DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW CAREER EXPLORATION ACADEMY

2026-2027 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
8th 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.

Professional Communications (NEW)

Professional Communications blends written, oral, and visual communication in a career-based environment. Careers in the global economy require individuals to be creative and have a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong and solid academic foundation, and proficiency in professional oral and written communication. Within this context, students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research. 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.

Introduction to Culinary Arts

Introduction to Culinary Arts will emphasize the principles of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, and controlling the management of a variety of food service operations. The course will provide insight into the operation of a well-run restaurant. Introduction to Culinary Arts will provide insight into food production skills, various levels of industry management, and hospitality skills. This is an entry level course for students interested in pursuing a career in the foodservice industry. This course is offered as a classroom and laboratory-based course. **Prerequisite: Principles of Hospitality and Tourism & Teacher Approval.**

Engineering & Robotics Pathway

Principles of Engineering

Principles of Applied Engineering provides an overview of the various fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and their interrelationships. Students develop engineering communication skills, which include computer graphics, modeling, and presentations, by using a variety of computer hardware and software applications to complete assignments and projects. Upon completing this course, students will have an understanding of the various fields of engineering and be able to make informed career decisions. Upon successful completion of this course, students would receive an elective credit that would count toward a high school graduation credit.

Voice & Vision Pathway

Debate I

This high school credit 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 and expected to participate in competitions. **Prerequisite: Debate 6/7 & Teacher Approval.**

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.