic system. Included in the study of economics is business organizations stimulated by profit motivation and competition, supply and demand, scarcity, and international trade. Required state test: LEAP 2025

### **HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AP - Prerequisite: "C" average or higher in previous course in subject area**

This course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. The particular topics studied in AP Human Geography course should be judged in light of the following five college-level goals that build on the National Geography Standards developed in 1994. On successful completion of the course, the student should be able to (a) use and think about maps and spatial data (b) understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places (c) recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes (d) define regions and evaluate the regionalization process (e) characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places. Required test: AP exam

### **U.S. HISTORY**

This course will be taught in a chronological sequence. Students will begin the year with a brief review of American history up to Reconstruction. Topics to be covered in this course over the full year include: Growth in the West, Industrialization and Immigration, The Progressive Era, Imperialism, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and the New Deal, the Rise of Dictators and World War II, the Cold War Era, the Civil Rights Era, the Vietnam War Years, and America in a Changing World, including current events as they relate to today. Reading comprehension, analytical skills, use of primary sources, and map reading are stressed, as well as key concepts and oral discussion. Writing skills are developed through short themes and constructed response questions to be included in district Common Assessments, as well as teacher- created assessments. Required state test: LEAP 2025

### **US HISTORY AP - Prerequisite: "C" average or higher in previous course in subject area – Summer assignment required**

This course is a college-level survey course. It is designed to provide students with analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with issues and events in American history and with intermediate and advanced college courses. Advanced placement courses are taught and graded at the college level and require a high level of student commitment. Students can earn up to six (6) hours of college credit through testing. Student responsibility is greater than in traditional honors courses. Required tests: AP exam and LEAP 2025

### **WORLD GEOGRAPHY**

The emphasis of geography focuses on the interaction between peoples and places. Students will acquire map and globe skills and become familiar with physical geography, changing landscape, natural resources, climate, culture and human geography. Using technology, students will create projects analyzing how young people live throughout the world. Students will also acquire skills connected to other educational disciplines.

### **WORLD HISTORY**

World History is a survey course that is a study of the history and development of early man, and the development of western civilization ending with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Using a multidisciplinary approach, World History is a study of multicultural histories across all inhabited continents. In the first semester, students will study from the Renaissance through European industrialization. Semester two includes a study beginning with the rise of nationalism and ending with post-WWII global conflicts. By studying World History, students will receive a broad understanding of key global events that shaped modern global society.

## **U.S. Government AP**

The AP US Government and Politics course involves the study of democratic ideas, balance of powers, and tension between the practical and ideal in national policy making. Students analyze and discuss the importance of various constitutional principles, rights, and procedures, institutions, and political processes that impact us as citizens.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

### **French I**

First in a two-course sequence at the high school beginner level of French. Area of study--fundamentals of the language, using French as the language of instruction. Emphasis is on oral communication with grammar & vocabulary taught in context and francophone culture presented using interactive activities, discussion, and readings.

### **French II Prerequisite: French I**

Second in a two-course sequence of French. Area of study--fundamentals of the language, using French as the language of instruction. Emphasis is on oral communication with grammar & vocabulary taught in context. The culture of francophone countries will be presented using interactive activities, discussion, multimedia, and readings.

### **French Immersion III, IV**

Consist of studying and reinforcing the French language targeting the 4 language skills (speaking, listening, reading & writing) to become fluent. Includes a big cultural component to introduce students to the vast world of la Francophonie. Authentic French materials are studied such as pieces of literature, movies along with the study of the language (vocabulary & grammar). Classes are held in French & students are expected to participate in the target language. Prerequisite: Students in the French immersion program. Non-immersion students coming from French II are welcome to join French III based on great success in French II and teacher recommendation.

### **SPANISH I – Not available to 9<sup>th</sup> graders**

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. Emphasis is placed on speaking and understanding.

### **SPANISH II: Prerequisite: Spanish I**

This course continues to work on grammatical development and oral skills.

### **American Sign Language I**

In ASL I, basic vocabulary and grammatical structures of American Sign Language are introduced. Receptive and expressive signing skills are developed. Games, songs, films, and signing activities are used to encourage proficiency. Deaf culture and history are introduced.

### **American Sign Language II**

In ASL II review basic vocabulary and grammar studied in ASL I. This course continues with vocabulary and grammar for the development of more advanced receptive and expressive signing skills.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### **FOOD SCIENCE I**

This course provides a variety of hands-on activities through which students will develop skills and knowledge that relate to sewing, housing, childcare, self-esteem, family relationships, nutrition, and food preparation. Food laboratory experience is part of this class. Available to 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Required credential exam.

## **BAKING ARTS**

In this course students learn baking and pastry techniques with an emphasis on sanitation and food safety, basic baking fundamentals, tools used in the baking industry, proper measurement of ingredients, and converting formula yields. Students will explore the difference between quick breads and yeast-leavened dough. The students will demonstrate skills in preparing various types of pies, tarts, cookies, cakes and breads. Students will also be provided with the opportunity to evaluate career options in the baking industry. Available to 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders or 9<sup>th</sup> graders with FACS I (Food Science) HS credit already from middle school.

## **NUTRITION AND FOOD (1/2 Credit)**

This course is a study of basic principles of nutrition, meal planning, preparation of simple meals, optimal use of the food dollar, and job opportunities in food-related occupations. Food laboratory experience is part of this class. \*Must be taken with advanced nutrition and food. Available to 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders or 9<sup>th</sup> graders with FACS I or Food Science HS credit already from middle school.

## **ADVANCED NUTRITION AND FOOD (1/2 Credit)**

This course addresses more complex concepts in nutrition and food preparation, with emphasis on social, psychological, and cultural influences on food choices globally. Topics include nutrition and wellness for individuals and families across the life span; impact of technology on nutrition, foods, and related tools and equipment; management of food-related resources; acquiring, organizing, and evaluating information about foods and nutrition; and exploration of careers in all aspects of the food industry. Food Laboratory experiences are an important part of this course. \*Must be taken with nutrition and food. Available to 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders or 9<sup>th</sup> graders with FACS I or Food Science HS credit already from middle school. Required credential exam.

# **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

## **BUSINESS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (BCA) - Prerequisite: IBCA**

This course is designed to provide students with basic computer application skills in word processing, spreadsheets, presentation graphics, and database. Computer technology will be presented that could lead to the student's ability to obtain Microsoft Office Specialist certification in Microsoft Word and Excel. **BCA is a dual enrollment course with SOWELA.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (IBCA)**

This course is designed to teach students basic computer skills and to type accurately. Students will also learn formatting for common documents that are widely used in the business world. Proper interview skills and business protocol are also taught to prepare students for job interviews, creating resumes, and job application letters.

## **BUSINESS LAW**

This course provides an introduction to law and the American legal system with an emphasis on the judicial branch at the federal and state level, as well as criminal, civil and constitutional law and legal process and procedure. Additional focus is given to the citizen's role in lawmaking and the judicial process as well as the extent to which law affects our daily lives.

## **PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS**

This is an introductory course that provides students with basic business operation skills that can be applied to both personal and professional situations. Topics of study include the economic process, the free enterprise system, business ethics, banking, savings and investments, consumer credit, consumer rights and decision-making, career planning, and much more. Required credential exam.

## GENERAL ELECTIVES

### MULTICULTURAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES – Application required & teacher selection

Students will engage in learning activities that expose them to issues related to teaching and working with diverse student populations and reflect on the interactions of culture, teaching, and learning. Students will address issues that are prevalent when teaching in culturally, ethnically, socially, and linguistically diverse classrooms. Students will also be challenged to explore how the conceptions of educational diversity and equity can fit into their own teaching practices.

### PUBLICATIONS I, II, III (YEARBOOK) – Prerequisite: Application & teacher selection

This course provides instruction on the skills to complete the yearbook utilizing Photoshop and yearbook software. Photography and computer skills are a plus, but not necessary.

### QUEST FOR SUCCESS

This is an awareness experience exploration course. It is designed to help students with career planning and job success. It will help students determine the correct career choice based on interests, aptitude, abilities and personality.

### SPEECH I

This course offers an overview of many levels of communication. Basic communication skills, public speaking, debate, interpretive reading, and drama are covered and practiced.

### HOSPITALITY/MARKETING (1/2 credit course)

This course examines the components of the hospitality and tourism industry, including attractions, lodging, transportation, and food and beverage. Other topics include the history, political, social, and cultural impacts hospitality and tourism have had on local, state, and global environments. Students will develop competencies in the areas of communication, customer service, marketing, industry technology, economics, and management functions, and will be provided with opportunities for hands-on, real-world applications.

### SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT (1/2 credit course)

This course helps students develop a thorough understanding of fundamental marketing concepts and theories as they relate to the sports and entertainment industries. Students will investigate the components of customer service, branding, product development, pricing and distribution, business structures, sales processes, digital media, sponsorships and endorsements, as well as promotion needed for sports and entertainment events. The course explores career options and develops workplace readiness skills.

### LEADERSHIP I & II – Prerequisite: Teacher selection

The Leadership class provides an opportunity to develop and practice group leadership, individual leadership, and organizational skills. These skills include, but are not limited to, the following topics or areas: leadership roles, interpersonal relations, civic responsibility, decision-making, and problem solving. Students enrolled in this course will apply the skills mentioned above in dealing with peers, school administration and the community.

## MUSIC AND ART DEPARTMENT

### ART I - Prerequisite: None

Intro level course which includes basic drawing and painting. Students will learn the Elements and Principles of Design.

### ART II - Prerequisite: Art I

Continuation of study in basic visual art areas, but with more advanced techniques and media.

### ART III, IV - Prerequisite: Art I & II

This course provides more individualized instruction concentrating on a student's area of expertise. There will be preparation of works for contests and exhibits and preparation of student portfolio for college admission.

**FINE ARTS SURVEY** – Not available to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students

The Fine Arts Survey course offers students an exploration of the visual and performing arts, providing a foundation in art, music, theater, and dance from a variety of historical, cultural, and contemporary perspectives. Students will study major movements, influential artists, and foundational works while developing an appreciation for the role of the arts in society. Through engaging projects, discussions, and hands-on experiences, students will analyze artistic techniques, learn basic principles of design, and examine the cultural impact of the arts across different eras. This course encourages creative expression and critical thinking, fostering a deeper understanding of how the arts shape and reflect human experiences.

**APPLIED MUSIC – INSTRUMENTAL TECHNIQUE** -Pre-requisite: **Junior or Senior member of the Band**

This course is available to any upper-level band members that are seeking individualized and advanced instruction on their instrument. The course is designed for students who are interested in furthering their music education in preparation for college music programs. There will be a focus on individualized practice and preparation for chamber ensemble and solo performances, community ensemble participation, and possible college auditions. Final determination for acceptance into this class will be determined by the band director.

**Advanced /Intermediate Band**

Performance oriented, co-curricular course consisting of marching, held the first semester, and concert band held the second semester. The band performs at football games, marching festivals, parades, concert festivals and concerts. Band fee collected from all band students at the beginning of the year. Grades are based on participation, attendance and musical performance.

**Applied Music**

Involves the building of individual technique through various small ensemble mediums. Mediums will include solos, duets, trios, and chamber ensembles. Open to students who are enrolled in a band class.

Prerequisite: Permission of Band Director

**Marching Band**

Performance oriented, co-curricular course held the first semester. The marching band performs at football games, marching festivals, and parades. Band fee collected from all band students at the beginning of the year. Students are graded based on participation, attendance and musical performance. This course counts as a half credit course of PE

**Color guard/Winter guard**

Color guard is a specialty performing unit of the Band Program. Membership is determined by audition held in late April/early May. A GPA of 2.0 is required for auditions. Color guard is a two-semester ensemble.

Prerequisite: Audition, Band membership (Freshman & Sophomore years) (elective Jr. and Sr., years)

## **VOCATIONAL DEPARTMENT**

**AGRISCIENCE LEADERSHIP**– Prerequisite: **Agriscience I**

Prepare individuals for agricultural careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber, and natural resources systems. The emphasis is on human relations, decision-making, promoting healthy lifestyles, maintaining a positive attitude, cooperative small and large group activities, and proper utilization of human resources. English speaking skills, higher order thinking, and basic communication skills will be reinforced in this course. Supervised agricultural experience programs and FFA leadership activities are integral components of the course and provide many opportunities for practical application of instructional competencies.

**AGRISCIENCE I** – Prerequisite: **None**

Provides students with basic knowledge of agriculture and the science applications in agriculture. This course includes units in animal science, soil science, plant science, agricultural mechanics, food science technology, and agricultural leadership. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course are school-based enterprises, field trips, and

internships. Supervised agricultural experience programs and the FFA leadership activities are integral components of the course and provide many opportunities for practical application of instructional competencies.

**AGRISCIENCE II – Prerequisite: Agriscience I**

Provides students with basic knowledge of agriculture and science applications in agriculture. Includes units in animal science, soil science, plant science, agricultural mechanics, and agricultural leadership. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course are school-based enterprises, field trips, and internships. Supervised agricultural experience programs and the FFA leadership activities are integral components of the course and provide many opportunities for practical application of instructional competencies. Counts as a science credit for Tops & Tops Tech.

**AGRISCIENCE III – Prerequisite: Agriscience II**

Advanced woodworking and welding projects, small engine, troubleshooting, personal and leadership development, business management skills, and career development events. For juniors and seniors.

**AGRISCIENCE IV – Prerequisite: Agriscience III**

Provides students with the basic skills needed in the construction of buildings commonly used in agricultural occupations. Emphasis placed on skill development in blueprint reading, carpentry, plumbing, masonry work, electrical wiring, oxy-fuel use, and welding. Math and communication skills are reinforced in this course. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course are team projects, school-based projects, home-based projects, internship, job shadowing, and cooperative education. Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs and the FFA leadership activities are integral components of the course and provide many opportunities for practical application of instructional competencies. Local options may include but are not limited to Agricultural construction industries that are prevalent in the area.

**AGRISCIENCE CONSTRUCTION – Prerequisite: passed Agriscience I & II**

This course focuses on SMAW, MIG, and TIG welding, metalworking practices and wood working skills. Other units of instruction will include electrical wiring and plumbing. There will be the addition of the plasma table and computer design in agriculture construction. This is a hands-on course. Special attention is paid to safety in the work environment. Students will construct a variety of shop projects, some of them being quite complex

**Workplace Safety** - This course provides students with essential knowledge and practical skills to maintain safety in various workplace environments. Students will learn about occupational hazards, emergency response procedures, workplace regulations, and safe work practices that prevent accidents and promote a healthy working environment. The curriculum covers topics such as personal protective equipment (PPE), hazard identification and control, fire safety, and ergonomics. Through hands-on activities, real-world scenarios, and guest speakers, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of their roles and responsibilities in maintaining a safe workplace. This course prepares students to enter the workforce with the confidence to identify, manage, and report safety concerns effectively.

## **VIP STEM COURSES**

### **INTRODUCTION TO BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES - Application required & teacher selection**

This full year course is modular and covers a large variety of fields in biomedicine. Each module is designed to take one to two weeks and provide students with opportunities to develop their public speaking skills, as well as learn how to cooperate in a group efficiently and professionally. Topics can include things such as: sports medicine, pharmacology, psychology, nutrition, veterinary medicine, bioinstrumentation, biomedical engineering, forensic anthropology, parasitology, and speech pathology. Modules can be selected based on student interest, availability of potential guest speakers, or timing of field trips.

### **ENGINEERING I – INTRO TO ENGINEERING DESIGN - Application required & teacher selection**

This course will expose students to the design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, ethical decision making, engineering standards, and technical documentation. Students have the opportunity to develop these skills through project-based learning and to continually hone their interpersonal skills, creative abilities and understanding of the design process. In addition to hands-on activities from each of the 11 majors engineering disciplines, students will interact with industry professionals through guest presentations. Finally, students will analyze case studies to analyze real world problems.

### **ENGINEERING II – INTRO TO COMPUTATIONAL THINKING – Prerequisite: Engineering I**

This course will introduce coding as the means to express and communicate STEM ideas and to interact with computing devices. Students will be presented with problems arising from science, engineering, and mathematics for which simple computational solutions are easily available. These ideas will be illustrated using games, where the Pythagorean Theorem is the basis of the collision detection, the equations of motion are the basis of realistic behavior. This course will build upon concepts from Algebra I, which will be visualized and put into practice in numerous hands-on projects.

# **VIP COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

# VIP Course Descriptions 2024-2025

Virtual Instruction Program provides live instruction to students on their school campus from teachers at Lake Charles Boston Academy. Students are scheduled to go to a VIP Lab on their campus for the class time of the live instruction. Students then log into the class each day at the designated time for instruction from the VIP teacher. **The courses listed below are subject to potential modifications based on the level of interest received and staffing.**

## VIP DUAL ENROLLMENT

Sowela Dual Enrollment applications (**paper and online**) are due prior to end of school year. SOWELA admission requirements must be met by August 1, 2024. Students meeting requirements during the summer will be admitted based on availability.

Dual enrollment courses are semester courses for one high school credit/5-point grade for GPA.

### ENGLISH DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

VIP ENGL III C1 DW- ENGL 1010 (English Composition I); An introduction to essay writing with an emphasis on the recursive writing process. (prereq: Sowela DE eligible)

VIP ENG IV C1 DW- ENGL 1010 (English Composition I); An introduction to essay writing with an emphasis on the recursive writing process. (prereq: Sowela DE eligible) High School English IV Credit. FALL only.

VIP ENGL III C2 DW- ENGL 1020 (English Composition II); An introduction to research writing. Term paper required. (prereq: C or better in ENGL 1010) SPRING only. High School English III credit after completing C1 & C2.

VIP ENG IV C2 DW- ENGL 1020 (English Composition II); An introduction to research writing. Term paper required. (prereq: C or better in ENGL 1010 or CLEP or AP scores)

VIP ENGL IV FIC DE – ENGL 2410 (Introduction to Fiction); A literature course that includes critical analysis and writing about literature. (prereq: C or better in ENGL 1020) High School English IV Credit. FALL only.

VIP ENGL IV DE MYT – ENGL 2530 (Mythology and Folklore); A literature course that serves as an introduction to mythology and/or folklore and its role in literature and culture. (prereq: C or better in ENGL 1020) SPRING only.

### MATH DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

VIP ALG III DW – MATH 1100 (College Algebra); In-depth treatment of solving equations and inequalities; function properties and graphs; inverse functions; linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions, and equations; systems of equations and inequalities. (prereq: Sowela DE eligible)

VIP T ALG III DW – MATH 1115 (Transitional College Algebra); Course equivalent to MATH 1100 which meets the needs of students requiring minimal refreshing of Algebra foundation topics. In-depth treatment of solving equations and inequalities; function properties and graphs; inverse functions; linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions and equations; systems of equations and inequalities. (prereq: ACT Math 17-19) FALL only. **Seniors only.**

VIP PROB & STAT DW – MATH 2100 (Probability and Statistics); Calculation of simple probability in discrete and continuous variable cases. Descriptive statistics; measures of central tendency; binomial, Poisson and normal distributions. Testing hypotheses using normal deviate and t-statistics. (prereq: C or better in MATH 1100/1115) SPRING only.

VIP TRIG DW – MATH 1223 (Trigonometry); Includes the study of trigonometric functions and identities, inverse trigonometric functions, graphs, solving triangles and equations, complex numbers, vectors and polar coordinates. (prereq: C or better in MATH 1100)

VIP P CALC DE -MATH 1235 (Algebra and Trigonometry); Designed to be a preparatory class for the calculus sequence and covers topics and applications from precalculus to include: solutions of equations, functions (including polynomial, rational, exponential, inverse and logarithmic), their properties and graphs, trigonometry (including functions and their graphs, identities, applications, and formulas), and analytic geometry (including polar coordinates and conics). (prereq: 'C' or better in MATH 1100)

VIP CALCULUS DW -MATH 2114 (Calculus); Limits and continuity of functions; the derivative; techniques of differentiation; Chain Rule; implicit differentiation; transcendental functions; applications of differentiation; concavity; relative extrema; optimization; antiderivatives; definite integrals; Fundamental Theorem of Calculus; area. (prereq: C or better in Math 1223 or 1235) SPRING only.

### SCIENCE DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE

VIP ENV SCI DW – ENSC 2000 (Environmental Science); Introduction to the relationship of man's environment to his health. It includes a study of the physical and chemical hazards in the workplace, as well as a study of general environmental issues. (prereq: Sowela DE eligible) FALL & SPRING. High School Science credit

VIP BIO II??? -

### SOCIAL STUDIES DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

VIP INT PSYCH DW – PSYCH 2010 (Introduction to Psychology); An overview of psychology designed to familiarize students with the major theories and basic principles for studying and understanding human behavior. (prereq: Sowela DE eligible) FALL & SPRING. High School Social Studies credit.

VIP WLD HIST DE -HIST 1010 (Western Civilization I); This course is a survey of western civilization from ancient times to the Reformation era. (pre-requisite: Sowela DE eligible) FALL & SPRING. High School Social Studies credit.

### FINE ARTS DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

VIP THEATR INT DE – THEA 1013 (Introduction to Theatre); Basic aspects, theatre arts, and vocabulary of theatre and dramatic arts, past and present; appreciation and understanding of diverse traditions. Includes opportunities for experiencing live or recorded theatrical performance. (prereq: Sowela DE eligible) High School Fine Arts credit.

VIP ACTING DE- THEA 2103 (Acting); Introduction to acting through improvisation, thought, emotion, intention, body awareness, and movement. Develops a firm foundation in basic acting techniques. (prereq: THEA 1013) SPRING only. (High School Fine Arts credit)

### ELECTIVE DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

VIP CR JU I 1C – CRMJ 1110 (Introduction to Criminal Justice); Review of history and philosophical background of the US criminal justice systems; the organization of its agencies and processes including the legislature, police, prosecutor, courts, corrections; including their development of modern practices and their role society. (prereq: Sowela DE eligible) FALL only. Elective credit.

VIP CR JU II 1CR – CRMJ 1332 (Criminal Justice Law); Study of substantive criminal law including definition of law, crime, defenses, criminal responsibility, punishments, and court systems (pre-req: Sowela DE eligible) SPRING only. Elective credit.

VIP CHIL PSYC DW – PSYC 2335 (Human Development Psychology); Physical, psychological, and social aspects of the individual from conception to death. Includes cultural, social, and hereditary factors that affect the individual's behavior throughout the life cycle. (prereq: Sowela DE eligible) SPRING only. Elective credit.

## VIP HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

High School courses that may not be available on your campus. Full Year class for one credit.

VIP STAT REAS – (Statistical Reasoning) This course is designed on the fundamentals of collection, analysis, and interpretation of data. Emphasis is placed on the development of statistical thinking in everyday use. Math credit. This is a STEM course with a 5-Point GPA Scale.

VIP PHYSICS - Emphasis is on vectors, work, energy, and physical states of matter, heat, and electricity. This course is designed for students who will pursue a degree in a scientific field. This is a standard physics class that is instructor lecture/demo based. This is a STEM course with a 5-Point GPA Scale. Science credit

VIP CHEMISTRY – (Advanced Chemistry) This course is the study of the various phases of matter, their characteristics, and their atomic and molecular structure. Science credit

VIP EARTH SCIENC – (Earth Science) This course combines the content of Earth Science with the world of technology and the arts. This course is designed as a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) course where students will use multimedia and the arts to learn Earth Science Content. Science credit.

VIP AF AM HIS (African American History)– Course designed to help you develop an understanding of the causes and consequences of the African American experience and its influence on the world, the United States, and the African American community. Social Studies credit

VIP AP HUM GEOG (Human Geography, Advanced Placement) – Study of how humans interact with the Earth – economically, socially, politically, and environmentally using skills of a geographer. 5-point GPA Scale. Social Studies credit

VIP AM SIGN I– An introduction to American Sign Language. This course develops basic signing skills beginning alphabet and beginning vocabulary. Foreign Language credit

VIP AM SIGN II – A continuation of American Sign Language. This course develops basic signing skills beginning alphabet and beginning vocabulary. Foreign Language credit. (pre-requisite: American Sign Language I)

VIP COMP COD FL– (Computer coding as a foreign language) Year I. This course shall be aligned to a coding language approved by the Louisiana Workforce Commission to the Industry Based Certification state focus list. Foreign language credit is awarded for students of the Class of 2027 and beyond. Students graduating prior will be awarded elective credit. (pre-requisite: Algebra I)

VIP FORENSIC SCI – The study of forensic science as a tool for collecting evidence and crime scene analysis. Areas of study include physical evidence, properties of matter and the analysis of glass, drugs, forensic toxicology, the microscope, forensic serology, DNA, trace evidence, fire investigation, investigation of explosives, fingerprints, ballistics, forensic anthropology, casts and impressions, document examination and computer forensics. This is a STEM course with a 5-Point GPA Scale. Elective credit

VIP BIO SCI (Intro to Biomedical Science)- This course covers a large variety of fields in biomedicine. Topics include but are not limited to sports medicine, pharmacology, psychology, nutrition, veterinary medicine, bioinstrumentation, biomedical engineering, forensic anthropology, parasitology, and speech pathology. This is a STEM course with a 5-Point GPA Scale. Elective credit



### WHAT IS VIP?

The Virtual Instruction Program provides live instruction from one central location to all 11 high schools in the district. Each school campus has a VIP lab managed by a facilitator. Students report to the VIP Lab on their home campus each day to login to their class.

### EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

Students can earn a Certificate of General Studies or Associate of General Studies (3) from SOWELA through the Virtual Instruction Program.

**Certificate of General Studies (CGS)** = awarded to students who earn 30 credit hours in specific content areas

**Associate of General Studies (AGS)** = awarded to students who earn 60 credit hours in specific content areas

SOWELA will provide a medal to recognize students for this accomplishment.

## 2025-2026 VIP COURSE OFFERINGS

### DUAL ENROLLMENT


- **ENGLISH**
  - COMPOSITION I & II
  - INTRODUCTION TO FICTION
  - MYTHOLOGY & FOLKLORE
- **MATH**
  - CALCULUS
  - COLLEGE ALGEBRA & TRANSITIONAL
  - PRE CALCULUS
  - PROBABILITY & STATISTICS
  - TRIGONOMETRY
- **SCIENCE**
  - BIOLOGY I & II
  - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
  - HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I & II
- **SOCIAL STUDIES**
  - INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
  - WORLD HISTORY I & II
- **ARTS**
  - ACTING
  - INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE
- **ELECTIVES**
  - CRIMINAL JUSTICE
    - CRIMINOLOGY
    - INTRO TO CORRECTIONS
    - INTRO TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
    - INTRO TO CRIMINAL LAW
  - EDUCATION
    - EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
    - MULTICULTURALISM & DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION
  - MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY
  - PSYCHOLOGY
    - PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT


### HIGH SCHOOL

- **MATH**
  - STATISTICAL REASONING
- **SCIENCE**
  - CHEMISTRY
  - PHYSICS
- **SOCIAL STUDIES**
  - AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
  - AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**
  - AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I & II
  - COMPUTER CODING AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE I & II

### VIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **EQUITY OF ACCESS:** Creating equity across the district for high quality courses and instructors.
- **VIRTUAL PARTNERSHIPS:** Partnership with Sowela to offer dual enrollment courses.
- **LEVERAGING STAFF:** Providing high-quality teaching and learning environments with teachers holding advanced certifications.
- **DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP:** Students collaborating with other students across the district to enhance their online communication skills.

 @cpsb\_vip

 CPSB Virtual Instruction Program

PARTNERSHIP WITH  **SOWELA**  
TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

