



R-5 High School

Course Guide 2025/2026



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R-5 Home of the Phoenix

Why: We know that learners come from everywhere and can differ greatly in what they need to succeed. R-5 is the alternative for the high school student who needs a non-traditional pathway, academic recovery and personalized support. Relationships and experiences are what drive the “why” behind our staff and our learners.

What: R-5 learners engage in several projects designed to meet academic standards across all content areas in a hands-on way. Our structure is unique in that students have 2 blocks on our campus where they are able to select two projects, four single content classes, “Skinsies”, or a combination of the two. The projects are selected by the learner and their advisory teacher to meet their remaining credit deficits and progress towards graduation.

When: Learners are on campus from 8-12:30. All learners must have a secondary placement where they work, volunteer or learn for a minimum of 10 hours per week. R-5 students earn additional credit for their secondary placements.

Who: An R-5 Phoenix is 16 years of age or older and ready to move towards career readiness. Our learners are in the workforce, concurrent enrollment, internships or are parents themselves. They are willing to get dirty, get moving and redefine what academic success means to them. Each student has a place in our community so we expect our students to be here on time, set their phones aside and connect with their teachers and peers. We require students to be here no less than 70% of the time. R-5 is a choice and if a young person decides to be a Phoenix, we expect them to choose R-5 every day.

Our learners graduate with the same diploma as students in traditional high schools, but the specific graduation requirements differ slightly.

R-5 Graduation Requirements	Traditional D51 Graduation Requirements for grades 25-26
English Language Arts - 4 credits <i>Comp/Lit 9 -1 credit</i> <i>Comp/Lit 10- 1 credit</i> <i>Comp/Lit 11- 1 credit</i> <i>Comp/Lit 12- .5 credits</i> <i>English elective- .5 credits</i>	English Language Arts - 4 credits <i>Comp/Lit 9 -1 credit</i> <i>Comp/Lit 10- 1 credit</i> <i>Comp/Lit 11- 1 credit</i> <i>Comp/Lit 12- .5 credits</i> <i>English elective- .5 credits</i>
Social Studies- 3 credits <i>Global Studies- 1 credit</i> <i>U.S. History- 1 credit</i> <i>American Government- .5 credits</i> <i>Social Studies Elective- .5 Credits</i>	Social Studies- 3 credits <i>Global Studies- 1 credit</i> <i>U.S. History- 1 credit</i> <i>American Government- .5 credits</i> <i>Social Studies Elective- .5 Credits</i>
Science- 3 Credits <i>Any 3 credits of different science courses</i>	Science- 3 Credits <i>Biology- 1 credit</i> <i>Chemistry- 1 credit</i> <i>Physics- 1 credit</i>
Math- 3 credits	Math- 3 credits
Computer Science- .5 credits	Computer Science- .5 credits
Careers- 1 credit <i>(5 career exploration .5 Personal Finance)</i>	<i>Not required</i>
<i>Not required</i>	Art- .5 credits
<i>Not required</i>	PE- .5 credits
<i>Not required</i>	Personal Fitness & Wellness- .5 credits
Elective- 10.5 credits	Elective- 10 credits
	Financial Literacy <i>Within the 25 credits listed above, students must meet the Personal Financial Literacy requirement by completing one of the following: Personal Finance, Economics, Life Mgt., Wealth Mgt, AG Mgt.</i>

Testing Proficiency

In order for someone to graduate from D51 they must demonstrate career and/or college readiness. There is a menu of options for students at the traditional high schools that include SAT test scores, concurrent enrollment, ASVAB and WorkKeys testing.

R-5 graduates are expected to complete all three WorkKeys tests (Applied Math, Graphic Literacy and Workplace Documents) at the “Silver” level in order to graduate.

R-5 learners earn credit by completing projects.

Learners may select up to two projects each quarter depending on their interests and credit needs. Skinny classes (one hour, one subject courses) are also offered). Project frameworks are created by R-5 teachers from their own skills, experience and passions. The projects that are offered each quarter vary based on staffing and student needs. Projects are unique to R-5, so our scheduling system(Synergy) does not recognize their titles. Next to each project description, is the course name in parenthesis as it will appear on a student’s schedule. Projects listed with a + indicate that there is extra credit available in these courses for learners who meet additional learning targets.

Projects offered in the 2025/2026 School Year

How to Give a Dam (conservation, migration & math).25+ Math, .25+ Government

Do you care about wildlife, national parks, and the future of our planet? What if you could use math to help solve real-world conservation challenges? In this hands-on course, you’ll explore the intersection of environmental science, public policy, and mathematics to understand and tackle some of today’s biggest ecological issues.

Agrihood .25+ Sci, .25+ SS. Elective

In this hands-on and interdisciplinary course, students will explore the intersection of science, agriculture, and sustainability. Through the lens of the scientific method, students will engage in growing their own food and plants while investigating environmental challenges. The class will focus on using science to promote sustainability and teach the importance of sustainable farming practices in combating climate change, preserving ecosystems, and feeding the future.

Building a World: Science Fiction .25 ELA +, .25+ Science / 0.25+ Math

How can we as writers better understand our own world and our place in the universe? In this course, Learners will have the opportunity to earn .25 ELA. Learners will assume the role of writers to explore and investigate the science of Science Fiction using examples in media and pop culture. Learners will use their findings to design an inhabited planet and will represent this design through different products. As learners design their world, they will continue developing their own driving questions.

Trail Mix: Navigating the Great Outdoors 0.25+ Science/0.25+ Math

This course combines technology, math, geography, and environmental science through the engaging activity of geocaching. Students will learn to use GPS devices, understand coordinates, and explore local ecosystems while developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Global Ethnobotany .25 Global, .25 Science

Humans have been cultivating land for thousands of years. Learn about the Western Slope and how our local Native American tribes have grown various crops and herbs for food and healing! Introduce students to the fascinating world of the relationships between people and plants. The course offers a unique approach that includes plant structure and function, medicinal uses of plants by peoples around the world as well as the spiritual and ritualistic significance of plants in various religions and cultures. As plants are important to people, we will focus on how plants affect human health, nutrition and well-being, interact with other organisms, and provide critical support to biodiversity.

Dark Minds- Serial Killers .25+ U.S. History

Dark Minds provides each learner a chance to delve into the chilling and fascinating world of serial killers, exploring why they became notorious figures in American history and examining the psychological factors that drive their actions. Students will analyze famous cases, such as those of Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, Aileen Wuornos, and the Zodiac Killer, to uncover how their crimes have impacted society, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system.

Photojournalism .5 Comp/lit

Learners develop photojournalistic essays that document personal and local culture and community stories. Learners will identify themes and topics related to their community, interview local community members, and capture photos in order to create photo essays they share with the school community, local community, or in a live or digital exhibition.

Reading for People Who Hate Reading ELA .25-.50 ELA, .25 American Gov't

In this class we will study the science of reading and how to be a rock star reader. We will also be learning about the justice system in America. You can earn ELA and American Government credit in this class.

A Justice in Action .25 American Gov't

A Justice in Action" is an engaging, student-centered exploration of the American system of government through the lens of justice, civic responsibility, and real-world impact. In this 9-week course, students will investigate how the principles of democracy, the Constitution, and the three branches of government shape policies, laws, and individual rights. Through project-based learning, students will examine current and historical issues of justice and equity in American society, from voting rights and civil liberties to the criminal justice system and landmark Supreme Court cases. Students will role-play lawmakers, justices, and activists; analyze case studies; and collaborate on a final action project aimed at addressing a justice-related issue in their community or school. By the end of the course, students will not only understand how the American government works—but how they can make it work better for all.

Computer Science .5 Computer Science

Crush learning how to code and scratch that grad requirement off your list!!

Creative Writing ELA .25-50 ELA

In this class we will explore all kinds of poetic forms from around the world and experiment with art that is inspired by creative writing. You will also contribute to a school wide creative writing publication. You can earn ELA credit in this class.

Voices of the First Nations: Exploring Native American Culture and Heritage..25 US History

Step into the rich and diverse world of Native American cultures in Voices of the First Nations: Exploring Native American Culture and Heritage. This course is designed to provide students with a deeper

understanding of the history, traditions, beliefs, and contributions of Native American peoples across North America. Through a combination of historical analysis, cultural exploration, and contemporary perspectives, students will gain insight into the resilience, creativity, and enduring legacies of the First Nations.

History of Architecture .25+ Math, .25+ World History, ss elective

In this class, we will study major architectural achievements across different historical periods and civilizations. We will learn about the cultural, social, and technological ideas that influenced these architectural designs. Throughout this class we will use math to analyze these architectural structures focusing on their stability, symmetry, and aesthetics.

Psychology of Success .25+ ELA

In this project, you'll learn about the psychological and physiological aspects of success. How can we establish routines and habits as well as self reflection that helps us be successful. Throughout the course you will be working towards a project to educate or assist in personal growth.

Mathematical Mindsets .25+ Math

In this course, students will explore the eight mathematical practices, diving deep into critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world application of math concepts. Through engaging activities and projects, students will create their own math tasks, learning how to approach challenges creatively and confidently. The course emphasizes a growth mindset, helping students shift their attitude from "I can't" to "I can," fostering resilience and curiosity. By the end of the course, students will not only master essential math skills but also gain a new appreciation for the role math plays in everyday life and future academic pursuits.

Student Leadership- credit varies depending on faulty

Learners will use varied skills to provide mentorship and serve as a role model to at-risk youth in our community. This course will work closely with learners of all ages at Summit, with the possibility of traveling elsewhere. Course requirements: dedication to the class with a willingness to allow our best self to show up every day, take initiative in the classroom, participate with a positive attitude, and have an open mind.

(Must have a teacher recommendation to take this course.)

Design by Degrees- The Application and Art of Geometry .25+ Math

Students will explore the beauty and utility of geometry through three exciting pathways: game design, visual art, and architecture. Whether coding a dynamic game on Scratch that brings geometric transformations to life, creating an art piece that illustrates the congruence, proofs, and similarities of triangles, or designing an architectural model using ratios and scaled proportions, students will apply mathematical concepts in creative and tangible ways. This course empowers students to see geometry not just as abstract shapes and theorems, but as the foundation for real-world creativity and innovation.

Engineering .25 + Math, .25 Science

Dive into hands-on engineering problem solving in this project-based course. Students tackle real-world challenges across engineering disciplines, collaborating in teams to design, build, and test solutions. Gain practical skills, foster innovation, and develop a mindset for creative problem solving. Ideal for students seeking immersive, practical engineering experience.

PFL & Careers 1.0 Careers

In this course, you'll gain essential skills to explore careers, fill out job applications, and prepare for interviews aligned with your future goals. By the end, you'll have a polished resume and cover letter ready to showcase your education and skills in a professional setting. But landing the job is just the beginning—we'll also dive into managing your money wisely! Learn how to save, invest, and spend responsibly while still having fun. You'll explore the do's and don'ts of credit cards, renting apartments, buying homes, paying utilities, and understanding your paycheck so you can make smart financial decisions and build a secure future.

Grad Push & Capstone .5 ELA 12

This is a block of time for students who are projected to graduate within the current quarter or the next. Learners in this class are completing their last requirements on Edmentum, working on their capstone projects or completing WorkKeys Assessments. (Capstone)

Orientation Cycles

In a learner's first quarter at R-5, they will complete the orientation projects that consist of Career Development, Personal Financial Literacy, "Odyssey & Me", The Hunger Project and Social Emotional Learning. Learners in their first quarter are grouped together for these experiences that will familiarize them with the R-5 garden/aquaponics, help them develop career goals as well as some essential skills needed to be successful at R-5. In orientation, learners have the opportunity to earn the following credits: 1.0 Careers, .5 ELA, .5 Social Studies. Orientation will appear on a learners schedule as "*Orientation Cycle*".

Secondary Placement

All R-5 learners are required to have a secondary placement. Because the R-5 school day ends at 12:30, students must secure an additional learning environment to round out their full-time enrollment.

Options for secondary placements include:

Paying jobs in the community

Internships/ Apprenticeships

Volunteer Positions

The R-5/Eureka Outdoor Program

Concurrent Enrollment with [CMU Tech](#) or [Career Center](#)

*Young Parent Program/YPP**

*Restorative Service Program/ RSP***

**Young Parent Program*

Parenting Class

Learners who are in the young parent program will participate in parenting classes as their secondary placement. Students in the class are parents with children in the R-5 childcare program or expecting parents. The instructor guides students through a curriculum that emphasizes safe and healthy parenting practices. In addition, they will have several guest speakers to enhance their learning and connect them with appropriate resources in the community.

Baby & Me .25 Math, .25 Sci, .25 ELA, .25 Elective

R-5 learners who have a child in the childcare program also participate in this hands-on class where parents and their children learn and play together through reading and other activities. This class meets daily to promote healthy parent/child engagement.

*****Restorative Service Program***

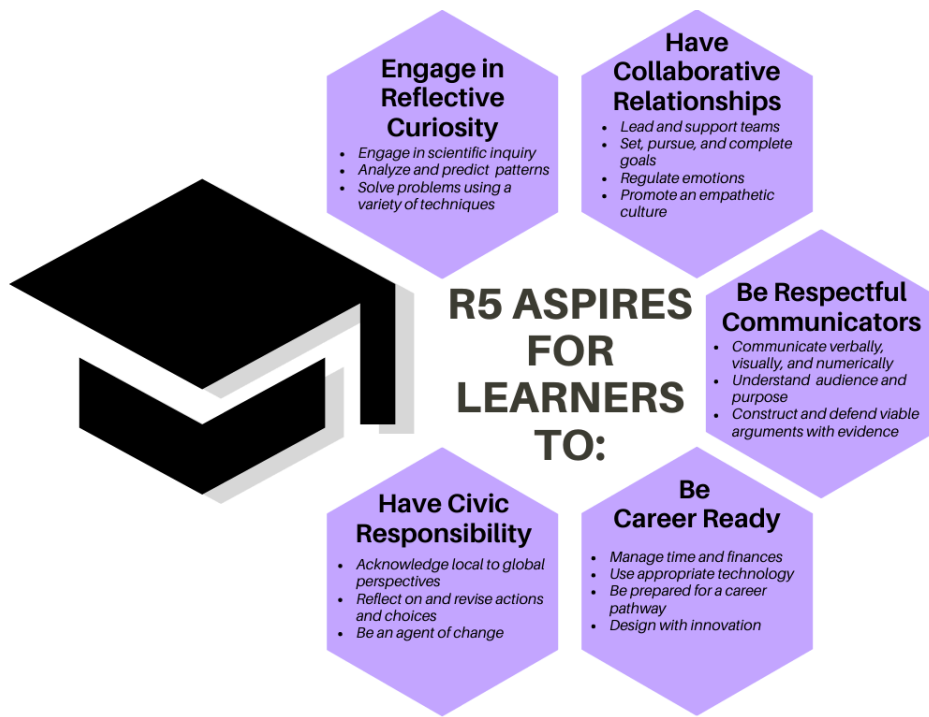
RSP meets Monday through Thursday from 1:00-2:40 and serves selected students two ways.

RSP can be a temporary secondary placement for learners who have not secured a job, internship or other program. Those learners must either get a secondary placement within the quarter or fail candidacy.

RSP is also for learners who have shown that they need more support before they are able to be successful in R-5's standard morning schedule. In their afternoon only class, learners will be supported with individualized intervention and a Discovery and Life Skills curriculum. There will also be opportunity during that time to pursue credit through Edmentum (online coursework), Workkeys or other projects deemed appropriate. Learners will have one quarter in RSP to show growth and demonstrate commitment to their learning and R-5 respect agreements.

Capstone Projects and Senior English

All learners must complete a capstone project in order to graduate. A Capstone project can look like a variety of things, but most often it is a slide presentation. The project must demonstrate that the student has met all five qualities of the graduate profile shown in the graphic here:



Learners will get support for their capstone project in the Gradpush class in their final semester. A completed capstone project counts for .25 credits 12th grade English. The other required .25 12th grade English credit is earned through the learners completion of a literary analysis; also supported in the Gradpush class.

Clubs

All R-5 students will pick a club to participate in on Friday mornings. Clubs give students the opportunity to explore their interests with other students and teachers while earning elective credit. The clubs vary from quarter to quarter and can be anything from an outdoor club where students leave campus to hike, ski, fish or bike, to gaming club where students e-game in a classroom. In addition, there is opportunity to serve in a student leadership club or contribute to the production of the school yearbook.