DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW CAREER EXPLORATION ACADEMY

2026-2027 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
7th Grade

Arts & Humanities Pathway

See Choice Sheet for Options

Audio/Visual Technologies Pathway

Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications

This course focuses on familiarizing students with the skills necessary to become employable, such as learning software/hardware, presentation skills, creating a resume, and experiencing a mock interview. It also explores skills, concepts, and educational background necessary for a career in photography, graphic design, audio/video, and animation. Upon successful completion of this course, students would receive an elective credit that would count toward a high school graduation credit.

Business & Information Technologies Pathway

Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

In this course, students use their entrepreneurial skills and mindset to evolve an innovative solution to a problem into a validated business opportunity. Students take a lean startup approach in researching and testing their ideas, building a lean canvas to support their business opportunity validation. By taking a lean startup approach in researching and testing their ideas, students activate entrepreneurial mindset behaviors that will help them in college and careers. The student will use the lean business model to create and test a potential business opportunity. The student will develop a business plan to support the opportunity. Upon successful completion of this course, students would receive an elective credit that would count toward a high school graduation credit.

Principles of Information Technology

In this course, students use their entrepreneurial mindset and tech skills to identify ways to improve their world and build marketable digital solutions. Through learning to create digital products and businesses of their own design, students gain essential 21st-century skills that will open new doors for themselves and serve others. The student imagines, creates, and launches an original app that addresses a community need using MIT App Inventor. The student develops an original corresponding business plan and pitches. Upon successful completion of this course, students would receive an elective credit that would count toward a high school graduation credit.

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Culinary Arts Pathway

Principles of Hospitality and Tourism

Principles of Hospitality and Tourism introduces students to an industry encompassing lodging, travel and tourism, recreation, amusements, attractions, and food/beverage operations. Students learn knowledge and skills focusing on communication, time management, and customer service that meet industry standards. Students will explore the history of the hospitality and tourism industry and examine the characteristics needed for success in that industry. Upon successful completion of this course, students would receive an elective credit that would count toward a high school graduation credit.

Engineering & Robotics Pathway

Introduction to Programming/Introduction to Robotics

Students learn computer programming and problem-solving strategies to create animations and games in various graphical environments. This course prepares students for computer science courses eligible for high school credit. Careers in computing are discussed.

Students learn the basics of mechanics, programming, and engineering while they work in teams to design and build robots in a fun and challenging environment. Careers in robotics, programming, and engineering are discussed.

Voice & Vision Pathway

Debate 7

This course examines the historical and contemporary role of debate in the democratic process. Students analyze and evaluate propositions and construct valid approaches to both affirmative and negative arguments. They practice effective extemporaneous speaking skills and provide valid and constructive critiques of others. Students are encouraged to participate in competitions.

Journalism

This course offers middle school students the opportunity to study the high school Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills Student Expectations for Journalism. Students will learn the core concepts of journalism, including media types, the ethics of news reporting, and the production of written news via newspapers and magazines and other selected news media. Upon successful completion of this course, students would receive an elective credit for Journalism that would count toward a high school graduation credit.