

CHARLOTTE COUNTRY DAY UPPER SCHOOL

2025-26

Academic Policies and Course Guide



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Graduation Requirements

Each **Upper School student** earning a **Charlotte Country Day School diploma** will have successfully completed a minimum of **21 academic credits** in a series of required courses and electives, based on individual interests and needs. Full-year courses earn 1.0 academic credits and semester courses earn 0.5 academic credits. Students are expected to be enrolled in six courses per semester during the years they attend Country Day. **The minimum of 21 total credits must include the following:**

English Language & Literature

4.0 credits

All students must be enrolled in an English course during every semester in the Upper School. Students needing additional English language support may take English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, which count toward the 4.0 required English credits.

Mathematics

4.0 credits

All students must be enrolled in a math course during every semester in the Upper School.

Sciences

3.0 credits

All students must complete Biology I in their 9th or 10th grade year. Students joining Country Day after the 9th or 10th grade must still fulfill the high school Biology requirement, although credit may transfer from another high school. 2.0 additional credits in lab science are required in the Upper School.

History & Social Studies

3.0 credits

All students must complete 9th Grade History and Modern World History, typically in their 9th and 10th grade years. United States History (whether college preparatory or AP level) is required for all graduates and is usually completed in the junior year. Successful completion of a research paper is required in each of grades 9-11. IB students typically complete their US History requirement in their senior year through the History of the Americas course.

Modern & Classical Languages

2.0 credits

All students must complete at least two years of consecutive study in the same language in the Upper School. Most students complete three or more years of study, with four highly recommended by most colleges and universities.

Fine Arts

1.5 credits

All students must complete 1.5 credits in the Fine Arts, with 0.5 credits usually completed in the 9th grade. Any combination of courses in the Visual, Theatre, or Music Arts programs may satisfy this requirement.

Diploma requirements also include:

- 1) A passing grade (D-/60 or above) earned in all courses, each semester, during the senior year
- 2) Co-curriculars: 8 activities, 0.25 credits each (2 per year):
 - participating (as player, manager, or intern) on a Country Day athletic team
 - completing a Country Day physical education course
 - being a part of an intensive travel team with regular practices and competitions (e.g., year-round Swim, Equestrian competitions, etc.)
 - participating in a Country Day theater production (onstage or backstage)
 - completing CAS experiences (IB students only; may only be applied one time per year)
 - being employed at least 40 hours over the duration of an athletic season

*"I pledge my honor that I have neither
given nor received aid on this assignment."*

The Honor Code is central to the student experience at Charlotte Country Day School. Students sign the code each year and write the Honor Pledge on all graded work. Lying, cheating, and plagiarism are all violations of the Honor Code and may result in an Honor Council hearing and disciplinary measures with academic consequences. Please see the Upper School Student Handbook for complete information on the Honor Code and Academic Honesty.

Academic Information & Policies

Course Load

All students in grades 9-12 are expected to take a *full course load*, defined as six courses per semester. In certain circumstances, a student may be recommended for a *reduced course load*, and this occurs with the approval of the Division Head and the Director of Studies. Seniors in good academic standing may enroll in five courses in the spring semester of their senior year. Seniors who wish to drop from 6 to 5 courses for the spring semester of their senior year must do so by the last week of first semester. Full year courses may not be dropped. If a senior wishes to drop from 6 to 5 courses, including Independent Studies, the student must get approval from their College Counselor and notify the colleges and universities to which applications have been submitted.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to prepare for the next day's class and to practice introduced skills. All younger students should expect to be assigned approximately 20-30 minutes of homework in each class per night, while older students can expect more. Major projects, tests, essays, etc. may require more time outside of class. AP, Honors and IB classes typically assign a heavier homework

load, with AP and IB course curriculum driven by overseeing organizations. This time commitment, when

combined with all other student commitments, should be taken into consideration when selecting courses.

Add/Drop

During the first full seven cycle days of the first semester (for first semester and full-year courses) and at the beginning of the second semester (for second semester courses only), Upper School students must follow the add/drop procedure to change courses. Students are **not** permitted to add a new course to their schedules after the add/drop period has ended. Dropping a course after the major deadlines date in the student planner will result in the designation *WP* (Withdrew Passing) or *WF* (Withdrew Failing) on a student's final transcript. Adding or dropping a course may require permission of the advisor, department chair, parent, college counselor, and Director of Studies.

Level Changes

Course selections and placements are made with great care, but occasionally a student is best placed in a less rigorous course level. Students must request a level change by **the first week of October, as indicated each year on the all-school calendar**. When a student changes course levels, an adjusted grade may be carried to the new course, depending upon the volume and type of work completed.

Course Withdrawals

Permission to withdraw from a course after the deadline has passed is granted by the Director of Studies on a case-by-case basis, and not all requests for withdrawal are granted. Withdrawals are recorded on the transcript as Withdrawn Passing (WP) or Withdrawn Failing (WF). A student who withdraws receives no credit for the course, unless one full semester has been completed, in which case the student receives 0.5 credits. In general, a student may not be permitted to withdraw from a course if it means that the student will drop below the minimum course load.

Grade Reporting

The Upper School academic year consists of two semesters, with letter grades and/or comments reported at four intervals in a semester (accessible via the Parent Portal). Formal comments for all students are posted at the midterm of Semester 1 and 2; at all other times, comments are required for any student earning an average grade of C- or below.

Grade Point Average and Class Rank

The Upper School calculates a semester and cumulative GPA for each student on the semester report card and the overall transcript. The GPA calculation is used to determine *cum laude* list for graduating seniors, as well as to determine the cumulative top scholar for the graduating class. Please note that apart from these events, Country Day does not rank students but uses quintile placement with colleges and universities to convey students' relative academic position within their class.

Advanced Placement Courses

Country Day offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum designed to prepare all students for success and achievement in college and university level study. For those students seeking additional challenge, Country Day offers many classes at the Honors and Advanced Placement level, across all academic departments. The final AP exam is the driver for the curriculum, and all AP courses are taught with the intention of students earning high marks on these exams. Should a student qualify for an Advanced Placement course, families should consider the workload in relation to other priorities in the student's life. For a complete index of courses, including AP offerings, please see the Total Index of Courses by Department.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB) is a two-year program that provides 11th and 12th grade

students with a well-rounded, rigorous curriculum, promotes international-mindedness, and service learning. The IB program is best suited to students who are independent workers, think critically, are passionate about learning, and are committed to personal growth both inside and outside of the classroom. Students in the IB program are expected to complete the necessary level of high-quality work to earn the IB diploma in addition to their Country Day diploma. For complete information on IB course offerings, please see the IB section of this course catalog.

Course Selection

Students and parents work with the student's advisor in the Spring of each school year to determine a challenging but reasonable course load for each student in the next year. Honors, AP, and IB classes have specific qualifying requirements that must be met for registration and must be maintained for the remainder of the school year. Please note that every effort is made to place students in their chosen courses, but in some situations preferred courses conflict in the schedule and the students will not be able to enroll in both.

Independent Studies

Independent Studies are an opportunity for students to pursue specialized topics not offered within the regular curriculum. Interested students *in good academic standing* may plan an Independent Study with a faculty member and submit a proposal for approval to the Director of Studies. Students are limited to one Independent Study credit per semester, and with permission, the Independent Study may replace a sixth course. In general, an Independent Study may not replace a graduation requirement. Completed proposals for Independent Studies must be submitted to the Director of Studies *by the end of the final exam period in the preceding semester*. Late applications may be deferred to the following semester or academic year. The required proposal form can be found on the Student Life page. Independent Studies are graded as Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) based on criteria agreed upon between student and supervisor, and a final presentation of work to the Committee of Department Chairs.

Off-Campus Academic Opportunities

Country Day Upper School students have multiple opportunities to travel and study off campus and abroad, either through Country Day sponsored programs or affiliate programs. For more information on these programs, please see the section at the end of this guide.

Summer Academic Programs

Country Day does not offer summer courses for academic credit. Students taking courses at other institutions may petition the Country Day department chair for

acceleration to the next level, and the transcript for the additional coursework can be included with their college application. Only courses taken at Country Day appear on the Country Day transcript and factor into the GPA.

Academic Support

Educational Resource Program

The Educational Resource Program (ERP) in the Upper School provides academic coaching for students within the academic day. These pre-scheduled appointments are available during school hours for a per-session fee. Parents can indicate interest in this program by completing the form available in the Parent Portal. Every effort is made to match a student's session to a free period, but the Flex and lunch period may also be used. As Upper School students prepare for college life, content tutoring is balanced with a coaching approach for problem-solving. *Students should make every effort to meet with their classroom teachers first for primary support.*

Approved Classroom Accommodations

Country Day strives to meet the needs of its students. Students with a documented learning diagnosis (i.e., Dyslexia) may be recommended for certain accommodations. Not all psychologist recommendations

can be supported, however. For more information on approved classroom accommodations, please contact the Upper School ERP Director or visit the ERP page in the Parent Portal.

Grading Options for ESL students

In order to manage academic pressure while they are developing their language skills and adjusting to Country Day's expectations, English as a Second Language students may opt to take certain courses as Credit/No credit or Audit, rather than for a letter grade. The Director of Studies must approve this recommendation, and students should understand that Credit/No Credit and Audit courses do not impact GPA. If an ESL student expects to matriculate at a college or university in the United States, this option may not be recommended.

A Note on Grading Scale, Qualifying Grades, Grade Reporting

Course Descriptions

All academic courses in this guide are designated as full year, first semester and/or second semester. If a course is listed without a prerequisite, it is reasonable to assume that there is open enrollment for that class, but qualifying grades may be required.

Qualifying Grades for Advanced Courses

At the midterm mark of the second semester, each department will determine respective student eligibility for Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Eligibility is based on first semester performance and second semester performance at that point in the year, with qualifying grades often in the A or A- range. The qualifying grades are established each year by each department and are reflective of the content and skill mastery necessary for success at the more advanced level.

Once students have qualified for an advanced course in the spring, they must maintain the qualifying grades for the remainder of the academic year to enroll in the advanced course for the following academic year. Students who have earned the qualifying grade by the end of the academic year should reach out to their respective teacher and advisor to discuss the possibility of moving to the honors or AP course for which they have qualified.

For information about eligibility for the IB Diploma program, please turn to the IB section in this catalogue.

Grading Scale

98-100	A+	4.33
93-97	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.67
87-89	B+	3.33
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.67
77-79	C+	2.33
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.67
67-69	D+	1.33
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.67
below 60	F/no credit	0

Grade Reporting

Grades are reported eight times a year and may be found in the Parent Portal.

September: Progress Report 1
October: Midterm Report 1
December: Progress Report 2
January: Semester 1 grades, including exams

February: Progress Report 3
March/April: Midterm Report 2
April/May: Progress Report 4
June: Semester 2 grades, including exams;
Final grades for year-long courses

Note that *only* year-end grades appear on the official transcript.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER 2025-26 HONORS/AP/ADVANCED

Department	To enter:	Minimum qualifying grade average:	Additional requirement (if any):
ENGLISH	AP English 11	87 in English 10	
	AP English 12	87 in English 11 <u>or</u> 80 in AP English 11	
MATH	Honors Algebra II	90 in Geometry <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. Geometry	Teacher recommendation
	Honors Geometry	90 in Algebra I	Teacher recommendation
	Honors Precalculus	90 in Algebra II <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. Alg. II	Teacher recommendation
	Honors Algebra II/Precalculus	Successful completion of Honors Geometry in 9 th grade AND department recommendation	This course is only available to 10 th graders. Entry to this course is limited to those recommended by faculty and is not designated by a grade cut-off.
	AP Calculus AB	90 in Precalc <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. Precalc	Precalc students who qualify should choose AP Calculus AB <u>or</u> AP Statistics, but not both.
	AP Calculus BC	87 in Hon. Precalc <u>or</u> Hon. Alg II/Precalc	
	IB Analysis SL	83 in Hon. Precalc <u>or</u> Hon. Alg II/ Precalc	
	AP Statistics	90 in Precalc <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. Precalc	Precalc students who qualify should choose AP Calculus AB <u>or</u> AP Statistics, but not both.
	Adv. AP Stat with R	83 in BC Calc <u>or</u> enrolled in BC Calc	
	Calc III/IB Analysis HL	83 in BC Calc	
SCIENCES	Honors Chemistry	87 in Biology <u>and</u> 87 in math course (83 in Hon.)	<u>Minimum math requirement:</u> Algebra II (previous or concurrent)
	Honors Physics	87 in current <i>full-year</i> science course (83 in Hon.) <u>and</u> 87 in math (83 in Hon.)	<u>Minimum math requirement:</u> Precalculus (previous or concurrent)
	Honors Engineering	87 in Physics I <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. Physics	
	AP Physics	90 in Physics I <u>or</u> 85 in Hon. Physics	<u>Minimum math requirement:</u> AP Calculus or IB Calculus (previous or concurrent)
	AP Biology	90 in current <i>full-year</i> science course <u>or</u> 85 in Hon./83 in AP	Prerequisites: Biology I <u>and</u> Chem I/Hon. Chemistry *less than 87 in Bio 1 requires departmental approval
	AP Environmental	90 in current <i>full-year</i> science course <u>or</u> 85 in Hon./83 in AP	Prerequisites: Biology I <u>and</u> Chem I/Hon. Chemistry *less than 87 in Bio 1 requires departmental approval
	AP Chemistry	90 in Chemistry I <u>or</u> 85 in Hon. Chemistry	<u>Minimum math requirement:</u> Precalculus (previous or concurrent)
	Organic Chemistry	83 in AP <u>or</u> IB Chemistry	
HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCES	Hon Modern World	87 in History 9	
	AP U.S. History	87 in MWH (80 in Hon. MWH)	
	AP Government & AP European	87 in U.S. History (80 AP US History) <u>or</u> 87 in MWH (83 Hon.)	Open to 11 th and 12 th grade students; preference given to seniors (qualification based on current year's History course)
	AP Human Geography	90 in History 9 <u>or</u> 85 in MWH <u>or</u> US; 80 in Hon. MWH or AP US	Open to 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grade students (qualification based on current year's History course)
	AP Psychology	87 in current English (80 in AP) <u>or</u> 87 in current history (80 in AP/ Hon.) <u>or</u> 80 in AP Bio	Open to 11 th & 12 th grade students; preference given to seniors (qualification based on current year's History, English, or Biology courses)
	IB Digital Society	87 in current history (80 in honors)	Open to 11 th and 12 th grade students; <u>Minimum math requirement:</u> Precalculus (completed or concurrent); non-IB students are eligible for this course
MODERN & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES	All Honors Modern & Classical Languages	93 in current language class <u>or</u> 85 in current Honors class	Students who do not qualify for Honors/AP courses may petition the Department for special approval.
	All AP/IB Higher Level Modern & Classical Languages	87 in Level 4 Honors	Students in Level 4 may not sign up for AP/IB HL unless approved by the Department Chair.
	Honors Chinese Level I	87 in current French, Spanish, or Latin class <u>or</u> 80 in current Honors Class	Interested students whose grades do not meet the minimum qualifying average may petition the Department for special approval.
	<i>Students who are repeating a level I course (including MS and/or US) must earn at least a 93 in order to advance to Honors II. After Level 3, advancement from a non-honors course into an honors course is not recommended.</i>		
FINE ARTS	Hon. Chamber Choir; Hon. Orchestra; Hon. Symphonic Band	by audition (week of 3/10-3/14, 2025)	Honors Chamber Choir open to students in 10 th -12 th grades Honors Orchestra and Band open to 9 th -12 th grades
	AP Music Theory	87 in current music class	Entrance evaluation (for music proficiency before 3/14/25)
	AP Studio Art (2D, 3D, Design)	87 in Level III art class	Evaluation of a submitted art portfolio (due 3/12/25). See guidelines posted outside FAC 206.
	Studio Art: Special Projects	Successful completion of Level IV visual art class.	Evaluation of a submitted art portfolio (due 3/12/25). See guidelines posted outside FAC 207.
	AP Art History	85 in history (80 Hon/AP)	
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Honors Yearbook	Second year and teacher approval	Second year and teacher approval
	AP Computer Science	Enrolled in Hon. Precalculus or higher <u>or</u> a 90 in ECS	Open to students in 10 th -12 th grades only.

Total Index of Courses by Department

English

Full Year Courses:

English 9: Foundations in English I
English 10: Foundations in English II
English 11: American Literature
IB English 11
AP English 11: Language & Composition
AP English 12: Literature & Composition
IB English 12
English 12

Semester Courses:

Creative Writing

Mathematics

Full Year Courses:

Algebra I
Geometry
Honors Geometry
Algebra II
Honors Algebra II
Honors Algebra II/Precalculus
Algebra III/Trigonometry
Dynamic Math
Pre-calculus
Honors Pre-calculus
Introduction to Calculus & Statistics
AP Statistics
Advanced AP Statistics with R and R Studio
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
IB Applications SL
IB Analysis SL
Calc III/IB Analysis HL

Sciences

Life Science Full Year Courses:

Inquiries in Biological and Physical Science
Biology I
AP Biology
IB Biology SL
IB Biology HL
AP Environmental Science

Life Science Semester Courses:

Environmental Issues
Marine Biology
Human Anatomy: Internal Structural Systems
Human Anatomy: External Structural Systems

Physical Science Full Year Courses:

Chemistry I
Honors Chemistry
AP Chemistry
IB Chemistry SL
IB Chemistry HL
Physics I
Honors Physics
AP Physics C: Mechanics, E&M

Physical Science Semester Courses:

Astronomy: Solar Systems
Forensic Science: Biomedical Applications
Forensic Science: Physical Applications
Honors Engineering
Organic Chemistry

Science Research:

Physical Computational
Biochemistry

History & Social Studies

Full Year Courses:

Ninth Grade History
Modern World History
Honors Modern World History
IB World History
United States History
AP United States History
IB History of the Americas
AP Psychology
IB Psychology
AP Human Geography
AP European History
AP US/Government & Politics

Semester Courses:

Ancient Empires
Adolescent Psychology and Behavior
African American History

Modern & Classical Languages

Full Year Courses:

Honors Chinese I, II, III, IV, V
Chinese II
IB Chinese
French I, II, III, IV, V
Honors French II, III, IV
AP French Language & Culture
IB French HL
Spanish I, II, III, IV, V
Honors Spanish II, III, IV
AP Spanish Language & Culture
IB Spanish HL
Latin I, II, III, IV, V
Honors Latin II, III, IV
AP Latin
IB Latin

Fine Arts

Choral Music Full Year Courses:

Honors Chamber Choir
Honors Concert Choir
Concert Choir

Instrumental Music Full Year Courses

Symphonic Band
Honors Symphonic Band
Orchestra
Honors Orchestra

Instrumental Music Semester Courses

Introduction to Piano
Supersonic: Percussion Ensemble

Music Theory & Production Full Year

AP Music Theory

Theatre Arts Semester Courses

Acting/Directing I
Acting/Directing II
Theater Workshop
Improvisation I, II

Visual Arts Full Year Course:

Yearbook
Yearbook Editor (H)

Visual Arts Semester Courses:

2-D Art I, II, III, IV
Architectural Design
Design I, II, III, IV
Sculpture I, II, III, IV
Special Topics in Visual Arts

Full Year AP and IB Art Courses:

AP Music Theory
AP Studio: 2D Art
IB Art I & II (SL, HL)
AP Studio: Design/ Photography
AP Studio: Sculpture
AP Art History
IB Theater Arts (SL, HL)

Technology & Computer Science

Full Year Course:

AP Computer Science A

Semester Courses:

Exploring Computer Science
Advanced Topics in Computer Science

Non-Departmental Courses

Full Year:

9th Grade Seminar
IB Theory of Knowledge

Semester Courses:

Public Speaking
Podcasting: Amplify your Voice

Physical Education

Semester Course:

Strength Training

The Upper School English curriculum inspires students to understand the power of literature – to instruct, to challenge, to delight, and to transform us. Through the daily practice of reading, writing, reflecting, and discussing, students connect with literature, each other, and the world. We believe that thoughtful study of writing and literature aids the development and articulation of a student's distinct self as well as a deeper understanding of others. In our classrooms, students will question, explore, and build their knowledge of themselves and the world around them.

English 9 and English 10 provide a common foundation for students through the study of a variety of modes of writing and the primary genres of literature – poetry, prose, and drama. In the 11th grade, students pursue one of three paths: English 11 and 12, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate. Qualifying students in AP 11 or English 11 may continue to AP 12 or English 12. Students commencing IB courses in their junior year are expected to fulfill a two-year IB commitment.

ENGLISH 9: Foundations in English (full year)

This course, the first in a two-year study of the foundations of English, introduces students to the advanced literary study required in the courses of the Upper School English Department. The beginning of the semester focuses on helping students build an understanding of and proficiency with developing and presenting arguments. Later, students use in-depth examinations of poetry, short stories, and longer texts to explore and present their personal and academic views, ideas, and opinions through a variety of exercises. In addition to literary study, students develop speaking and oral presentation skills through a variety of activities including the annual Ninth Grade Poem Off. The year culminates in a portfolio of examples of the students' best revised written work.

ENGLISH 10: Foundations in English II: The Individual in Society (full year)

English 10 is the second year of Country Day's Foundations of English course. Students continue their study of classic and modern texts with a specific look at how literature reflects humans' desire to understand themselves in relation to their world. Students study texts during the year to inform their perspectives on and responses to literature and demonstrate their knowledge of a work through writing in different genres. Course literature includes full length and short fiction as well as major poetic forms. Analysis and argumentative thesis development are at the forefront of all writing projects, and a focus is placed on MLA citation for documentation of sources. The year culminates in a multi-genre portfolio of original student work.

ENGLISH 11: American Literature (full year)

English 11, a selected survey of American Literature, enables juniors to apply knowledge of genre and authorship gleaned in English 9 and English 10 to specifically American themes, questions, and voices. Through close reading, careful textual analysis, writing in various rhetorical modes, and small group discussions, students in their junior year develop specific understandings of American culture and expression, including the major movements of the Enlightenment, Romanticism, and Modernism. As a culminating assignment, students write, revise, and edit an autobiographical portfolio of considerable length and variety.

AP ENGLISH 11:
Language & Composition (full year)

Prerequisites: *grade qualification*

AP English 11 is an accelerated version of English 11 (American Literature), emphasizing the same skills noted in the English 11 description, but adding the specific exercise of academic research. In addition, students independently explore the role literary criticism plays in our understanding of literature. In addition, AP students actively prepare for the Language and Composition exam by engaging in the study of rhetorical and literary strategies in non-fiction, poetry, and fiction. Timed essays and practice multiple-choice assessments are administered throughout the year. Students are expected to sit the AP Language and Composition Exam in May. Like their peers in other 11th grade English courses, spring semester AP 11 students write, revise, and edit an autobiographical portfolio in the spring.

IB ENGLISH 11 (HL) (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

AP ENGLISH 12: Literature & Composition (full year)

Prerequisites: *grade qualification in AP English 11 or grade qualification in English*

This intensive class explores expository, analytical, and argumentative writing with an aim towards an advanced understanding of themes, stylistic elements, and literary features in literature. Qualified students continue critical reading of canonical texts and actively prepare for the Literature and Composition test in May. In addition, students study a survey of poetry from the 1600's to the present. Students are expected to sit the AP Literature and Composition Exam in May.

IB ENGLISH 12 (HL) (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

ENGLISH 12 (full year)

In the fall, all students will investigate the role of narrative writing as it pertains to the world. The goal for the semester is for students to authentically investigate and come to understand how we use stories and narratives to

tell the story of the world around us and our place within that world.

Students will start the year with summer reading exploring memoir writing and leading to an investigation of the way memoirs tell the “truth” through the perspective of the author who experienced it. Students will move to more narrative non-fiction and realistic fiction to uncover other ways in which truth is rooted in perspective. Finally, students will use smaller works – interviews, periodical feature articles, videos, photographs, etc. – to uncover the stories they tell.

The fall semester will culminate with a project that tells the story of an institution or community that matters to them. That could be a family, a school, a place of worship, a neighborhood, a city, or a university. The portfolio will present, through multiple genres, the story of the chosen institution and the student's place relative to it.

In the spring, students will investigate thematic units designed by their respective instructors. These give students the opportunity to take a deeper dive into a specific aspect of literature to continue the preparation for college-level reading and writing. Topics previously offered are 21st Century Literature and Film; Science Fiction and Artificial Intelligence in Literature; Critical Analysis of Adolescent and Fantasy Literature; and Writers Who Paint. Each of these courses uses relevant literature and writing assignments to help students experience literature study more deeply than in a traditional English class. The spring semester will culminate with a final project representative of the thematic focus.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Country Day can offer English as a Second Language support for students who are still developing their English skills. ESL courses (with the exception of TOEFL Prep) can substitute for credits in the English or History departments, as appropriate. ESL students at a more advanced level frequently enroll in a regular English course rather than an ESL class(es) (Audit or Credit/No credit).

Intermediate ESL (full year)

Students learn to communicate in English as they practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Basic grammatical structures are introduced. Students also develop an understanding of American culture through discussion, reading, and writing about cultural issues. Students are taught all of the English verb tenses as well as other intermediate level grammatical skills. ***This course may be repeated as needed for mastery.***

Advanced ESL (full year)

High-intermediate to low-advanced level reading, writing, and grammatical skills are taught in this course. Students

read a short novel, newspaper articles, short stories, and learn to write analytical essays and other types of essays. The course also includes a comprehensive review of English grammar and composition. Vocabulary building is emphasized throughout the year to enhance reading comprehension and written expression. ***This course may be repeated as needed for mastery.***

ESL American History (full year)

This course is designed for Upper School students whose proficiency in English requires practice in reading, writing, and speaking techniques. The goals of the course are to develop English proficiency, to provide an overview of the major events and figures in American history, and to encourage students to apply learning strategies and skills to their study of a second language. This course may substitute for the required American History course for ESL students.

ESL World History (full year)

This course is designed for Upper School students whose proficiency in English requires practice in reading, writing, and speaking techniques. Additionally, research skills are taught along with frequent essays and papers. The course allows students to receive an overview of World History with an emphasis on European History. The course meets the World History requirement for ESL students.

The Mathematics curriculum at Country Day promotes the optimal mathematical development of each student. Through innovative, challenging, and differentiated instruction we seek to develop student's **problem-solving & critical thinking skills** and foster an appreciation for the power and beauty of mathematics. Students are encouraged to question, think, reason, compute, and communicate mathematically to solve **real-world problems** with enthusiasm, confidence, and creativity.

ALGEBRA I (full year)

Students use graphical, symbolic, tabular, and numerical representations as they solve problems involving unknown quantities. Linear equations and linear relationships are examined in great detail, and conceptual understanding is emphasized throughout the course. The graphing calculator is utilized and required. Students are introduced to quadratic equations, factoring, and irrational numbers.

GEOMETRY (full year)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

In this course, students will study parallelism, congruence, similarity, polygons, circles, area, volume, and transformations. Particular emphasis is placed on inductive and deductive reasoning, logic, and proof. Students will use *Geometer's Sketchpad* to explore relationships and formulate conjectures. Concepts of Algebra I are reinforced, including linear equations, graphing, and solving systems. Students are introduced to right triangle trigonometry and counting principles. Algebraic applications of geometry and problem solving are greatly emphasized.

HONORS GEOMETRY (full year)

Prerequisite: Algebra I and qualification

In this course, students will study all of the topics in Geometry but with more theory and in greater depth. A mastery of many algebraic skills will be necessary for students to succeed and meet the demands of this

rigorous course. Particular emphasis is placed on inductive and deductive reasoning, logic, proof, and independent problem-solving. Students will use *Geometer's Sketchpad* to explore relationships and formulate conjecture.

ALGEBRA II (full year)

Prerequisite: Geometry

Algebra II is an extension of Algebra I with new topics including transformations, higher-order polynomials, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Emphasis is placed on describing relations in multiple ways, developing problem-solving skills, and communicating understanding in verbal and written formats. Students investigate concepts and solve both with and without the use of the graphing calculator.

HONORS ALGEBRA II (full year)

Prerequisite: Geometry or Honors Geometry and qualification

Includes much of the same material as Algebra II plus a unit on trigonometry and rational functions, but with more theory and in greater depth. Significant emphasis is placed on communication (verbal, partner and written) as well as on applications and problem-solving.

HONORS ALGEBRA II AND PRECALCULUS (full year)

Prerequisite: Honors Geometry in 9th grade, and recommendation of department

This course will cover the topics in Honors Algebra II and Honors Precalculus. The pace will be greater and independent thinking and reasoning will be emphasized throughout the course. Students will be expected to investigate concepts and apply their knowledge in a variety of ways. Technology will be used extensively, and students will be required to explore many ideas outside of class time. **The course is open to students in grade 10.**

ALGEBRA III/TRIGONOMETRY (full year)

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This alternative to Pre-calculus is a comprehensive review and extension of Algebra II topics with a study of functions, their graphs and applications. Topics covered include matrices, trigonometry, conics, sequences and series, probability, and statistics. Much of the course content is similar to that of Pre-calculus, but material is presented at a slower pace. Students who do not meet the minimum Algebra II grade requirement for Pre-Calculus should take Algebra III/Trigonometry. *Please note that*

students in Algebra III/Trigonometry are not eligible to qualify for AP Calculus.

PRE-CALCULUS (full year)

Prerequisite: Grade qualification Algebra II (83%)

This course is a study of functions and graphs including trigonometry, higher order polynomials, exponents, logarithms, analytic geometry, sequences and series, and transformations, also including some principles of probability. Students continuously seek understanding by communicating through use of words, tables, graphs and Algebra. *Please note: students who have completed Algebra III/Trigonometry are not eligible to enroll in Pre-calculus. Students should continue to Intro to Calculus & Statistics (below).*

HONORS PRE-CALCULUS (full year)

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Honors Algebra II and qualification

This course provides an in-depth examination of polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, power, rational, and trigonometric functions (graphs, equations, and applications) in preparation for AP Calculus. Students communicate their understanding in verbal and written formats. In addition, students thoroughly explore sequences and series, probability, counting methods, and polar graphing, and begin the study of limits, derivatives, and continuity.

INTRO TO CALCULUS & STATISTICS (full year)

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus or Algebra III/Trigonometry

The first semester of this course is devoted to developing an understanding of elementary statistics – graphing and describing data, using data to draw conclusions, and gathering data through surveys and experiments. Students also study normal distributions in depth, including standardizing normal variables and calculating probabilities. In the second semester, students analyze selected topics from Differential Calculus, including limits, continuity, differentiability, and finding and applying derivatives. The final portion of the course focuses on financial mathematics such as investments, exponential models of growth for compound interest, and Business Calculus.

DYNAMIC MATH (full year)

Prerequisite: Algebra III/Trigonometry or Precalculus

Mathematical methods can be applied to solve problems in a variety of fields, from biology to computer science to business. This course focuses on applied math problem-solving by utilizing topics such as matrices, sequences and series, trigonometry, and data analysis. Through project-based learning, students will research and learn about applications of mathematics and statistics in exercise

science, dietetics, and kinesiology. Data collection methods and statistical analyses will be employed in the context of decision science and optimization. While the brain navigates through the math, the body will not remain at rest. The student's work through each unit will culminate in a mathematically-supported fitness program that will be executed during a class period. This course is guaranteed to grow your brain, appreciation for math, and physical and mental wellness! **The course is open to students in grade 12.**

Advanced Math Options

AP STATISTICS (full year)

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus or Honors Pre-calculus and qualification

A secondary school equivalent of a one-semester introductory, non-Calculus based college course in Statistics. Four broad conceptual themes emerge in the course: (1) Exploring Data: observing patterns and departures from patterns, (2) Planning a Study: deciding what and how to measure, (3) Anticipating Patterns in Advance: producing models using probability and simulation, and (4) Statistical Inference: confirming models. Students are expected to sit the AP Statistics exam at the end of the course.

ADVANCED AP STATISTICS with R and R Studio (full year)

Prerequisite or Corequisite: AP Calculus BC

R is a programming language and statistics software environment used for all aspects of data analysis. RStudio® is a free, open-source integrated development environment that facilitates the use of R. Widely used in higher education, science, government, and industry, these tools easily manipulate and visualize complex data. Advanced AP Statistics with R and Rstudio® embeds the standard AP Statistics curriculum in these statistical software packages. Students interested in this course should have strong analytic skills, the ability to reason conceptually, and be comfortable in a rapid-paced learning environment.

AP CALCULUS "AB" (full year)

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus or Honors Pre-calculus and qualification

A college-level study that begins with limits and continuity and continues with a study of derivatives and their applications, integration and some applications of definite integrals, as well as a limited number of techniques of integration. This is a year-long course designed to prepare the student to take the AP Calculus AB exam. *Students who take AP Calculus (AB) prior to their senior year may*

not take AP Calculus “BC” in any subsequent year. Students are expected to sit the AP Calculus exam at the end of the course.

AP CALCULUS “BC” (full year)

Prerequisite: Honors Pre-calculus and qualification

This college-level study begins with the applications of derivatives and continues with integrals and their applications, techniques of integration, infinite series, the calculus of parametric and polar functions, as well as the calculus of two-dimensional vectors. The course content is approximately equivalent to the first two semesters of college-level Calculus. Students are expected to sit the AP Calculus exam at the end of the course.

CALCULUS III/IB ANALYSIS HL

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of AP Calculus BC

Designed for motivated high school students who have successfully completed AP Calculus BC and are eager to delve deeper into advanced mathematical principles, this course follows an integrated approach to university-level mathematics curriculum. Topics include three-dimensional space, vectors, calculus-based statistics, and differential equations. Additionally, students must

formulate and justify sound mathematical arguments as they complete mathematical investigations, make conjectures, and construct formal proofs. In order to prepare students for pursuing STEM-related fields in college and beyond, this course will develop students’ ability to reason abstractly, communicate precisely, and approach problems with patience and tenacity. Students will complete a research paper investigating and applying an area of mathematics commensurate with the level of the course. Interested seniors may elect to take the IB Analysis and Approaches HL examinations at the conclusion of the course. *Prerequisite: AP Calculus BC.*

IB APPLICATIONS SL (full year, IB Students Only)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

IB ANALYSIS SL (full year, IB Students Only)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

The Science Department at Country Day aims to inspire a life-long love for learning by **fostering curiosity and encouraging positive risk-taking**. The expectations will be to develop critical thinking skills with an appreciation of and respect for an ever-changing world of science. Through a **creative, open-ended, multi-sensory, interdisciplinary curriculum**, students become scientifically literate stewards of the environment and humankind.

Biology I is the core class in the Country Day science curriculum, required of all current students and transfers who have not completed a comprehensive lab course in high school biology. This course develops the skills and lab experience necessary to move on in the sciences. Most students move on to Chemistry and Physics in their sophomore and junior years.

Current students entering 9th grade and students new to the school have the option to take **Inquiries in Biological and Physical Science** before taking **Biology 1**. This qualifies as one of the three required years of science for graduation.

The foundations of **Biology I** and **Chemistry I** give students the necessary fundamentals to take on upper-level AP and IB sciences. In addition, the science department offers a rich array of electives in the life sciences and physical sciences so that students can pursue their unique interests.

I. Life Sciences

INQUIRIES IN BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE (full year)

This foundational class will introduce a range of topics from life and physical sciences while emphasizing critical reading and thinking, the scientific method, and lab skills that are crucial for success in the required Biology I course. Students will complete a broad lab curriculum that covers aspects of measurement, data recording and processing, along with analysis of results and drawing conclusions. Topics studied will include cell biology, ecology, earth science, conceptual chemistry, chemical reactions, materials science, and conceptual physics.

The course is open to 9th grade students ONLY

BIOLOGY I (full year)

Required for any subsequent science course

A conceptual and lab-based survey of basic Biology with emphasis on the scientific method, biochemistry, cell structure and function, genetics, biotechnology, human systems, and evolution. Rather than focusing on a body of facts, the course uses broad themes and questions to guide student learning by drawing connections between the different aspects of Biology. Intentional development of study and laboratory skills is integral to the course.

AP BIOLOGY (full year)

Prerequisites: Biology I, Chemistry I or Honors Chemistry I, and qualification

This college-level survey course includes the study of cellular and molecular Biology, signal transduction, Biotechnology, Genetics, Evolution, diversity of living things, animal form and function, populations, and ecology equivalent to a two-semester introductory level Biology course. The course explores science as a process, uses personal experience in scientific inquiry, and applies biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns. The goal of the course is to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, application of mathematical routines, and connection of concepts in and across domains structured around four big ideas. Extended lab time is required, and students are expected to sit the AP Biology exam.

IB BIOLOGY SL (full year); IB BIOLOGY HL (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (full year)

Prerequisites: *Biology I, Chemistry I or Honors Chemistry I and qualification*

AP Environmental Science is a lab-based, college-level course designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies to understand the interrelatedness of the natural world. In addition, students are taught to identify, analyze, and evaluate environmental issues and their potential risks and solutions, and to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. Topics include energy flow and matter cycling in ecosystems, basic ecology, human population dynamics, resource use, energy issues, food/soil resources, water resources, biodiversity loss, air/water pollution detection and management, eutrophication, acid rain, ozone depletion, and climate change. Participation in a research-driven fall semester Saturday field trip within Charlotte, and a spring field trip to Charleston, is mandatory. Extended lab time is required, and it is expected that students will sit the AP Environmental Science exam. **The course is open to grades 10-12.**

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (first semester)

Prerequisite: *Biology I*

This semester course provides a survey of contemporary environmental issues, such as climate change, endangered species, food production, and others. Students learn about the underlying science behind these issues as well as explore different perspectives on them. The course draws from the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. Debate over issues takes place in class discussions and also on tests and lab reports. As a culmination to the course, teams of students will present on an issue of their choice and argue from different perspectives. **The course is open to grades 10-12.**

MARINE BIOLOGY (second semester)

Prerequisite: *Biology I*

This semester course is a survey of the basic concepts of Marine Biology. Topics include the interdependence of organisms to each other and to their environments, properties of water, the physical and chemical dynamics of marine environments, food webs and trophic dynamics, marine plants, marine invertebrates and vertebrates, adaptation of marine organisms, and a survey of selected marine ecosystems. Students study these topics through readings and discussions, hands-on activities, and labs. An overnight weekend trip to Charleston for data collection is expected of all students. **The course is open to grades 10-12.**

HUMAN ANATOMY: EXTERNAL STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS (first semester)

Prerequisite: *Biology I*

This semester course examines the structure and function of the human body. All the major organ systems of the body are introduced along with an in-depth study of the skeletal and muscular systems. Through various case studies, class activities, including an internal cat dissection of the muscles, the students can enhance their appreciation of these systems as each function both individually and collectively in the human body. With the basic knowledge of the body's structure and function, students also begin to understand the basic components involved in achieving wellness and optimum performance. Dissection is a mandatory requirement of this course. **The course is open to grades 10-12.**

HUMAN ANATOMY: INTERNAL STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS (second semester)

Prerequisite: *Biology I (required); Human Anatomy: External Structural Systems (recommended but not required)*

This semester course is offered to students who are interested in deeper study into the structure and function of the internal systems of the human body. Students will participate in lab activities, including an internal dissection of the cat, that are designed to further enhance their understanding and appreciation of how functions both individually and collectively in the human body. The systems covered are nervous, blood, cardiovascular, respiratory, and digestive. With the basic knowledge of the body's structure and function, students continue to understand the basic components involved in achieving wellness and optimum performance as well as integrating their knowledge of case studies. Furthermore, students will gain insights into the prevention, care, and treatment of a variety of medical conditions. Dissection is a mandatory requirement of this course. **The course is open to grades 10-12.**

II. Physical Sciences

CHEMISTRY I (full year)

Prerequisites: *Biology I and Algebra II or higher Math required concurrently*

This course is designed to develop a conceptual understanding of the physical and chemical properties of matter and energy and relies extensively on problem solving (including algebraic manipulation) and laboratory experiences. Concepts central to the course include atomic theory, the mole concept, chemical reactions and

reactivity, quantitative analysis of chemical changes, chemical bonding and the properties of substances, chemical kinetics and thermodynamics, and chemical equilibrium.

HONORS CHEMISTRY I (full year)

Prerequisites: Biology I, Algebra II or higher Math required concurrently; qualification based on current science and math grades

This course will cover the same topics as Chemistry I (in addition to Nuclear Chemistry) but in more depth and at a faster pace. An emphasis on problem-solving, analysis, and applications of concepts is stressed through homework, inquiry projects, and quantitative laboratory assignments. Development of investigative techniques and the ability to interpret results using math skills and laboratory experiments are integral parts of the curriculum.

AP CHEMISTRY (full year)

Prerequisites: Chemistry I or Honors Chemistry I and qualification; Pre-calculus or higher Math required concurrently

Through this college-level course, students will develop an in-depth understanding of topics which include the structure of matter and properties of matter, chemical reactions and stoichiometry, thermodynamics, chemical kinetics and equilibrium, the chemistry of acids and bases, fundamental quantum mechanics, periodicity, and chemical bonding and properties. Principles are extensively applied both through classroom demonstrations and laboratory work, allowing students to develop competency in the typical laboratory skills of a college course. This course should contribute to the development of the ability to think clearly and to express ideas with clarity and logic. Extended lab time is required. Students are expected to sit the AP Chemistry exam.

IB CHEMISTRY SL (full year); IB CHEMISTRY HL (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

PHYSICS I (full year)

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra III, or minimum Precalculus concurrently

This course stresses a conceptual understanding and application of the fundamental principles of Physics and emphasizes the illustration of those principles to mathematical problems and questions that are relevant to students' daily lives and interests. Topics studied include motion, forces, momentum, energy, waves and wave motion, sound, light and optics, and electricity and magnetism. The course is based on an inquiry through labs and mathematical application of topics.

HONORS PHYSICS I (full year)

Prerequisites: Qualification and Pre-calculus or higher Math required concurrently

Honors Physics provides a more analytical approach to the concepts studied in Physics I for the student who enjoys mathematical applications. This course includes laboratory activities, problem-solving exercises, and student projects.

AP PHYSICS C: MECHANICS and AP PHYSICS C: ELECTRICITY & MAGNETISM (full year)

Prerequisites: Physics I OR Honors Physics I, AB/IB Calculus or higher Math required concurrently, AND qualification

AP Physics is a second-year physics course for the student interested in preparing for the Level C Advanced Placement examinations in Mechanics and in Electricity and Magnetism. The course includes laboratory activities, problem-solving exercises, and independent student projects. Students are expected to sit the AP Physics exam.

ASTRONOMY: SOLAR SYSTEMS (second semester)

Prerequisite: Chemistry I/Honors Chemistry AND Algebra II (any level, previous or concurrent.)

This course is designed to introduce students to Astronomy and the extraordinary space beyond our atmosphere. Students gain basic knowledge of the history and position of the constellations, celestial navigation, telescope design and function, electromagnetic radiation, the planets of our solar system, the Sun and the Moon, comets, meteors, and asteroids. Rather than a final exam, students complete a significant project. The course is **open to grades 11-12**.

FORENSIC SCIENCE: BIOCHEMICAL APPLICATIONS (first semester)

Prerequisite: Chemistry I/Honors Chemistry

This semester course offers an in-depth examination of the biochemical aspects of forensic science, focusing on the vital biological and biochemical methods used in criminal investigations. Students will explore key forensic disciplines, including general crime scene analysis, forensic pathology, forensic entomology, forensic anthropology, hair and fiber analysis, fingerprinting, and DNA profiling. Through practical laboratory exercises and case study analysis, students will develop proficiency in techniques such as DNA extraction, fingerprint analysis, and the examination of insect development and skeletal remains.

FORENSIC SCIENCE: PHYSICAL APPLICATIONS (second semester)

Prerequisite: *Chemistry I/Honors Chemistry*

This semester course is designed to engage students in the comprehensive exploration of the physical science-based aspects of forensic science, focusing on the scientific principles and techniques used to investigate criminal cases. Students will delve into key forensic disciplines, including the analysis of matter and glass properties, drug and toxicology testing, serology and bloodstain pattern analysis, fire and explosion investigations, and firearms and tool mark identification. Throughout the course, students will learn how to apply scientific methods and forensic techniques to solve real-world crimes. Hands-on laboratory experiences and case studies will provide students with practical skills in evidence collection, laboratory analysis, and the interpretation of physical evidence.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY (first semester)

Prerequisite: *AP Chemistry/IB Chemistry and qualification*

This semester course replicates a semester of undergraduate Organic Chemistry – the study of the chemistry of the element carbon. This rigorous course offers students a rare opportunity: to develop the skills needed to excel in the college course that is dreaded by so many. Topics included range over structure, reactivity and synthesis of organic molecules through to identification of organic compounds from spectra. There is a full synthetic lab component to the course and extensive molecular modeling, both hands-on and computerized. A synoptic exam of the concepts covered is taken at the end of the semester.

HONORS PRINCIPLES of ENGINEERING (first semester)

Prerequisite: *Physics I OR Honors Physics and qualification*

This Honors level course focuses on three major branches of Engineering: Structural Mechanics, Material Science, and Digital Electronics. Students will be introduced to the principles of particle and rigid body mechanics with engineering applications; force and momentum

(rotation) systems and resultants; equilibrium of particles and rigid bodies; material effects, and friction. Students will also learn about the behavior of materials based upon composition and therefore their applications; properties of concretes and metal alloys that will be crafted in the classroom setting; and basic principles of digital electronics based upon physical coding. Projects will include the construction of electronic devices from simple (digital keyboard) to complex (wirelessly controlled robotic hand); and the concept of using technology to “build something that actually does something.” **Open to grades 11-12.**

III. Science Research

PHYSICAL COMPUTATIONAL BIOCHEMISTRY (second semester)

Prerequisites: *Organic Chemistry or previous or concurrent AP Physics, AP Computer Science, AP Biology or IB HL Biology or HL Chemistry (CR/NC)*

In this course, students can extend their study of science into actual primary research. The research students will do in this course revolves around the folding of proteins and the constructing of dynamic physical models that show how they interact. Students with skills in Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Computer Science are especially needed to create 3D printed models that can be used to further our understanding of biochemistry. Small groups of students with weekly targets to solve problems will work towards the ultimate goal of developing an improved physical model. It is expected that students will keep track of their hours, present their progress at weekly group meetings and write a literature review and a final research paper in collaboration with their group. Students will work with professors around the country and may publish findings and/or present at conferences as the work progresses. Due to the unique nature of this course, there are no grades assigned, only transcript credit. Please see the group website: www.ccdsbiochem.com.

The Upper School History and Social Studies Department offers students a rigorous college preparatory curriculum rooted in further development of analytical writing, research skills, content comprehension and synthesis, document evaluation and analysis, and examination of globally diverse perspectives. In addition to the AP and the IB programs, students have access to a wide range of electives. In each of the three required years of history, students complete a research paper, engage in debate, and develop effective study tools and independent project skills.

I. Full Year Courses

9th GRADE HISTORY (full year)

This course introduces students to basic historical thinking through the in-depth study of several crucial themes in developing a basic foundation of American Government and American Capitalism. The class will explore multiple forms of government and why a Democratic Republic ended up being selected. We will also look at the development and implementation of the Constitution from its creation and the debates over what and who it included/excluded and how it changed over time to serve the citizens of the US. Our exploration will include looking at primary and secondary resources as they pertain to the subject matter, US Supreme Court cases and their decisions as well as a look at the political, social and cultural events that shaped the evolution of the American system. The second half of the class will look at the development of the economic systems in the US. We will explore the creation of a market system on a macro and micro level. The class will also explore the intertwined nature of government and economic systems through the development of the US. The class will also include a focus on the foundations of research and developing a research thesis and paper.

MODERN WORLD HISTORY (full year)

Modern World History (or Honors Modern World History) is required for all 10th graders. The course focuses on the emergence of the modern world, from the 1500s to modern times. It considers the revolutionary upheavals of the eighteenth century, the rapid political and economic change of the nineteenth century, the emergence of totalitarian ideologies and regimes in the twentieth century, and the subsequent strivings of peoples of the world for self-determination. The course emphasizes the refining of skills developed in 9th Grade History, including the use of primary, secondary, and artistic sources. Satisfactory completion of a research project is required.

HONORS MODERN WORLD HISTORY (full year)

Prerequisite: 9th Grade History and qualification

The Honors Modern World History course examines modern world history through thematic and artistic lenses and provides students desiring a greater challenge in history with a broader exposure to primary sources and increased frequency and depth of expectation in written work and volume of reading.

IB WORLD HISTORY SL (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

UNITED STATES HISTORY (full year)

United States History is a topical study of American history from Indo-European contact through the present day. By examining the political, cultural and intellectual foundations of American civilization, students continue to apply the question-asking, writing and research skills learned during the previous two years. Topics include the America's colonial foundations, the causes and consequences of the American Revolution and the Civil War, the growth of American Industry, and the role of the United States in the twentieth century world. Satisfactory completion of a major research paper is required.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY (full year)

Prerequisite: Modern World/ Modern World Honors and grade qualification

This advanced survey of United States history (1600-present) asks students to examine the origins and development of the United States through reading, discussion, writing, and research. Special attention is paid to the intellectual, cultural, and political development of the United States as well as to the basics of historical thinking. The reading and writing load for this course is

substantial. Students are expected to sit the AP US History exam.

AP PSYCHOLOGY (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on grades in the previous yearlong English, History, or AP Biology grades

This advanced survey of introductory psychology familiarizes students with the basic concepts in the scientific study of human behavior. Particular emphasis is placed on the most current neurobiological findings as well as the important roles of learning, memory, and consciousness in psychological processes. Students are expected to sit the AP Psychology exam. **Open to grades 11-12, with preference given to seniors.**

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on grades in the previous yearlong history course

This advanced course introduces students to the study of patterns and processes that impact the way humans understand, use, and change their surroundings. Students use geographic models, methods, and tools to examine human organization (social, political, and economic) and its global and regional effects. Students learn to use maps and various types of data (demographic, economic, political, etc.) to examine spatial patterns and analyze the ever-changing interactions among people and places. Students are expected to sit the AP Human Geography exam. **Open to grades 10-12, with preference given to upperclassmen.**

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on grades in the previous yearlong history course

This advanced course is a college-level survey of European History from 1400-2008 offered to students demonstrating interest and skill, writing and analysis. The topics covered represent a chronological survey of major political, economic, social, diplomatic, military, and religious themes with added focus on philosophical developments, social movements, and cross-cultural comparisons. Writing will focus on document analysis, historiography, and critical thinking skills in preparation for the AP European History exam. Students are expected to sit the AP European History Exam. **Open to grades 11-12, with preference given to seniors.**

AP US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on grades in the previous yearlong history course

This advanced course examines fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study processes, institutions,

and outcomes of politics in a variety of settings. Students learn to analyze and compare data on political structures around the globe. Special emphasis is given to the processes and institutions of the United States government, implementation of public policies, and key figures in charge of making and implementing policies in the United States. The course prepares students for the Advanced Placement US Government exam. **Open to grades 11-12, with preference given to seniors.**

IB HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS HL (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

IB INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY SL (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on grades in History, concurrent enrollment in Precalculus or higher math or enrollment in IB program

The Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) course is the study and evaluation of the impact of information technology on individuals and society. It explores the advantages and disadvantages of the access and use of digitized information at the local and global level. ITGS provides a framework for students to make informed judgments and decisions about the use of IT within social contexts. This course fulfills the requirements of IB ITGS SL. **This course is also open to both IB and non-IB students in grades 11-12.**

IB PSYCHOLOGY SL (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

II. Semester Electives

ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY & BEHAVIOR (first semester, repeats second semester)

This course ventures into the facets of adolescent psychology and behavior, with a particular focus on understanding and addressing the mental health challenges that adolescents face in today's world. Adolescence is a critical developmental period marked by significant physical, cognitive, emotional, and social changes. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the unique challenges and opportunities of this transitional period. Through relevant topics and perspectives, students will be involved in discussions of various psychosocial factors that influence adolescent mental health, including family dynamics, peer relationships, cultural influences, media exposure, and societal pressures. Students will learn about protective factors, such as supportive relationships, self-esteem, problem-solving skills, and emotional regulation techniques. This course will also examine preventive measures and intervention strategies aimed at promoting mental health and addressing mental health concerns in adolescents. **Open to grades 11-12.**

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY: FROM SLAVERY TO CIVIL RIGHTS (first Semester)

This semester course will explore major themes in African American history beginning with a discussion of slavery in Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. The course will also cover topics including abolition, the Civil War, migration, the Harlem Renaissance, the Civil Rights Movement, and early 21st century events that pertain to African Americans living in the United States and internationally. **Open to grades 11-12.**

ANCIENT EMPIRES (first semester, repeats second semester)

The purpose of this course is to explore the origins, evolution, and varieties of ancient civilizations from their origins c. 3000 BCE, ending the course around 1000 CE. This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the fascinating histories, cultures, and achievements of ancient civilizations, but this does not mean they do not represent key aspects of our present culture. We will explore aspects of our “modern” world that have origins in the “ancient” such as: government, religion, economy, science, and art. The prime focus of this course will not be on the names and dates of dynasties, kings, rulers, battles etc. (though discussed in the context of the course) but rather on expanding student’s worldview concerning the nature of civilizations, its failures and successes, their comparisons, and as a lens to interpret our modern world. Throughout the course, students will engage with primary sources, archaeological findings, and scholarly interpretations to develop critical thinking and analytical skills. By the end of the course, participants will have a nuanced understanding of the interconnectedness of these ancient civilizations and their enduring impact on the modern world. **Open to grades 11-12.**

EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (second semester)

The goal of this course is for students to undertake critical analysis of several forms of social oppression and their operating worldview and to be able to examine alternative ways of understanding the world and social relations. This class includes both an interdisciplinary subject matter that analyzes multiple forms of oppression and a set of interactive, experiential pedagogical principles that help students understand the meaning of social difference and oppression in their personal lives and the social system. **Open to grades 11-12.**

It is the belief of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages that the acquisition of languages prepares our students to function in a global community by providing an appreciation of cultural differences and similarities, enhancing life opportunities and increasing cognitive skills and literacy. Students should continue the study of one or more languages until an appropriate level of proficiency is achieved, taking into consideration individual learning styles and longevity in the language program.

Please note that based on enrollment numbers, courses may function as mixed-level classes (for example, honors and non-honors, or Levels IV and V in the same class). These groupings vary from year to year.

I-a. Modern Languages: Chinese

HONORS CHINESE I (full year)

This course infuses the study of simplified Mandarin with Chinese culture. Students will begin to read, write, speak, and understand spoken Mandarin, while studying Chinese philosophy, poetry, festivals, and art. Activities including excursions to local markets and restaurants, cooking, origami, calligraphy, and more!

HONORS CHINESE II (full year)

This course builds on the linguistic and cultural foundations developed in Honors Chinese language and Culture I. Students will further develop their Chinese language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, while continuing to explore Chinese culture.

CHINESE II (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on Chinese level I performance

This course will meet at the same time as Honors Chinese II, but is available to those students who did not meet the threshold for an honors placement at the end of Honors Chinese I. While still rigorous, the demands of the course

will be somewhat less while still developing skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, while continuing to explore Chinese culture.

HONORS CHINESE III (full year)

This course builds on the linguistic and cultural foundations developed in Honors Chinese language and Culture II. Students will further develop their Chinese language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, while continuing to explore Chinese culture.

HONORS CHINESE IV (full year)

This course builds on the linguistic and cultural foundations developed in Honors Chinese language and Culture III. Students will further develop their Chinese language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, while continuing to explore Chinese culture.

HONORS CHINESE V (full year)

This course builds on the linguistic and cultural foundations developed in Honors Chinese language and Culture IV. Students will further develop their Chinese language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, while continuing to explore Chinese culture.

IB CHINESE (full year)

In this capstone course, students develop the ability to communicate in Chinese Mandarin through the study of language, themes, and texts. In doing so, they also develop conceptual understandings of how language works. Communication is evidenced through receptive, productive, and interactive skills across a range of contexts and purposes that are appropriate to the level of the course. IB ab initio Chinese Mandarin is organized into five prescribed themes: identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization and sharing the planet. The class will be conducted entirely in Chinese Mandarin.

I-b. Modern Languages: French

FRENCH I (full year)

This course is an introduction to the Francophone cultures and the basic structure of the French language. Fundamental skills including speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Understanding and building a good vocabulary are strongly emphasized through games, dialogues, skits, and projects. The class is conducted predominantly in French.

FRENCH II (full year)

This course continues to build on the knowledge of French language and francophone cultures studied in French I. Students are introduced to new grammar and vocabulary concepts, working to communicate in simple and complex sentences. Students continue to develop all their language skills and work to grow their French language proficiency from the novice to the intermediate level. The class is conducted predominantly in French.

HONORS FRENCH II (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on French level I performance

This course continues to build on the knowledge of French language and francophone cultures studied in French I. Working at an accelerated pace, students are introduced to new grammar and vocabulary concepts, working to communicate in simple and complex sentences. Students continue to develop all their language skills and work to grow their French language proficiency from the novice to the intermediate level. The class is conducted entirely in French.

FRENCH III (full year)

This course continues to build on the knowledge of French language and Francophone cultures studied in French II. Students are introduced to more complex grammar and vocabulary concepts, allowing them to narrate in different time frames while incorporating more advanced sentence structures. French language proficiency continues to develop at the intermediate level. The class is conducted in French.

HONORS FRENCH III (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on French level II performance

This accelerated course continues to build on the knowledge of French language and Francophone cultures acquired in French II Honors. Students are introduced to more complex grammar and vocabulary concepts, allowing them to narrate in different time frames while incorporating more advanced sentence structures. Students are introduced to authentic literature from Francophone countries. French language proficiency continues to develop at the intermediate level. The class is conducted entirely in French.

FRENCH IV (full year)

In this advanced course students continue to develop their understanding of French and Francophone cultures and focus on the practical application of their French language skills. Students use authentic materials as a springboard to enhance their conversational skills and understanding of Francophone cultures and current events. Daily, students are expected to engage in conversations, expand their vocabulary and practice their language skills. This course is conducted in French.

HONORS FRENCH IV (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on French level III performance

In this advanced course, students continue their study of authentic literature and other materials to enhance their French language skills and understanding of Francophone cultures and current events. Daily, students are expected to engage in conversations, expand their vocabulary and practice their French language skills. This course is conducted entirely in French.

FRENCH V (full year)

This course is designed to be a bridge between a grammar/vocabulary-based course and a university-level conversation class. Students continue to practice listening, reading, writing, and speaking in French. Students use authentic materials as a springboard to enhance their conversational skills and understanding of Francophone cultures and current events. French grammar is reviewed as needed, and the class is conducted entirely in French.

AP FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on Honors French level IV performance

This program of advanced reading, composition, speaking and vocabulary building provides preparation for the Advanced Placement French Language and Culture Examination. The core themes of AP (family/community, science/technology, beauty/aesthetics, contemporary life, global issues, personal/public identity) are addressed throughout the year. Students are expected to express themselves in French, both written and spoken, in a variety of contexts and modes including presentational, interpersonal, formal and informal. The class is conducted entirely in French.

IB FRENCH HIGHER LEVEL (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on Honors French level IV performance AND enrollment in the IB Program

At the Higher Level, students are expected to extend the range and complexity of the language they use and understand in order to communicate. They continue to develop their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, as well as their conceptual understanding of how language works, in order to construct, analyze and evaluate arguments on a variety of topics relating to course content and the target language culture(s). Students will also engage with the text types and themes required for the IB examinations. This course is conducted entirely in French. Note: this course prepares students for the Higher Level IB assessments.

I-c. Modern Languages: Spanish

SPANISH I (full year)

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture, with emphasis on the basics of grammar and spoken Spanish. Students are expected to master essential verb structures and to express themselves both orally and in writing. The class is conducted predominantly in Spanish.

SPANISH II (full year)

This course is a continuation of the introduction to the language and culture begun in Spanish I. Students are introduced to most Spanish verb tenses in the indicative mood and grow their Spanish language proficiency through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The class is conducted predominantly in Spanish.

HONORS SPANISH II (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on Spanish level I performance

This course is a faster-paced study of Spanish II that emphasizes the four critical skills in second language learning of speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Students strengthen and expand conversational skills while developing their abilities to communicate and move from present to past to future in their speech, writing, and interpretation of the language. Students are introduced to the geography, music, and culture of Spanish speaking countries. The class is conducted in Spanish.

SPANISH III (full year)

This course is an extension of the skills covered in Spanish I and II with a curriculum designed to strengthen the language foundation of each student through the incorporation of new vocabulary and grammar. The course includes fluency-building activities; and the language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking are equally emphasized. The class is conducted predominantly in Spanish.

HONORS SPANISH III (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on Spanish level II performance

This course is an extension of the skills covered in Spanish I and II with a curriculum designed to strengthen and deepen the language foundation of each student through the incorporation of new vocabulary and grammar. The course includes extensive fluency-building activities; and the language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking are equally emphasized. The class moves at an accelerated pace and is conducted entirely in Spanish.

SPANISH IV (full year)

This course is a comprehensive review of Spanish grammar that places emphasis on improving composition and conversation skills while expanding vocabulary. Students will use authentic materials and task-based activities to practice communication through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The class includes reading and discussions on Hispanic civilization and tradition, emphasizing similarities and points of contrast with the North American culture. The class is conducted entirely in Spanish.

HONORS SPANISH IV (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on Spanish level III performance

This is an advanced course where students continue to develop and expand their awareness and general knowledge of the Hispanic and Latin American culture.

The class focuses on the practical application of every skill. It is the expectation of this course that students develop an understanding of advanced grammar skills and acquire beyond the required vocabulary. Work includes – but is not limited to – oral presentations and projects, the study of contemporary issues, periodicals, short stories, and movies. On a daily basis, students are expected to engage in speaking interactions, expand their own vocabulary, and practice their writing skills. This course is conducted entirely in Spanish.

SPANISH V (full year)

This is an advanced course where students continue to develop and expand their knowledge of Hispanic and Latin American cultures. The class focuses on the practical application of every skill. It is expected that students develop advanced grammar skills and move beyond the required vocabulary. Work includes – but is not limited to – oral presentations, projects, discussing contemporary issues, reading short stories, and studying Spanish films. Students will use authentic materials (newspapers, magazine articles, short stories, and films) as a springboard to enhance their conversational skills. This class is conducted entirely in Spanish. Note: this course also prepares IB students for the Standard Level assessments.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on Honors Spanish level IV performance

This course is a program of advanced reading, composition, speaking, and vocabulary building which provides preparation for the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Spanish language examinations. The core themes of AP (family/community, science/technology, beauty/aesthetics, contemporary life, global issues, personal/public identity) are addressed throughout the year. Students are expected to express themselves in Spanish, both written and spoken, in a variety of contexts and modes: presentational, interpersonal, formal and informal. The class is conducted entirely in Spanish.

IB SPANISH HIGHER LEVEL (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on Honors Spanish level IV performance AND enrollment in the IB Program

At the Higher Level, students are expected to extend the range and complexity of the language they use and understand in order to communicate. They continue to develop their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, as well as their conceptual understanding of how language works, in order to construct, analyze and evaluate arguments on a variety of topics relating to course

content and the target language culture(s). Students will also engage with the text types and themes required for the IB examinations. This course is conducted entirely in Spanish. Note: this course prepares students for the Higher Level IB assessments.

II. Classical Languages: Latin

Please note that based on enrollment numbers, courses may function as mixed level classes (for example, honors and non-honors level students in the same class). These groupings vary from year to year.

LATIN I (full year)

This course is an introduction to the basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of Latin. Students learn to manipulate the myriad inflections of Latin and become adept at reading edited original texts in Latin. Students are also introduced to the cultural contributions of the Roman Empire, particularly as they are reflected in our language and vocabulary.

LATIN II (full year)

This course is a continuation of Latin I with a more in-depth study of grammar and more lines of translation. Additional topics, such as history and culture, are also covered as time permits.

HONORS LATIN II (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on Latin level I performance

This course is a study of Latin II with a more in-depth study of grammar and more complex translation passages. Additional topics, such as history and culture, will also be covered as time permits.

Note: The Honors Latin II class schedule will be modified to meet face-to-face 3x/cycle. The modified schedule allows *all* Honors Latin II students, Double-Language (DL) & non-DL, to share in the classroom experience and supports the transition to more independent learning, which is essential in Honors Latin III. As this modification accommodates the scheduling needs of DL Latin students, the asynchronous Latin II DL9 class is no longer offered.

LATIN III (full year)

Latin III is a continuation of the study of advanced grammatical structures with a focus on Classical authors, including readings from Caesar, Catullus, Cicero, Vergil, Horace and Ovid. Students will begin to think critically about the texts as literature.

HONORS LATIN III (full year)

Prerequisite: *Qualification based on Latin level II performance*

Honors Latin III is a faster-paced study of advanced grammatical structures and a more in-depth exploration of the authors. Students will read authentic selections from Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*, Catullus, Cicero's various works, Vergil's *Aeneid*, Horace's *Carmina*, and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

LATIN IV (full year)

Prerequisite: *Latin III*

Students will read selections from Sallust, Martial, Catullus, Ovid, Cicero, Livy, Horace, and Vergil. Literary analysis and critical writing will be emphasized as the course progresses, as will the critical reading of and reaction to scholarly articles pertaining to the above topics. This course prepares students for the Standard Level Latin International Baccalaureate exam.

LATIN IV HONORS (full year)

Prerequisite: *Qualification based on Latin level III performance*

Students will read selections from Martial, Catullus, Ovid, Cicero, Livy, Horace, Sallust, and Vergil. Literary analysis and critical writing will be emphasized as the course progresses, as will the critical reading of and reaction to scholarly articles pertaining to the above topics. This course prepares students for the HL Latin IB exam.

LATIN V (full year)

Prerequisite: *Latin IV*

Students will read additional selections from Martial, Catullus, Ovid, Cicero, Livy, Horace, Sallust, and Vergil. Literary analysis and critical writing will be emphasized as the course progresses, as will the critical reading of and reaction to scholarly articles pertaining to the above

topics. Note: this course also prepares IB students for the Standard Level assessments.

AP LATIN (full year)

Prerequisite: *Latin IV Honors and qualification*

This course is a college level course which studies excerpts from Books I, IV, V, and VI of Caesar's *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, as well as excerpts from Books I, II, IV, and VI of Vergil's *Aeneid*. The students will also read those entire works in English. Emphasis is on literary analysis and critical writing.

IB LATIN (full year)

Prerequisite: *Latin IV or IV Honors and enrollment in the IB Program*

IB Latin is comprised of three main parts: study of language, study of literature, and the research dossier project. The main aim of the first part of the syllabus is to equip students with the language skills to read and understand Classical authors in the original Latin. For the second part of the syllabus, students are given experience of Classical literature through prescribed passages in the original language (Catullus, Horace, Ovid, Martial and Vergil). The research dossier offers students the opportunity to examine an aspect of Classical language, literature or civilization that is of particular interest to them. The student will compile annotated primary source materials relating to a topic in Roman history or culture. Note: this course prepares students for the Higher Level and Standard Level IB assessments.

International Baccalaureate

All languages are available at certain levels; please see the IB section of this course guide for more information.

The Fine Arts Department believes in the value of the arts as the physical manifestation of the human spirit. Our goal is to develop the creative capacity within students to think, invent, and express themselves. We strive to cultivate an enduring appreciation for and understanding of music, visual art, and drama. **By participating in the creative process, students discover and develop their individual and collective talents.**

I. Choral Music

CONCERT CHOIR (full year)

The Upper School's beginning choir welcomes all students in grades 9-12 who enjoy singing and making music with friends! There is no experience necessary for this ensemble. Students will learn to stand tall, raise their voice and support each other in their growth. Singers will discover the fundamentals of music, sight-reading and vocal pedagogy through the performance of a variety of music. Students must be able to match pitch by the beginning of the class. See instructor for approval. All are welcome in grades **9-12. Students may re-enroll in Concert Choir multiple semesters/ years or can move up to Chamber Choir after Concert Choir.**

HONORS CONCERT CHOIR (full year)

The Honors option for Concert Choir is offered to continuing choral students who demonstrate exceptional ability in their knowledge of music and in performance both in daily classroom work and in public performance. In addition to the requirements of Concert Choir, students choosing the Honors option must meet higher performance goals and broader, more rigorous expectations including fundamentals of music theory and music history. There may be additional opportunities to perform as representatives of the school community throughout the year. Details are available in the spring each year from the instructor. Honors students must

apply and successfully complete an audition each to be accepted into this program. **All are welcome in grades 9-12. Students may re-enroll in Honors Concert Choir multiple years.**

HONORS CHAMBER CHOIR (full year)

Prerequisites: one year of Upper School Concert Choir (or an equivalent) and by audition

The Honors Chamber Choir is Country Day's top vocal group. This elite choral ensemble performs a variety of challenging pieces for concerts within the school community, the greater Charlotte area, and the Southeast. Students are accepted into this choir after one year of Concert Choir and by audition. Building upon principles taught in the Concert Choir, students continue their study of the fundamentals of music, sight-reading, music theory, and vocal pedagogy. Additionally, Honors Chamber Choir students will engage in monthly coaching sessions with the director. **This choir is open to grades 10-12; students may re-enroll in Honors Chamber Choir multiple years with the approval of the director.**

II. Instrumental Music

SYMPHONIC BAND (full year)

Prerequisites: Participation in the MS Band program OR audition and permission of the instructor

This performing ensemble comprised of brass, winds, and percussion instruments is designed to develop the potential of the instrumental musician and to foster an appreciation of music. Students continue to develop their ensemble and musicianship skills through the preparation of music from the symphonic band literature for performance in concert twice during the school year. There may be additional opportunities to perform as representatives of the school community throughout the year. **Students may re-enroll in Symphonic Band multiple years.**

HONORS SYMPHONIC BAND (full year)

Prerequisites: Current enrollment in MS or US Symphonic (formerly Concert) Band; by audition

The Honors option for Band is offered to continuing band students who demonstrate exceptional ability in their knowledge of music and in performance both in daily classroom work and in public performance. In addition to the requirements of Symphonic Band, students choosing the Honors option must meet higher performance goals and broader, more rigorous expectations including

fundamentals of music theory and music history. There may be additional opportunities to perform as representatives of the school community throughout the year. Details are available in the spring each year from the instructor. Honors students must apply and successfully complete an audition each year in order to be accepted into this program. ***Students may re-enroll in Honors Symphonic Band multiple years.***

ORCHESTRA (full year)

***Prerequisites: Participation in the MS orchestra program
OR audition and permission of the instructor***

This performing ensemble includes violin, viola, cello, double bass, and piano and is designed to develop the potential of the instrumental musician to foster an appreciation of music. Students continue to develop their ensemble and musicianship skills through the preparation of music from the string orchestra and chamber music literature for performance in concert twice during the school year. There may be additional opportunities to perform as representatives of the school community throughout the year. ***Students may reenroll in Orchestra multiple years. Students wishing to play piano must successfully complete an audition with the instructor.***

HONORS ORCHESTRA (full year)

Prerequisites: Current enrollment in MS or US Honors Orchestra; by audition

This Honors option for orchestra is offered to students who demonstrate exceptional ability in their knowledge of music and in performance both in daily classroom work and in public performance. In addition to the requirements of Orchestra, students choosing the Honors option must meet higher performance goals and broader, more rigorous expectations including fundamentals of music theory and music history. Details are available in the spring each year from the instructor. Honors students must apply and successfully complete an audition each year to be accepted into this program. There may be additional opportunities to perform as representatives of the school community throughout the year. ***Students wishing to play piano must successfully complete an audition with the instructor.***

INTRODUCTION TO PIANO (first semester, repeats second semester)

Introduction to Piano is for the absolute beginner with no previous piano experience, or for those who wish to bring back skills they have lost from early childhood. This course includes the basic skills of reading music and understanding popular chord notation. Class time is divided between discussion and lecture portions, practice time at the piano, and performing for each other. A

portion of the class involves duet playing. ***Open to grades 9-12.***

SUPERSONIC: PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE (first semester, repeats second semester)

Do you like the awesome beats of Blue Man Group or STOMP? You will love this course as it focuses on performing music written specifically for the percussion ensemble. Students will learn notation and the techniques of all types of drums and percussion instruments, including traditional and non-traditional drumming. In addition, the class may construct instruments to be played within the group. No musical experience necessary. *This course may be repeated each semester for credit.* ***Open to grades 10-12.***

III. Music Theory & Production

AP MUSIC THEORY (full year)

Prerequisites: qualification based on performance in current music class and proficiency exam

The goal of AP Music Theory is to develop the students' ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music as heard or presented in a score. This goal is achieved by integrating aspects of melody, harmony, texture, rhythm, form, history, and style while engaging with listening and written exercises. A student's ability to read and write musical notation is fundamental to this course, and a student must possess basic performance skills in voice or on a musical instrument in order to be admitted. Students must also score well on an entrance exam, which includes a general knowledge of musical terminology, basic music theory, and sight-singing. ***Open to grades 10-12 after receiving approval from the instructor.***

IV. Theatre Arts

ACTING/DIRECTING I (first semester)

In this class, students dive into their imagination, emotion, and intellect. By making each actor aware of the universality of theatre, the tools of acting are enhanced, developed, and learned. It is the beginning of the actor's journey of exploration to uncover the creative vision of the playwright. In order to discover the "who, why, where, when, and how" of each character it is imperative the student actor understands the craft of acting. This course requires a disciplined approach to voice, speech, movement, and the actor's ability to use "self" (body, mind, and experience). *Note: Students who have taken*

Acting I may apply for the Directing I portion of this class by March 15th prior to enrollment. See qualification requirements for dates.

ACTING/DIRECTING II (second semester)

Prerequisites: *Acting/Directing I*

This more advanced acting class emphasizes the process of acting and directing. Actors will be introduced to a wide array of acting schools and approaches to a role and techniques, including Stanislavsky, Strasberg, Adler, Meisner, and the New School. However, the class activates processes so students discover their personal voices in the craft. Additionally, students explore scripts from all genres and look at the connection between written word, interpretation, and presentation. The class is run in workshop format where the concepts are put into practice. *Students who have taken Acting I may apply for the Directing II portion of this class by November 20th prior to enrollment. See qualification requirements. Open to grades 10-12.*

THEATRE WORKSHOP (second semester)

Prerequisites: *Completion of a Level 2 theater course and permission of the instructor.*

This class is designed for students who are looking for more advanced work in one of the following areas of theater: Acting, Directing, or Improv. Students will participate in a capstone project that incorporates all theatrical skills learned and practiced through advanced level classes. **Open to grades 10-12.**

IMPROVISATION I (first and second semester)

This course is designed to give students an in-depth look at the art of improvisation by learning how to give an unscripted response to an idea or situation. Students will gain inductive discovery, nonverbal communication, risk-taking, team building, critical thinking skills, and understand how to integrate improvisational thinking into their daily lives. While performing improvisation will be the focus of this course, students will also engage in their own sketch writing skills. Students will study both short form and long form improvisation while researching successful improvisational actors (such as Robin Williams, Steve Carell, Mindy Kaling, Amy Poehler and Eddie Murphy). Additionally, this class will explore historical aspects and current trends in improvisation and improvisation groups/art forms. Student assessment will be determined based on participation, class projects, daily activities, and presentations. **Open to grades 9-12.**

IMPROVISATION II (second semester)

Prerequisites: *Improvisation I*

This course is designed to give students an advanced exploration of the art of improvisation by learning how to

give an unscripted response to an idea or situation. Students will gain an in-depth discovery of understanding how to integrate improvisational skills into the creative process. While performing improvisation will be the focus of this course, students will also engage in forming an idea from quick thinking to a concrete, rehearsed format. Students will study both short form and long form improvisation while writing and performing sketches. Additionally, the class will explore historical aspects and current trends in acting and improvisation groups/art forms. Student assessment will be determined based on participation, research papers, daily activities, journals, and presentations. **Open to grades 9-12.**

IB THEATRE ARTS (SL- full year, HL- first semester)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

V. The Visual Arts

The Visual Arts curriculum at Country Day offers students an in-depth study of art principles and processes in several media. Students typically enter 2D Art, Sculpture, or Design at Level I. Students may explore a variety of Level I courses to fulfill their three-semester graduation requirement. However, many students progress through all three levels of a particular strand in preparation for an AP or IB Studio Art experience. Completion of Level III in any area and a successful portfolio evaluation are required for placement in an AP Studio Art class.

2D ART I (first semester, repeats second semester)

2D Art I introduces the basics of two-dimensional art production, artistic investigation, art criticism, and art history. Students explore printmaking, painting, drawing, and mixed media to learn how to creatively solve artistic problems around teacher-directed themes. Individual reflection and experimentation are encouraged as students build a base knowledge of the elements and principles of design. **Open to grades 9-12.**

2D ART II (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: *2D Art I*

2D Art II builds upon techniques and concepts introduced in 2D Art I. Students continue their investigation of drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed media to express personal ideas. Art criticism and art history are integral components to the course in order to help students evaluate and articulate their views on art. Students are encouraged to set individual goals and work with teachers to attain those goals. Creative problem-

solving and individual experimentation are encouraged. **Open to grades 9-12.**

2D ART III (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: 2D Art II

2D Art III builds upon the techniques and concepts of 2D Art II as students work toward building a portfolio of artwork. Advanced techniques in drawing, painting, and printmaking are introduced as students are encouraged to develop a personal voice through their art. Students learn about contemporary artists through gallery visits, research, reading, and reflection. Greater student independence is fostered as students select the subject matter, materials, and methods to develop their images. At this level, the students continue to build skills, work on compositional problems, and experiment with multiple media. **Open to grades 10-12.**

2D ART IV (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: 2D Art III

2D Art IV is intended for advanced students who wish to continue building technical skill and develop their own portfolio. Independent exploration of subject and media is critical to student success. **Students enrolling in level IV will be scheduled with another 2D Art class.**

DESIGN/ PHOTOGRAPHY I (first semester, repeats second semester)

Design I provides a foundation for photographic and digital media study in the Upper School. The course introduces digital photography and two-dimensional image manipulation on the computer. Students develop a working knowledge of computer-based design and aesthetic theories. This course emphasizes the study of the elements of art and principles of design, composition, color theory, art criticism, and art history. Individual problem solving and decision-making are emphasized throughout Design I. **Open to grades 9-12.**

DESIGN/ PHOTOGRAPHY II (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: Design I

Design II continues the study of digital media begun in Design I by building upon the student's technical skill and foundation of knowledge. Traditional black and white photographic processes are introduced in Design II. Art criticism and art history are integral components to the course to help students evaluate and articulate their views on art. Students are encouraged to set individual goals and work with the teacher to attain those goals. Creative problem solving and individual experimentation are encouraged. The student's work in Design II is more experimental and based on informed choices. **Open to grades 9-12.**

DESIGN/PHOTOGRAPHY III (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: Design II

Design III is intended for the serious design student who may wish to pursue AP Art in the junior or senior year. Students strengthen their computer and photographic image making skills learned in Design II and continue to pursue issues in art criticism and art history. Students work individually and in groups to solve realistic design problems such as the creation of logos, signs and symbols, products and videos. Students build a portfolio of artwork that shows experience with different media and techniques. Knowledge of design in relation to culture, history, other disciplines, and careers are encouraged through gallery visits, research, reading, and reflection. Students have the option to concentrate on computer generated work, camera/darkroom-based expression or a combination of the two. **Open to grades 10-12.**

DESIGN/PHOTOGRAPHY IV (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: Design III

Design IV is intended for advanced students who wish to continue building technical skill and develop their own portfolio. Independent exploration of subject and media is critical to student success. **Open to grades 10-12. Students enrolling in level IV will be scheduled with another Design class.**

SCULPTURE I (first semester, repeats second semester)

This course is designed to reinforce and build on knowledge and skills developed at the elementary and middle school levels. It is the foundation level for three-dimensional art throughout the Upper School. This course emphasizes the study of the elements of art and principles of design, color theory, vocabulary, art criticism, art history, machinery knowledge, and safety in the art room. The course is devoted to investigating various sculpture processes, procedures, theories, and historical developments. Students will explore a variety of three-dimensional media including glass, wire, plaster, wood, metal smithing, and clay. Students are provided a strong foundation in design, sculpture, and vocabulary in a teacher-structured environment. Problem-solving and decision-making are emphasized throughout Sculpture I. **Open to grades 9-12.**

SCULPTURE II (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: Sculpture I

Sculpture II builds upon the student's technical skill and foundation of knowledge developed in Sculpture I. Various fine crafts processes, procedures, and theories are presented in a problem-solving manner, which allows

for independent choices and personal solutions to problems. Students research three-dimensional art to gain an appreciation for art of the past and present. Students continue their study of the elements of art and principles of design, color theory, vocabulary, and art history while producing a variety of sculptural works. **Open to grades 9-12.**

SCULPTURE III (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: Sculpture II

Sculpture III presents students with an in-depth approach to the study of three-dimensional processes and techniques, aesthetic issues, art criticism, and art history. It is designed for the serious sculpture student who may wish to pursue AP Sculpture in their junior and senior year. The teacher will help students set goals and develop work habits similar to that of professionals. Knowledge of sculpture in relation to culture, history, other disciplines, and careers will be promoted through visual, verbal, and written means. Students are encouraged to develop a personal style and philosophy of three-dimensional art. In Sculpture III, students will begin to build a portfolio that focuses on technical quality, personal style, growth, and function. **Open to grades 10-12.**

SCULPTURE IV (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: Sculpture III

This class advances students who wish to continue building technical skill and develop their own portfolio. Independent exploration of subject and media is critical to student success. The teacher will help students set goals and develop work habits similar to that of professionals. Knowledge of sculpture in relation to culture, history, other disciplines, and careers will be promoted through visual, verbal, and written means. Students are encouraged to develop a personal style and philosophy of three-dimensional art. In Sculpture III, students will begin to build a portfolio that focuses on technical quality, personal style, growth, and function. **Open to grades 10-12. Students may re-enroll in multiple years.**

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: completion of 2D II, Design II, or Sculpture II

Architecture presents students with the foundational concepts and skills necessary for designing functional and aesthetic spaces. The course focuses on the principles of architectural design, including form, space, order, and precedents, with an emphasis on both historical and contemporary examples. Students will explore the process of creating architectural solutions, from conceptual design to physical modeling, while developing a deeper understanding of how built environments shape our daily experiences. **Open to grades 10-12.**

SPECIAL PROJECTS IN VISUAL ARTS (first semester, repeats second semester)

Prerequisites: Level IV Design, 2D Art, or Sculpture; approval of the teacher.

This semester-long class is designed for experienced, highly motivated, dedicated art students specializing in Design, 2D Art, 3D Art, or a combination therein. The class is for students who want to advance but do not wish to take AP or IB Art. Students should be motivated to work independently in and out of the classroom, as they will be responsible for selecting the subject matter, materials, and methods used to develop their ideas. The sketchbook is an integral part of the art-making process and a minimum of two hours per week (homework) is spent on sketchbook work. This includes recording and developing ideas; investigating and critically analyzing work; practicing drawing and design skills, etc. Students are expected to study Art History, aesthetics, and the artwork of other cultures and historical time periods as it relates to their own work. A complete sketchbook as well as a portfolio of finished work, archived digitally and collected in an actual portfolio, are due at the completion of the course. Students are expected to use different media, techniques and genres and to master at least one medium. **Open to grades 11-12.**

AP STUDIO: 2D ART (full year)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of level III or IV 2D Art courses, and portfolio evaluation

AP Studio is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. Students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year, which are composed of breadth and concentration sections. This course emphasizes making art as an ongoing process of informed and critical decision-making. AP students must be self-directed with the ability to produce works of art at an accelerated pace and with exceptional technical skill. Concentrations within the class may be on drawing or two-dimensional design. **Open to grades 11-12. This course may be repeated to explore new portfolios.**

IB Art (HL) (two years)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information. IB Art Portfolios are due in February of the sophomore year for admittance.

AP STUDIO: DESIGN/PHOTOGRAPHY (full year)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of level III or IV Design courses, and portfolio evaluation

AP Design is intended for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of digital and photographic arts. Students develop portfolios for

evaluation that are composed of breadth and concentration sections. This course emphasizes informed and critical decision-making. AP students must be self-directed with the ability to produce works of art at an accelerated pace and with exceptional technical skill.

Open to grades 11-12. This course may be repeated to explore new portfolios.

AP STUDIO: SCULPTURE (full year)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of level III or IV Sculpture course, and portfolio evaluation

AP Sculpture is designed for students who are interested in the practical experience of art. Students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year that include breadth and concentration sections. The AP portfolio is intended to address sculptural issues and purposeful decision-making utilizing the elements and principles of art in an integrative way. AP students must be self-directed with the ability to produce works of art at an accelerated pace and with exceptional technical skill. **Open to grades 11-12. This course may be repeated to explore new portfolios.**

AP ART HISTORY (full year)

Prerequisites: qualification based on grade of 85 or better in current history class grade

This course is designed to introduce students to significant works of art and architecture in both the European and Non-European tradition. The goal is to promote the understanding and enjoyment of art while developing students' abilities to examine works of art intelligently by acquainting them with the major forms of artistic expression historically and in their own time. Students examine and develop an appreciation of art from cave paintings to the twenty-first century in addition to the art of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. **Open to grades 11-12.**

YEARBOOK (full year)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval for grades 9 and 12

Students produce the school's yearbook, *The Postscript*, over the course of the first three quarters of the school year. The remaining quarter is spent planning the Spring edition for the following year. Student editors organize small groups to compile and complete sections of the yearbook, including senior ads, athletics, divisional highlights, student photos, clubs, and more. All students learn the essentials of page layout, photo and copy editing, and writing. Student photographers must be able to cover events during the day, after school, and on the weekends. Above all, meeting deadlines and teamwork are essential skills. **Open to grades 9-12. Note: rising seniors must have at least one year of yearbook or permission of the teacher to enroll.**

YEARBOOK EDITOR, HONORS (full year)

Prerequisite: Previous experience; Application and Instructor approval for grades 10 and 12

The Honors option for Yearbook is available to returning staff members who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the creation of *Postscript*. These students have shown strong organization, punctuality, and a commitment to preserving the school's history. In addition to the standard yearbook class requirements, the Honors option requires staff members to take on leadership roles as team leaders and/or editors, managing greater responsibilities, meeting more rigorous expectations, and consistently meeting deadlines. Work outside of class will be required to ensure the successful completion of the yearbook. All returning or former yearbook staff members are welcome to apply but must complete an application and be accepted in order to participate.

Technology & Computer Science courses promote technological and information literacy as well as critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills necessary for all individuals to compete in our ever-changing global economy. Courses enhance students' conceptual understanding, procedural knowledge, and problem-solving skills in technology, including its nature, impact, and social, ethical, and human aspects.

EXPLORING COMPUTER SCIENCE (second semester)

What is Computer Science? Most students believe computer science is learning how to write programs. While that, in part, is true, computer science is much more. *Exploring Computer Science* is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Have you ever wanted to write computer code? Have you ever wanted to learn more about computer game design? Students are introduced to topics such as programming in Python, web page design, problem solving and data analysis, societal and ethical issues in computing, and phone apps. **Open to grades 9-12.**

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE "A" (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on grades in Honors Pre-Calculus or higher math course OR ECS.

Students follow the College Board's Advanced Placement Computer Science syllabus, learning to program in the Java language. The major emphasis of the course is on problem-solving techniques, object-oriented solution methodologies, algorithms, and container classes. Students learn the context of these subjects through

applications of computing. Students are expected to sit the AP Computer Science exam. **Open to grades 10-12.**

ADVANCED TOPICS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE – Honors (first semester)

Prerequisites: AP Computer Science and project proposal

This course will be divided into two parts. The first four to six weeks of the class will be devoted to studying data structures in Java. Linked lists, stacks and queues will be discussed as a means to manage large amounts of data efficiently. The remainder of the course will be devoted to student inspired computer science projects. Each student project must be submitted to and approved by the instructor. The scope and depth of the project, tools/programming languages needed are to be determined by the student and will be monitored daily in class. Projects must be submitted for approval at the time of registration. Weekly goals will be set to gauge student progress. Final completed projects will be presented before the academic council in January. **Open to grades 11-12.**

Non-Departmental Credit Courses

Many students opt to take elective credits in the form of a second Science or Foreign Language class, or an additional class in the Fine Arts. Semester electives also exist in the Social Studies and English and Computer Science departments. Additional Non-Departmental offerings are listed below:

9th GRADE SEMINAR (full year, two days each cycle)

Required for all 9th grade students

This semester-long course is designed specifically for 9th graders and addresses various issues and developmental needs of young adolescents as they transition to the expectations of the Upper School. Topics include goal setting; time management; decision-making skills; media literacy; study skills; leadership; character and integrity; drug, alcohol and tobacco education; wellness; emotional well-being; stress management; bullying; harassment awareness; identity development; difference; and cooperation. The purpose of the course is to help students on their way to a healthy, productive Upper School career.

PODCASTING: AMPLIFY YOUR VOICE

not offered in the 2025-26 Academic Year

This course is a broad introduction to the exciting realm of podcasting—a way of telling a story through audio, using sound files, voice overs, recorded conversations, interviews, and effects woven into a narrative. We'll explore some pivotal moments and influential figures that shaped podcasting's history and explore various podcast genres and formats. Through hands-on exercises and practical demonstrations, you'll learn essential skills such as conceptualizing a show, scripting episodes, and mastering basic audio production techniques. By the end of the course, you'll have the opportunity and knowledge to plan, produce, and launch your very own podcast, ready to make your mark in the ever-expanding podosphere.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION (first semester, repeats second semester)

The primary purpose behind this class is to give students the opportunity to be comfortable in front of an audience. In addition to gaining confidence to speak to anyone, students become proficient in gathering and organizing content for a variety of different categories of speeches. Students learn the importance of active listening, in-person and online interviews, nonverbal and verbal communication, constructive criticism, as well as knowing and growing their audience as they enter the professional world.

STRENGTH TRAINING

Successful completion of this course qualifies as one of the two co-curricular credits needed each year

This course is suitable for all levels (beginner through advanced), athletes and non-athletes. Students will learn proper weightlifting techniques, functional movement patterns and the principles of strength development. The course will cover topics such as nutrition, injury prevention, regeneration and goal setting for performance. Training will include a combination of resistance training, power development, speed development and mobility exercises. *Please note that for in-season student-athletes, workout completion during Strength Training course will fulfill their afterschool training requirements.*

International Baccalaureate Program

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is a 2-year course of study for students in 11th and 12th grades. Students in the IB Diploma Program gain rigorous and balanced academic preparation, an ability to draw on knowledge and understanding of various cultures and histories, and the experience of learning how to think critically and apply what they have learned across disciplines.

The IB Diploma Program consists of the IB core curriculum and six distinct “groups of study,” listed below. At least three but no more than four will be at the higher level (HL) and the remainder will be at the standard level (SL). Course selection within IB is based on student interest, availability, and prerequisites. In most cases, IB students are in dedicated IB classes, listed below; in certain disciplines, students continue in the regular departmental offerings.

There are no required “pre-IB” courses at Country Day but completing some advanced/Honors level courses during 9th and 10th grades is recommended. Interested students apply to the IB program during February of the 10th grade year.

Please see the IB page on BucsNet and/or consult the IB Coordinator for further information.

The IB Core Curriculum:

The following items form the “core” of the IB experience and are required for all IB students:

IB THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (full year course)

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the IB Program

In this junior year course, IB students strive to develop their critical awareness of what they and others know and value. Students analyze “personal knowledge” and “shared knowledge,” observing the overlap and exchange between these categories. Students learn to ask and to answer “knowledge questions” and use “the knowledge framework” to explore eight “ways of knowing” and eight “areas of knowledge.” Students are evaluated through class activities and discussion, textbook and parallel reading, oral presentations, regular informal journals, and online writing. Enrollment in the IB program is required.

EXTENDED ESSAY

The extended essay is an in-depth study of a topic that culminates in a major research paper. Students choose their research topic from a wide variety of disciplines and choose a faculty mentor for guidance throughout the essay-writing process. The extended essay is completed during the junior year (as part of Theory of Knowledge) and submitted to IB during the senior year as part of the IB diploma requirements.

CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY & SERVICE (CAS)

CAS is designed to be an opportunity for students to be involved in learning experiences that occur outside of the classroom. Working with the CAS Coordinators, students choose experiences that involve goal setting, personal growth, and reflection in the three general areas of creativity, physical activity, and service learning. Students maintain a digital notebook to log experiences and discuss and reflect on their learning outcomes. All IB students are expected to be regularly involved in and reflecting upon CAS throughout their time in the IB program.

Group I: Language & Literature

IB ENGLISH 11 HL (full year)

Prerequisite: enrollment in the IB program

Required for all IB juniors, IB English 11 builds on skills acquired in English 10 by expanding students' experience with a broad range of genres, periods, and styles in literature, including world literature texts in translation. IB literature studies aim for students to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and presenting, along with skills in interpretation, analysis, and evaluation of literature in context and related to global issues. Ultimately, students aim to communicate and collaborate in confident and creative ways. The junior course typically includes the IB "Written Assignment" essay. Like their peers in other 11th-grade English courses, IB students complete an autobiography.

IB ENGLISH 12 HL (full year)

Prerequisite: IB English 11, enrollment in the IB program

Required for all IB seniors, IB English 12 builds on and extends beyond the work begun in IB English 11, with a continued focus on fulfilling the course aims and preparing students for official IB assessments: the Individual Oral passage analysis and the end-of-year IB written exams. Over the two years of IB English, students typically study texts by authors such as Adichie, Allende, Atwood, Butler, Fitzgerald, García Márquez, Heaney, Ibsen, Larsen, Orange, Morrison, Shakespeare, Shelley, Spiegelman, Szymborska, and Walls. This course fulfills the requirements of IB Language A: Literature HL.

II. Group 2: Language Acquisition

IB Languages study occurs at three possible levels. "*Ab initio*" is the most basic level and intended for students beginning a new language. *Standard level (SL)* is for students with multiple years of experience with the language. *Higher level (HL)* is for high-performing students with multiple years of experience. Students in the IB program move within the language curriculum at the appropriate level of language proficiency. For any AP or Honors course, IB students must qualify like any other Country Day student.

The chart below describes which courses students should attain in their junior and senior years to be best prepared for IB assessments at a particular level. However, there is some flexibility and students may be allowed to take alternate courses with permission from the teacher and IB coordinator.

IB Language of Choice and Minimum Level		11 th grade course	12 th grade course
LATIN	<i>ab initio</i>	(not available)	(not available)
	Standard Level (SL)	Honors <u>or</u> regular Latin IV	IB Latin
	Higher Level (HL)	Honors Latin IV	IB Latin
CHINESE	<i>ab initio</i>	Honors Chinese III	IB Chinese
	Standard Level (SL)	(not available)	(not available)
	Higher Level (HL)	(not available)	(not available)
FRENCH	<i>ab initio</i>	French I	Honors French II
	Standard Level (SL)	Honors French IV, French IV, <u>or</u> Honors French III	French V <u>or</u> Honors French IV
	Higher Level (HL)	Honors French IV	IB French HL
SPANISH	<i>ab initio</i>	Spanish I	Honors Spanish II
	Standard Level (SL)	Hon Spanish IV, Spanish IV, <u>or</u> Honors Spanish III	Spanish V <u>or</u> Honors Spanish IV
	Higher Level (HL)	Honors Spanish IV	IB Spanish HL

III. Group 3: Individuals & Societies

IB WORLD HISTORY SL (full year)

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the IB Program

Required for all IB juniors, this course focuses on in-depth study of selected World History topics. These topics may include the US Civil Rights movement, South African apartheid, industrialization from 1750-2005, and the Cold War. Through examination of these topics, students develop greater international mindedness, engage with and evaluate primary sources, and continue to develop their ability to write effectively in History. Major assessments are writing intensive and include the IB historical investigation. At the completion of this course, students either take the IB History SL exam or continue to IB History of the Americas as an HL history candidate. This course fulfills the requirements of IB History SL.

IB HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS HL (full year)

Prerequisite: IB World History

This course emphasizes several topics in United States history, but also integrates topics emphasizing the experiences of other nations and peoples in the Americas. The reading and evaluation of primary sources is central to this course, and students will learn how to evaluate and frame historical arguments. This course fulfills the requirements for IB History HL. **Please note: IB seniors who choose not to complete this HL history class must enroll in a standard or AP US History class in the senior year in order to fulfill the Country Day graduation requirement.**

IB PSYCHOLOGY SL (full year) – Available as a Group 6 Elective

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the IB Program

An introductory course on the scientific study of human behavior, with some reference to animal studies. This course focuses on three levels of analysis in psychology: the biological, the cognitive, and the sociocultural. Additionally, students are introduced to mental disorders and their treatment as they relate to these three levels. Several weeks in the second semester are spent conducting a replication of a published experiment in psychology. There is a focus on specific examples of primary research throughout the course.

IB INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY SL (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on grades in History, concurrent enrollment in Precalculus or higher math or enrollment in IB program

The Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) course is the study and evaluation of the impact of information technology on individuals and society. It explores the advantages and disadvantages of the access and use of digitized information at the local and global level. ITGS provides a framework for students to make informed judgments and decisions about the use of IT within social contexts. This course fulfills the requirements of IB ITGS SL. **This course is also open to both IB and non-IB students in grades 11-12.**

IV. Group 4: Sciences

IB BIOLOGY SL (full year)

Prerequisites: Chemistry I/Honors Chemistry, enrollment in the IB program

IB students who wish to study biology as a Standard Level (SL) course take IB Biology during the junior or senior year. This course covers the core curriculum topics: biochemistry, cellular processes, genetics, biotechnology, evolution, ecology, and human physiology. Students perform a minimum of 40 hours of lab activities, some of which occur outside of class.

IB BIOLOGY HL (full year)

Prerequisites: IB Biology SL, enrollment in the IB program

IB students who wish to study biology as a Higher Level course will take IB Biology SL during the junior year and an additional two semesters of biology during senior year. The core topics from junior year are covered in greater depth and additional topics (such as other human systems and plant biology) are introduced. Students also complete an additional 20 hours of lab work, some of which occur outside of class.

IB CHEMISTRY SL (full year)

Prerequisites: Chemistry I/Honors Chemistry, enrollment in the IB program

IB students who wish to study chemistry as a Standard Level course take IB Chemistry during their junior or senior year. The course covers the core curriculum topics: stoichiometry, atomic theory, periodicity, bonding, states of matter, energetics, kinetics, equilibrium, REDOX reactions, and organic chemistry. Emphasis is placed upon deep understanding of chemical concepts and the application of these concepts to novel situations. Assessments are of the IB style, using IB questions and grading schemes. Students perform a minimum of 40 hours of laboratory activities, some of which occur outside of class.

IB CHEMISTRY HL (full year)

Prerequisites: IB Chemistry SL, enrollment in the IB program

IB students who wish to study chemistry as a Higher Level course will take IB Chemistry SL during the junior year and an additional two semesters of chemistry during senior year. The core topics from junior year are covered in greater depth. Students also complete an additional 20 hours of lab work, some which occur outside of class.

V. Group 5: Mathematics

In general, eleventh grade students in the IB diploma program follow within the math course curriculum for their area of study at the honors or regular level. In the 12th grade, they choose one of the following options. It is possible for accelerated math students to complete an IB course in 11th grade, but they must enroll in an AP math course during 12th grade to meet graduation requirements. Please note carefully the pre-requisites or co-requisites for each.

IB APPLICATIONS SL (full year)

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the IB program, completion of Precalculus

This course recognizes the increasing role that mathematics and technology play in a diverse range of fields in a data-rich world. As such, it emphasizes the meaning of mathematics in context by focusing on topics that are often used as applications or in mathematical modelling. To give this understanding a firm base, this course also includes topics that are traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course such as calculus and statistics. In addition, students will complete a research paper investigating an area of mathematics commensurate with the level of the course.

IB ANALYSIS SL (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualifying grade average from Honors Precalculus or Honors Algebra 2/Precalculus

This course recognizes the need for analytical expertise in a world where innovation is increasingly dependent on a deep understanding of mathematics. This course includes topics that are both traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course (for example, functions, trigonometry, calculus) as well as topics that are amenable to investigation, conjecture and proof, for instance the study of sequences and series. In addition, students will complete a research paper investigating an

area of mathematics commensurate with the level of the course.

IB ANALYSIS HL (full year)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP BC Calculus

Designed for motivated high school students who have successfully completed AP Calculus BC and are eager to delve deeper into advanced mathematical principles, this course follows an integrated approach to university-level mathematics curriculum. Topics include three-dimensional space, vectors, calculus-based statistics, and differential equations. Additionally, students must formulate and justify sound mathematical arguments as they complete mathematical investigations, make conjectures, and construct formal proofs. In order to prepare students for pursuing STEM-related fields in college and beyond, this course will develop students' ability to reason abstractly, communicate precisely, and approach problems with patience and tenacity. Students will complete a research paper investigating and applying an area of mathematics commensurate with the level of the course. Interested seniors may elect to take the IB Analysis and Approaches HL examinations at the conclusion of the course. **Prerequisite:** AP Calculus BC.

Group 6 offerings may be found on the following page.

VI. Group 6: Fine Arts OR Other Elective

Offerings for the sixth subject area of IB at Charlotte Country Day School include the following:

Category	Course	Semester commitment
Fine Arts	IB Art	4 semesters (HL only)
Fine Arts	IB Theatre	2 semesters (SL) or 3 semesters (HL)
Elective Social Studies	IB Psychology	2 semesters (SL only)
Additional language	Spanish, French, Latin, Chinese	4 semesters (SL or HL)
Additional science	IB Chemistry SL or IB Biology SL	2 semesters (SL only)

IB ART I (SL, HL) (full year)

Prerequisite: Completion of level III in any Visual Art course, submission of a portfolio, and enrollment in the IB program

This IB Visual Arts course is a two-year creative, practice-based course. Students work in the classroom as they would in an art studio and are encouraged to engage, transform and emerge as young artists. Art-making as inquiry is at the center of the syllabus. Students will develop their own personal inquiries and generative statements. Through the creative process of making their art, students explore connections between their works created and the connections to other artists who are working in the same theme or mediums of their interest. At the end of their second-year students will complete the program with an Art-making inquiries portfolio and resolved works that will fulfill SL and HL requirements.

IB ART II (SL, HL) (full year)

Prerequisites: IB Art I

This course continues the work started in IB Art I and culminates with an exhibit of student work.

IB MUSIC I (SL) (full year) (not offered 2025-26)

Prerequisite: Honors ensemble audition and enrollment in the IB program

This IB course is the first of a two-year program designed to meet the requirements of IB Music Standard Level. Over the two-year program, students will study music as researchers, creators, and performers while being simultaneously enrolled in a performing ensemble (band, orchestra, or choir). Students will develop their personal knowledge as a musician while learning to collaborate and partner with others through the exploration of diverse musical material. Students will learn about musical context and perception by listening to a wide range of music from different parts of the world. Through the study of varied musical cultures and time periods, students will develop an understanding of musical elements, including

notation, terminology, context, form, and structure. Students will explore the connection of musical processes while creating and performing music and maintaining a portfolio of their work.

IB MUSIC II (SL) (full year) (not offered 2025-26)

Prerequisites: IB Art I

This course continues the work started in IB Music I and culminates with the completion of all three major IB assessments for IB Music Standard Level.

IB THEATRE ARTS SL (full year)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of at least one Upper School theatre class and production

IB Theatre Arts gives students the opportunity to actively engage in theatre as creators, designers, directors, and performers. Through researching, creating, preparing, presenting and critically reflecting on theatre, students gain a richer understanding of themselves, their community and the world. They learn about theatre from around the world, the importance of making theatre with integrity, and the impact that theatre can have on the world. It enables them to discover and engage with different forms of theatre across time, place and culture, promoting international-mindedness and an appreciation of the diversity of theatre. Major assessments will include an original solo theatre piece, a formal presentation on a theatre tradition, and creation and performance of an original and collaborative theatre piece. Students will also participate in at least one of the extracurricular CCDS productions. Students in IB Theatre Arts will be scheduled within existing theatre classes to be determined between the student and the IB coordinator. This course fulfills the requirements of IB Theatre Standard Level.

IB THEATRE ARTS HL (fall semester only)

Prerequisites: IB Theater Arts SL

This course builds upon the work completed in IB Theater Arts SL. In addition to that work, HL IB Theater Arts students will study theory and create an original solo

piece based on their research. Involvement in the fall one-act plays is required.

Other Group 6 elective offerings include the following (see Groups 3 & 4 for full descriptions):

IB PSYCHOLOGY SL (full year)

IB CHEMISTRY SL (full year)

IB BIOLOGY SL (full year)

Physical Education Offerings

The Country Day Physical Education program encourages students to experience the benefits and enjoyment of physical activity and to discover the value of personal wellness as part of daily living. An outcome of the program should be that students begin to make responsible and thoughtful decisions relative to their personal health habits and practices in high school, college and throughout their lives.

SCHEDULED CLASS OPTIONS

STRENGTH TRAINING

Successful completion of this course qualifies as one of the two co-curricular credits needed each year

This course is suitable for all levels (beginner through advanced), athletes and non-athletes. Students will learn proper weightlifting techniques, functional movement

patterns and the principles of strength development. The course will cover topics such as nutrition, injury prevention, regeneration and goal setting for performance. Training will include a combination of resistance training, power development, speed development and mobility exercises. *Please note that for in-season student-athletes, workout completion during Strength Training course will fulfill their afterschool training requirements.*

AFTER SCHOOL OPTIONS

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Students of all levels are welcome to play Ultimate Frisbee. The team practices three days a week with a focus on learning the basics of the game. The program's goals include learning throwing techniques, proper defense, motion offense, and other game strategies. The team has several scrimmages against local teams during the winter term. Credit is based on regular attendance of practices and games.

Off-Campus and Summer Academic Opportunities

Upper School students have opportunities to travel and study off campus and abroad, either through Country Day sponsored programs or affiliate programs, such as School Year Abroad, Alzar, and Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki. Students who have interest in other semester-away opportunities not listed below are free to pursue those as well. Country Day awards graduation credit as able for work with most accredited programs, however the Country Day GPA is not impacted by courses completed outside of Country Day.

Sister School Exchanges, Study Trips, and Cultural and Academic Experiences

The International Studies office administers Sister School exchanges, study trips, and Cultural and Academic experiences. Upper School students travel and, depending upon the experience, spend some time at schools for approximately two weeks (usually in June). Faculty-led experiences abroad take place during school breaks during the academic year and the summer. Exchanges, study trips, and Cultural and Academic experiences vary from year to year, based on program developments by the Office of International Studies in collaboration with the Upper School Office and Department Chairs.

School Year Abroad

Offering a high school semester or year in France, Italy, or Spain, this program is the only secondary-level program that allows students to live with a host family while earning Upper School graduation credits and preparing for selective United States colleges and universities. Founded in 1965 and sponsored by three New England boarding schools (Phillips Academy, Phillips Exeter Academy, and St. Paul's School), School Year Abroad (SYA) operates its own schools in Rennes, France, in Zaragoza, Spain, and in Viterbo, Italy. SYA's program includes a nine

month home-stay with courses taught exclusively in the native language plus American core courses taught by faculty from the sponsoring schools.

[High School Study Abroad Programs | Year & Semester | France | Italy | Spain \(sya.org\)](#)

Alzar

Splitting time between Patagonia and Idaho, this semester-long program is a favorite among those who enjoy the outdoors. Students are involved in experiential learning, including time spent immersed in Chilean culture. Core subjects are required as part of the program, and Alzar is able to offer a limited number of AP exams on the national testing days.

[Outdoor Classroom and Cultural Exchange | Semester School | Alzar School](#)

Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki

Founded in 1988, Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki, offers about 40 juniors from top day and boarding schools around the country the chance to spend half of their year on a 400-acre coastal peninsula, surrounded by salt marshes and tidal inlets and bordered with several miles of shoreline. The Afternoon Work Program affords the opportunity to work on an organic farm, chop firewood, and help with construction projects. The curriculum includes traditional junior year courses as well as distinctive courses such as Environmental Issues, Natural History of the Maine Coast, and Art and the Natural World. Country Day and Chewonki coordinate the program of study for our students' year courses. One co-curricular credit is granted for the work program, and a fine arts studio credit is granted for Art and the Natural World. Charlotte Country Day School is pleased to be one of fourteen member schools. [Life-Changing Learning in Nature - Maine Coast Semester \(chewonki.org\)](#)

Science Outreach Program

We have many high school students who are passionate about science. The school promotes relationships with science professors at local institutions to give our students primary research opportunities over the summer. Interested students should speak to their current science teacher and get in touch with the Science Outreach Coordinator who can provide guidance about

possible placements. These experiences involve a large time commitment over the summer and are generally offered to rising seniors and juniors. The Science Outreach Coordinator can also help with applications to existing summer research programs across the nation. Students who take part in summer research are asked to present their work at the annual Science Symposium in the fall each year.

Summer School Programs

Country Day does not offer summer general academic courses for credit. Summer courses taken at other institutions do not transfer to the Country Day transcript or factor into a student's GPA.