

Communication Arts

	English 1	Honors English 1
Overview	College preparatory and aligned to the Common Core State Standards.	College preparatory and aligned to the Common Core State Standards.
Assessments	Students will complete a wide variety of assignments geared towards assessing their levels of proficiency in the key areas of literacy: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Throughout the year, students will complete writing assignments of various lengths, take evidence-based reading tests, and speak in a variety of formats.	Students will complete a wide variety of assignments geared towards assessing their levels of proficiency in the key areas of literacy: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Throughout the year, students will complete writing assignments of various lengths, take evidence-based reading tests, and speak in a variety of formats.
Time Commitment	Students should expect to spend at least 30 -minutes completing work for this class on most nights. Homework involves reading assigned texts, drafting written responses, and completing specific skill-based exercises.	Students should expect to spend at least 45 -minutes completing work for this class on most nights. Homework involves reading/re-reading assigned texts and engaging in the writing process.
Characteristics of Successful Students	- Those who felt reasonably challenged in junior high and want to continue a proportional level of difficulty in high school. - Those who desire additional focus on building foundational literacy skills. - Those who express some reluctance when reading texts assigned for class.	- Those who possess a passion for reading and writing. - Those who demonstrate proficiency in standard writing conventions and critical reading. - Those who desire additional reading and writing challenges. - Those who relish open-ended questions and spirited discussion/debate. - Those who can multi-task and be self-directed
Recommendations and Important Information	- If a student performs well in English 1, he or she can move to Honors English 2 or Honors English 2: Journalism during sophomore year. - Students do not need to take Honors English 1 to take other weighted courses during their four years at NCHS.	- There is a summer reading project that is due on the first day of class in August. - Students must stay in Honors English 1 for the entirety of the first semester. If a level change is warranted, it will occur at the start of second semester.

Math

	Algebra I	Algebra I with Geometry
Overview	This is a beginning course in Algebra fundamental in developing skills essential for further study of mathematics.	An accelerated course for students with strong math skills that includes concepts from both Algebra 1 and Geometry.
Assessments	A variety of formative and summative assessments are utilized throughout the course in order to measure student mastery of content and skills.	A variety of formative and summative assessments are utilized throughout the course in order to measure student mastery of content and skills.
Time Commitment	Students should assume daily work and activities with some work completed outside of the classroom of approximately 20 minutes. Students are expected to access support periods as needed throughout the year.	Students should assume daily work and activities with work completed outside of the classroom of approximately 30 minutes. Students are expected to access support periods as needed throughout the year.
Characteristics of Successful Students	Successful students in Algebra 1 are willing to actively engage in the learning process, complete practice work as needed, and seek out support during class, outside of class, and during SOAR Support as needed.	Successful students in Algebra 1 with Geometry have strong math skills and mastery of solving linear equations & graphing lines. They have a strong work ethic, are self-directed, complete practice work as needed, have or learn strong executive functioning skills, and seek out support as needed.
Recommendations and Important Information	This course is also available in a Blended format.	This fast-paced course will allow students to complete Algebra 1 and Geometry coursework in one year.

Math (continued)

	Geometry	Geometry in Construction	Honors Geometry
Overview	Designed for students who have successfully completed the Algebra 1 (Honors Math) at the junior high level.	Designed for students who have successfully completed the Algebra 1 (Honors Math) at the junior high level.	Designed for students with a high level of mastery of Algebra 1 (Honors Math) skills at the junior high level.
Assessments	A variety of formative and summative assessments are utilized throughout the course in order to measure student mastery of content and skills.	A variety of formative and summative assessments are utilized throughout the course in order to measure student mastery of content and skills.	A variety of formative and summative assessments are utilized throughout the course in order to measure student mastery of content and skills.
Time Commitment	Students should assume daily work and activities with some work completed outside of the classroom of approximately 20 minutes. Students are expected to access support periods as needed throughout the year.	Students should assume daily work and activities with some work completed outside of the classroom of approximately 20 to 30 minutes. Students are expected to access support periods as needed throughout the year.	Students should assume daily work and activities with some work completed outside of the classroom of approximately 30 minutes. Students are expected to access support periods as needed throughout the year.
Characteristics of Successful Students	Successful students in Geometry have a strong foundation from Algebra 1, are willing to actively engage in the learning process, are self-directed, complete practice work as needed, and seek out support during class, outside of class, and during SOAR Support as needed.	Successful students in Geometry in Construction are typically hands-on learners who enjoy applying mathematical concepts to real-world projects. They should be self-motivated, collaborative, and willing to problem-solve through challenges that arise during construction work. Strong organization and a commitment to completing both in-class and independent tasks are also key to success in this course.	Successful students in Honors Geometry have strong math skills, are intellectually curious about mathematics, and are self directed. The most successful students have or learn strong executive functioning to help them organize not only their materials but their time to balance school work and other outside responsibilities.
Recommendations and Important Information	Students typically need to be currently enrolled in or have completed Geometry in order to enroll in Honors Chemistry. This requirement may be waived depending on criteria met in accordance with our evaluation of readiness demonstrated at the junior high level in mathematics and science.	This interdisciplinary course integrates Geometry topics through the building of significant construction projects.	Students can also consider Geometry in Construction as an option.

Science

	Chemistry	Honors Chemistry	Biology
Overview	Chemistry is an interactive and inquiry-driven program designed to help students understand the fundamental principles of chemistry through real-world investigations and collaborative activities. The course covers essential chemistry topics such as atomic structure, periodic table trends, chemical reactions, bonding, and energy transformations. Students engage in experiments, analyze data, and develop models to explain chemical phenomena, building a solid conceptual foundation while enhancing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By exploring how chemistry connects to everyday life, students not only learn scientific content but also gain an appreciation for the role of chemistry in understanding and addressing global challenges. This course aims to prepare students for advanced science coursework and fosters curiosity, resilience, and scientific literacy.	Honors Chemistry is a rigorous, inquiry-based program designed to deepen students' understanding of chemistry concepts and their applications in complex, real-world contexts. With an accelerated pace and additional depth in topics like atomic structure, chemical reactions, and thermodynamics, this course challenges students to explore chemistry through advanced problem-solving, data analysis, and critical reasoning. Students develop scientific models, engage in collaborative investigations, and tackle complex questions that foster resilience and independent learning, preparing them for further advanced science coursework.	Biology is an interactive and inquiry-driven program designed to help students understand the fundamental principles of biology through real-world investigations and collaborative activities. The course explores essential biology topics such as ecosystems, cellular processes, genetics, evolution, and the impact of human activities on the environment. Students engage in hands-on experiments, analyze data, and develop models to explain biological phenomena, building a solid conceptual foundation while enhancing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By examining how biology connects to everyday life, students not only learn scientific content but also gain an appreciation for the role of biology in addressing global and local challenges. This course aims to prepare students for advanced science coursework and fosters curiosity, resilience, and scientific literacy.
Assessments	Students are assessed through a mix of hands-on lab activities, collaborative projects, and written reflections that emphasize applying chemistry concepts to real-world scenarios. Assessments focus on students' abilities to analyze data, construct models, and communicate scientific reasoning clearly. Expectations are set for students to demonstrate understanding through evidence-based explanations and to engage thoughtfully in self and peer evaluations, fostering both independent and cooperative learning.	Assessments are more challenging and often include advanced data analysis, complex model-building, and in-depth written explanations to demonstrate a thorough grasp of chemistry concepts. Students may encounter longer, multi-step problem sets, higher expectations for scientific writing, and rigorous lab analysis that require them to apply concepts at a deeper level. Assessments emphasize clarity of scientific communication, evidence-based explanations, and critical evaluation of data, often including peer and self-assessments as well.	Students are assessed through a mix of hands-on lab activities, collaborative projects, and written reflections that emphasize applying biological concepts to real-world scenarios. Assessments focus on students' abilities to analyze data, construct models, and communicate scientific reasoning clearly. Expectations are set for students to demonstrate understanding through evidence-based explanations and to engage thoughtfully in self and peer evaluations, fostering both independent and cooperative learning.

Time Commitment	Students in Chemistry can anticipate dedicating about 1-2 hours per week outside of class for assignments, review, and project work. This time may vary based on the complexity of ongoing units and individual pacing, with some assignments involving data analysis, model-building, or reflections on lab activities. Additionally, students are encouraged to review their notes and readings to reinforce concepts discussed in class.	Students in the honors course should expect a time commitment of around 3-4 hours per week outside the classroom. This includes additional readings, extended projects, and more challenging problem sets, as well as regular review to keep up with the faster pace and greater depth of the curriculum. Some assignments may require research or preparation for more advanced lab work and assessments, reflecting the honors-level expectations.	Students in Biology can anticipate dedicating about 1-2 hours per week outside of class for assignments, review, and project work. This time may vary based on the complexity of ongoing units and individual pacing, with some assignments involving data analysis, model-building, or reflections on lab activities. Additionally, students are encouraged to review their notes and readings to reinforce concepts discussed in class.
Characteristics of Successful Students	A successful Chemistry student is curious, diligent, and eager for hands-on learning. They persist in problem-solving, ask questions to deepen understanding, and collaborate well with peers. These students manage time effectively, complete assignments thoughtfully, and actively reflect on their learning, especially when connecting chemistry to real-world phenomena. They use available resources and seek help as needed to strengthen their understanding. Additionally, they are comfortable engaging with abstract concepts, demonstrating the ability to think critically and make connections between theoretical ideas and practical applications. These students embrace challenges, using abstract reasoning to enhance their understanding and solve complex problems.	A successful Honors Chemistry student is motivated, organized, and capable of independent learning. They thrive with challenging material, regularly review advanced concepts, and excel at self-directed study. These students demonstrate strong critical thinking, engage deeply with complex problems, and clearly communicate their reasoning. They proactively manage a heavier workload, ask insightful questions, and show resilience, often exceeding expectations to enrich their understanding.	A successful Biology student is curious, diligent, and eager for hands-on learning. They persist in problem-solving, ask questions to deepen understanding, and collaborate well with peers. These students manage time effectively, complete assignments thoughtfully, and actively reflect on their learning, especially when connecting biological concepts to real-world phenomena. They use available resources and seek help as needed to strengthen their understanding. Successful Biology students are observant and detail-oriented, embracing opportunities to investigate the natural world and develop evidence-based explanations for the phenomena they study.
Recommendations and Important Information		Students typically need to be currently enrolled in or have completed Geometry in order to enroll in Honors Chemistry. This requirement may be waived depending on criteria met in accordance with our evaluation of readiness demonstrated at the junior high level in mathematics and science.	

Social Studies

	Cultural Anthropology	World History
Overview	Students in Cultural Anthropology will be introduced to the study of human societies, beliefs, practices, and traditions across the globe. Students explore the definition of culture, social structures, kinship, religion and language through global case studies. The course emphasizes empathy, respect for diversity and ability to analyze cultural practices from multiple perspectives.	This course examines World History from the rise of the River Valley civilizations to the Age of Revolution. Using inquiry methods, students will engage in a rich study of the past through a global perspective. World History will focus on the political, economic, social, spiritual, and intellectual development of both Eastern and Western societies. In doing so, students will gain insight and perspective on the global community and its history.
Assessments	Formative and summative assessments vary and include written, multiple choice, project based and experiential implements.	Formative and summative assessments vary and include written, multiple choice, and project based implements.
Time Commitment	- Students should assume daily work and activities with some work completed outside of the classroom of approximately 30 minutes multiple days per week. - Students are expected to access support periods as needed throughout the year.	- Students should assume daily work and activities with some work completed outside of the classroom of approximately 30 minutes multiple days per week. - Students are expected to access support periods as needed throughout the year.
Characteristics of Successful Students	- Complete work in a timely fashion - Seek out assistance when needed - Highly organized - Motivation to learn and grow	- Complete work in a timely fashion - Seek out assistance when needed - Highly organized - Motivation to learn and grow
Recommendations and Important Information	Cultural Anthropology is an excellent first high school Social Studies course for those curious about the world and why it developed towards what we see and experience today. Student interest should be the key determinant between Cultural Anthropology and World History.	World History is an excellent first high school Social Studies course for those interested in the topic of history and how various regions of the world came to be. Student interest should be the key determinant between World Cultures and World History.

Social Studies (continued)

	AP Human Geography	AP World History
Overview	AP Human Geography - an appropriate entry into AP learning - examines questions such as what, where and why there? Students examine these questions in units such as Population & Migration, Cultural Geography, Political Geography, Agriculture and Rural Land-Use, Cities and Urban Land-Use, Industry & Economic Development.	AP World History - a more rigorous entry into AP learning - approaches the study of history chronologically and considers all global regions, with Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe all represented. Students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 CE to present.
Assessments	Assessments aligned to the format seen on the AP World History exam. Unit assessments typically include multiple choice, short answer, and long essay questions.	Assessments aligned to the format seen on the AP Human Geography exam. Unit assessments typically include multiple choice and free response questions.
Time Commitment	daily assignments include textbook readings (up to 10 pages) and completion of guided notes	daily assignments include textbook readings (30-45min) and independent note taking.
Characteristics of Successful Students	• read and understand complex, content-based texts intended for 100-level college courses. • self-advocate for their learning by actively pursuing additional support from teachers in a timely, proactive manner. • synthesize information and solve complex problems, using academic terminology, sources, and visuals to support a claim. • possess strong research and writing abilities, and can apply these skills on performance-based assessments.	• read and understand complex, content-based texts intended for 100-level college courses. • self-advocate for their learning by actively pursuing additional support from teachers in a timely, proactive manner. • synthesize information and solve complex problems, using academic terminology, sources, and visuals to support a claim. • possess strong research and writing abilities, and can apply these skills on performance-based assessments.
Recommendations and Important Information	AP Human Geography students cover one college semester's worth of material in a yearlong high school course. It is not a writing focused course, but rather one focused on analyzing patterns, trends and anomalies in societal development on a global level.	In AP World History the course content makes up what would be a full college year or two semesters worth of material covered in a yearlong high school course. It is a writing intensive course for students who possess an interest in reading and writing, and demonstrate the skills of critical thinking, analysis, and argumentation.