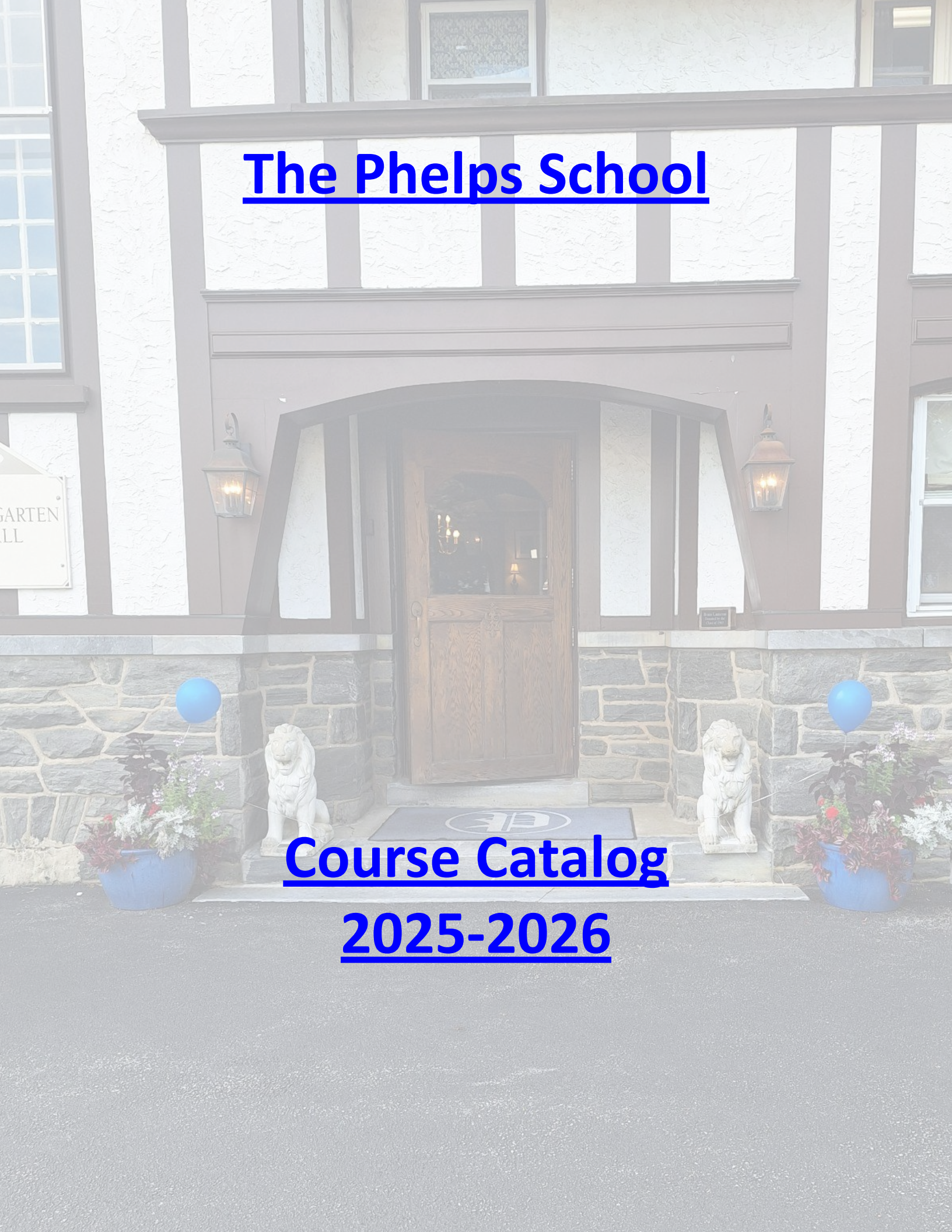


The image shows the exterior of The Phelps School. The building features a two-story facade with white stucco walls and dark brown horizontal and vertical trim. The entrance is centered and features a large, arched wooden door with a transom window. The door is flanked by two stone lion statues. Above the door is a small arched window. The entrance is framed by a dark brown archway. On either side of the entrance, there are blue planters with red and white flowers, and a blue balloon is tied to each planter. A dark blue mat with a white logo is placed in front of the door. The building is set on a paved surface. The text "The Phelps School" is overlaid in blue, underlined font at the top of the image. The text "Course Catalog" and "2025-2026" are overlaid in blue, underlined font at the bottom of the image. A small sign on the left wall reads "GARTEN" and "LL". A small plaque on the right wall reads "Dedicated to the" and "of the".

The Phelps School

Course Catalog

2025-2026

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Phelps School's curriculum is designed to help boys succeed academically, personally, and socially in a positive and caring environment. Each student's course plan is tailored to his own educational needs, goals, and interests. Small classes, a disciplined atmosphere, and regular tutorial sessions provide consistent structure and support.

Beyond the classroom, social-emotional education is pre-eminent. School-wide assemblies, grade-level meetings, and special presentations focus on character and leadership development. Faculty advisors provide personal counseling, encouragement, and help with organizational skills and study habits. Through it all, Phelps boys learn how to learn, how to live lives of purpose and meaning, and how to become better men.

Our curriculum is complemented outside of class time with tutorials (similar to office hours) and evening study hall in the dorms. Homework, a proven pedagogical tool for the reinforcement and retention of topics studied in class, is assigned for all academic courses. For students that benefit from a more structured environment in which to complete homework assignments, we also offer Evening Proctored Study Hall with a faculty member four days a week.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn at least 28 credits beginning in 9th grade.¹ Students must also:

- Complete four credits each of Language Arts and Mathematics and three each of Science and Social Studies.
- Take two years of a language
- Take one year of fine arts.
- Take at least one course in U.S. History.
- Complete ten hours of community service per year.
- Deliver their Senior Speech to the Phelps community.

Students must participate in after school Health and Physical Education each year that they are enrolled at Phelps. Two of the three semesters must include a physical sport. Physical Education for Middle School students and Lion's Training in the Upper School are available to complement these afternoon activities but do not award academic credit.

Department	Credits
Electives	7
Language Arts or ESL	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
World Languages	2
Fine Arts	1

¹ Students who attended Phelps prior to the 2025-2026 school year will have the expected number of credits adjusted for the different schedule and expectations.

GRADING SCALE

The following "grade scale" is generally used to convert 100-point scores into letter grades. AP and Dual Credit courses receive a 0.3 enhancement to their semester grade. For example, a student earning a B in an Honors-designated course would have 3.3 rather than 3.0 for GPA calculation purposes.

The Student-Parent Handbook outlines policies and procedures for students who require additional support in achieving strong grades. These tools include a schedule of afternoon tutorials, Evening Proctored Study Hall, Student Support Team Meetings, and referrals to our Academic Support Program. Please see the Handbook for more information.

Letter	Numerical	GPA
A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.7
F	59 & below	0.0

TYPICAL COURSE PROGRESSION

Department	Grade 6 -7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Language Arts and English as a Second Language	Middle School English A, B, and C (in rotation)		Introduction to Genre 1	Introduction to Genre 2	Literature and Composition I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Literature and Composition IICollege Composition (DC)
					AP Literature and Composition	
Social Studies	Geography, Ancient History, World History (in rotation)		World Cultures	Civics	US History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AP PsychologySociologyInternational Relations (DC)EconomicsLeadership and EthicsPublic SpeakingPersonal Finance
World Languages			Spanish 1	Spanish 2	Spanish 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Spanish 4Spanish 5
Mathematics	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AP Statistics (DC)AP Calculus (DC)Calculus (DC)
Computer Science			<ul style="list-style-type: none">AP Introduction to Computer Science with JavaWeb Design and DevelopmentComputer Architecture and LogicWeb Design and Development			
Science	General Science, Life Science, Earth Science (in rotation) Life Science		Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PhysicsEnvironmental ScienceZoologyHealth and NutritionAP Biology
Fine Arts	Studio Art 1			Studio Art 2		AP Art and Design
Health and Physical Education	Lion's Training					
Other Graduation Requirements					College Explorations	Senior Speech

Please note that grade levels here and throughout this document are meant only as a guide. Students may be placed in courses above or below their grade level as needed. DC next to a course denotes a Dual-Credit eligible course.

SEMESTER COURSES

Most courses are year-long and require students to remain in that class for the entire year to receive full credit. However, there are a number of courses, marked in the description as “*Semester Only*” that are open for juniors and seniors.

In the Spring, juniors must take the College Essay Writing course. Juniors and seniors may choose between the other electives for the fall semester. Each semester course is worth ½ of a credit.

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Web Design	Computer Architecture
Yearbook and Journalism	3D Art
Ethics and Leadership	Personal Finance
Writing Workshop	Public Speaking
Painting and Drawing	College Explorations (all juniors)
Visual Storytelling	

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

The Dual Credit Program was created to benefit post-graduate students but is also open to juniors and seniors with the permission of the instructor. Dual Credit courses have the potential for college credit through an agreement with one of our partner institutions. Dual credit courses are designed to have the same rigor and expectations as an introductory-level undergraduate course at a major college or university, although the pacing of these courses is adjusted.

Students should expect:

- To have approximately 30-45 minutes of homework per night.
- To have final exams and/or essays that will count for a significant portion of their grade.
- To actively participate in class discussions in a seminar-style format.
- To do a substantial amount of reading and writing.
- To be graded in accordance with the standards established by the partner institution.



All Dual Credit Program courses require an additional fee (approximately \$225 - \$375) per course to complete dual enrollment. The additional fee is charged directly by our university partners and is paid through their registration system, though Phelp's teachers and administrators support students through the registration process.

- College Composition I (Immaculata University)
- International Relations (University of Pittsburgh)
- Statistics and Data Analysis (University of Pittsburgh)
- Calculus (Immaculata University)
- Advanced Calculus (Immaculata University)

Students must be approved to enroll in Honors or Dual Credit courses. These courses move at a faster pace than other Phelp's courses and students can expect to have more homework. Students who are enrolled in the Honors courses may choose to do some extra work, with the assistance of their teacher, in preparation of taking the appropriate Advanced Placement exam in May. A student should speak with their teacher early in the fall semester if they plan on taking an AP exam, but taking the AP exam is not required for an Honors course. If a student takes an AP exam, no AP designation will appear on their transcript, although AP scores can be sent to any colleges of the student's choosing.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

Phelps offers a rotating selection of AP-designated courses in every core area that adhere to the College Board's high standards and prepare students to take the appropriate AP Exam in May. These rigorous courses use a nationally recognized curriculum, and many colleges award college credit for strong performance on AP Exams.

Phelps Offers:

2025-2026 School Year

- AP Literature and Composition
- AP Calculus
- AP Biology
- AP Psychology
- AP Art and Design: Drawing
- AP Computer Science A (Java)

2026-2027 School Year

- AP Language and Composition
- AP Calculus
- AP Environmental Studies
- AP Microeconomics
- AP Computer Science Principles

Students enrolling in an AP course should do so with the expectation of taking the AP Exam in May. Should they choose, for any reason, not to take the exam, they are still responsible for completing all course assignments and preparation for the exam.

LANGUAGE ARTS

In our Language Arts courses (English Literature and Composition as well as English as a Second Language) our aim is to cultivate confident communicators. Our curriculum is thoughtfully crafted to empower students in various aspects of effective expression.

Through a blend of grammar lessons, vocabulary studies, research papers, creative writing, and oral presentations, students are equipped with the tools to articulate their thoughts and ideas with clarity and precision. Moreover, our emphasis on reading strategies goes beyond mere comprehension; it fosters a deeper understanding of texts and encourages critical thinking. By engaging with a diverse range of literature, students are invited to participate in the essential conversations that shape our world.

Our Language Arts courses are more than just academic pursuits; they are comprehensive journeys that empower students to navigate the complexities of language and communication with confidence and proficiency.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH A, B, and C

Middle School

The Middle School English Language Arts curriculum is designed to integrate reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will engage in the study of grammar usage, mechanics, vocabulary, and spelling skills. Novels, short stories, non-fiction articles, and poems organized in themed units will be utilized to engage students in word recognition, fluency, and metacognition. Emphasis in writing will be placed in understanding the writing process and composing different types of texts. Students will focus on improving their writing technique by implementing a variety of sentence structures, word choice, providing strong supporting details, identifying the purpose, understanding the audience, demonstrating proper mechanics and grammar.

INTRODUCTION TO GENRE 1

9th Grade

Reading, writing, and oral communication are an integral part of our everyday lives. This course focuses on learning about the concept of genre and the different characteristics of the various genres. This comprehensive English course allows the student to develop their language skills by introducing new strategies and concepts. In this year long course students will examine works of non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and drama. To expedite the study, the class will also build on vocabulary and work on improving grammar. They will develop their skills in writing by having a dedicated unit that focuses on an introduction of the MLA style, proper in-text citations, and formatting a works cited page, while integrating these concepts into writing assignments throughout the semester. Course content is meant to strengthen oral communication through class discussions and presentations.



INTRODUCTION TO GENRE 2

10th Grade

Building upon the knowledge gained from Introduction to Genre I, this course is designed to develop students' critical thinking about various forms of literature that include prose, fiction, drama, poetry, and novels. Throughout the year, students will read selected works of literature focusing on how literary devices are implemented to create meaning for readers through: elements of plot, word choice, characterization, irony, and figurative language. Students will further develop their knowledge

of and use of the writing process. They will practice different genres of writing through narrative, literary analysis, and argumentative essays. Additionally, listening and speaking skills are developed through class discussions and project-based activities.

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION I

11th Grade

This course guides students in becoming more confident and skilled readers and writers through an exploration of American and other English-language literature. Students will develop a deeper appreciation for the diverse techniques authors use to create meaning. Through active reading, thoughtful annotation, and close examination of literary elements—such as structure, style, imagery, and symbolism—students will engage in critical analysis of themes within their cultural and historical contexts. Short and long-form writing assignments will develop students' technical writing skills and encourage organized critical thinking. The course also emphasizes vocabulary development, collaborative discussion, effective presentation and listening skills, and the practice of writing as a multi-step process.

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION II

12th Grade

Through themed units, students in this course will explore important and complex ideas expressed in literature across world cultures. Close reading of challenging literature will lead students to analyze the connections between themes and texts, defend opinions and evaluations, and create original literary works. Readings will also facilitate discussion and debate of issues in philosophy, psychology, science, and politics. Other focuses include building and accurately applying a sophisticated vocabulary, continuing to develop both analytical and technical writing skills, and ultimately understanding how the study of literature is useful in the search for universal and personal truths.

AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

12th Grade

AP Literature and Composition is a study of literary analysis and critical thinking through works of fiction, poetry, and drama. This course is preparation for advanced studies in English, communications, education, and other humanities-based fields. It is designed for those students who have taken English courses and who wish to further develop their skills in reading, writing, and interpretation. Students learn about major literary movements; close reading techniques; analysis of literary elements such as theme, character, and style; and strategies for writing analytical essays. Emphasis is placed on thoughtful discussion, clear written expression, and preparation for the AP Literature and Composition Exam.

COLLEGE COMPOSITION

12th Grade, Dual Credit Eligible

In the College Composition course, students will study and rigorously practice the various modes of writing they will encounter in college and the professional world, all while exploring one central question: **What makes writing valuable?** Writing skills such as complex grammar and construction, thoughtful word choice, and intentional revision will be developed and applied across all forms of writing. Conventions and concepts unique to each form such as journalistic writing, independent research, and personal reflection will also be explored deeply and practiced thoroughly, culminating in a portfolio of written work that reflects a student's growth as a writer and their understanding of the value of writing beyond the high school setting. *This course is eligible for dual credit from the Immaculata University.*

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Students are placed in ESL classes based on their TOEFL Jr., ITEP, or Duolingo tests and an assessment conducted by the Director of ESL. Students can eventually transfer into

mainstream English classes upon meeting the ESL Program’s exit requirements: demonstrating a well-balanced skillset and a composite score of 80 or more on a TOEFL taken on one test date or as a MyBest Score combination. After leaving the ESL program, students are encouraged but not required to study another foreign language, such as Spanish. After placement, students are expected to move up one level each year. Students in the first two levels have two courses in the schedule. The third year of ESL is a single course and is repeatable until the ESL program graduation requirements are met.

Level 1: Foundations	English Language: Starting / Emerging Literature and Composition: Starting / Emerging
Level 2: Intermediate	English Language: Developing Literature and Composition: Developing
Level 3: Transition	Advanced English as a Second Language

Please note that courses in English as a Second Language can only be taken as part of our English as a Second Language program. Enrollment in this program is subject to an additional fee. Please contact Admissions at admis@thephelpsschool.org for more information.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE: STARTING AND EMERGING

At this early stage, focus is on basic vocabulary, grammatical structures, and reading comprehension to build a strong foundation as international students advance through the ESL program. The Oxford Q: Skills for Success series includes eight units with relevant contemporary themes. Workbooks and online components provide reading and writing practice. Students

learn to write sentences and paragraphs of increasing complexity and create theme-based projects to demonstrate mastery.



ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION: STARTING AND EMERGING

This course emphasizes reading comprehension and academic writing and analysis. Students begin their transition from textbook-based coursework to direct engagement with literary works, progressing from short stories to plays and novels. Explorations into literature encourage students to “think big” about the world and themselves. They build their vocabulary and they work on writing creatively and analytically, attempting various genres and creating theme-based projects to demonstrate mastery. Class discussions and reading aloud reinforce speaking and listening skills.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE: DEVELOPING

Students develop their English-speaking skills by answering questions, listening and responding to classmates, and making oral presentations. Emphasis is on spoken delivery, including pronunciation, eye contact, and body language. Students improve their auditory processing skills and their English comprehension by listening to lectures, conversations, music, and videos. The Oxford Q: Skills for Success text series provides speaking and listening practice, with text and online components.

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION: DEVELOPING

Students read novels, plays, and poetry of increasing length and complexity, using comprehension strategies presented at the start of the course. Literature studies continue to improve students' English vocabulary as they broaden their perspectives and understanding. Class discussions and reading aloud continue to improve speaking and listening skills.

ADVANCED ESL

Students develop skills in extemporaneous speaking and in presenting logical, coherent arguments. They practice basic public-speaking strategies for various situations and purposes; craft position papers to develop skills in research, writing, and citation; and learn to avoid logical fallacies and other weak argumentation. In various debate formats, they present prepared statements and extemporaneous rebuttals. Exploring contemporary issues and long-standing philosophical questions helps them better understand themselves and their world. This course focuses on students improving their comprehension of English.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In our Social Studies courses, students embark on a journey of inquiry into the rich tapestry of history and the complexities of human nature. Our curriculum is carefully designed to foster the development of analytical and critical thinking skills while nurturing multicultural perspectives. With an overarching goal of cultivating engaged and informed citizens in a democratic society, our courses delve into various aspects of historical literacy, including world events, traditions, patterns, and changes. Our Social Studies courses are more than academic endeavors; they are transformative experiences that empower students to navigate the complexities of our world with empathy, understanding, and a commitment to positive change.



WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Middle School

This course examines the physical aspects of various continents and regions as well as human culture, government, politics, economics, and conflicts around the world. Students explore physical and climate characteristics, demographics, historical changes, economic activity, and land use. Students learn to question, read, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information.

ANCIENT HISTORY

Middle School

This course examines ancient civilizations from 2000 BCE to 1500 CE, their impact on one another, the reasons for their rises and falls, and the traces of their history and traditions that continue today as seen through discussion of selected current events. Higher-order thinking is developed and assessed in various formats: tests, quizzes, essays, oral presentations, notebook checks, research projects, and reaction papers.

WORLD CULTURES

9th Grade

This course examines diverse cultures and the conditions that gave rise to them. Students use a variety of resources to develop their understanding of civilizations throughout

history, leading to present-day family life and structure, social and community organizations, approach on education, religious beliefs and institutions, political movements, economic trends, and the intellectual and artistic achievements of people within their cultures.

CIVICS AND ECONOMICS

10th Grade

This course explores the growth of American democracy, federalism, the Bill of rights, separation of powers, and checks and balances. Students discuss current events, government's impact on everyday life, the Constitution, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, Congress, the making of domestic and foreign policy, state and local government, and federal branches. This course also includes a basic introduction to economics, including supply and demand, taxation, and individual utility. Coursework develops students' ability to read, question, analyze, synthesize, interpret, and evaluate information.

U.S. HISTORY

11th Grade

This course begins with a comprehensive view of America from colonization through the Civil War. Focus begins on relationships between colonies and how life, society, and culture evolved in different regions. It then turns to how the colonies compromised and overcame their stark differences, gained their collective independence, formed a sovereign nation, and quickly impacted the world. Next, it examines the nation's cultural and political evolution and its development as a world leader from the Civil War through the present. Assignments and projects entail significant research, analysis, and writing that develop higher-order thinking skills.

HONORS U.S. HISTORY

11th Grade

Relying on primary and secondary sources, students analyze differing views of history from 1492 to the present. They develop critical-thinking skills by questioning and

analyzing information and arguments about American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society. *Students enrolled in the course may select to take the AP U.S. History Exam.*

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

11th-12th Grade

This course introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures, policies, and political, economic, and social challenges among six selected countries: Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria. Additionally, students examine how different governments solve similar problems by comparing the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues. *Students enrolled in the course may select to take the AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam.*

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

11th-12th Grade, Dual Credit Eligible

International Relations is the study of how countries interact with one another. Many of its subfields include the study of war, international political economy, institutions and organizations, foreign aid, and terrorism. This class considers the theories that have been developed by major scholars and applies them to real world cases from the last 150 years of world politics. We augment the textbook with readings from International Relations scholars that showcase important and recent research in the field. Students will be challenged with problem sets that introduce game theory, quantitative and qualitative research methods, and persuasive essay writing. This seminar style course mirrors first-year college courses in size, instruction, and expectations. *This course is eligible for dual credit from the University of Pittsburgh.*



AP PSYCHOLOGY

11th-12th Grade, Offered in Alternating Years with Sociology, Next Offered in 2025-2026

This course introduces students to the history, major principles, and various types of psychology: clinical, abnormal, adolescent, developmental, environmental, experimental, forensic, community, counseling, and organizational. Topics include human development, abnormal behavior, research and development, perception, consciousness, cognition, motivation, and emotion.

SOCIOLOGY

11th-12th Grade, Offered in Alternating Years with Psychology, Next Offered in 2026-2027

This course introduces students to the discipline of sociology, readings, projects, and assignments reveal how societal groups interact and impact each other and influence everyday life. Students develop the capacity to view and understand their world from a sociological perspective.

ECONOMICS

11th-12th Grade

Beyond bear and bull markets, gross national products, and fiscal policy, economics addresses basic societal issues: root causes of unemployment; rising healthcare, tuition, and housing prices. This course's flipped-classroom approach facilitates discussion and collaborative projects such as film skits demonstrating economic concepts. Assessments focus on 21st century skills, teamwork, collaboration, creative projects, and classroom discourse.

ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP

10-12th Grade, Semester Only

Students read traditional fables, discuss current events, and conduct historical research to consider universal ideas and timeless ethical questions. Assessment is based on class participation, research, vocabulary, and thoughtful attention to questions presented in classroom discussions.

PERSONAL FINANCE

10-12th Grade, Semester Only

Students learn important financial life-skills and begin to build good habits around money, budgeting, and investing using real-world scenarios. Although not a full course on economics, this course will introduce topics such as interest rates, banking, double-entry bookkeeping, and taxes.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

10-12th Grade, Semester Only

This course covers the fundamentals of effective communication, including audience analysis, speech organization, vocal delivery, and non-verbal cues. Through practical exercises, students will learn to craft persuasive arguments, tell engaging stories, and deliver informative talks.



MATHEMATICS

The math department at Phelps believes in the power of self-discovery for optimal learning. Our instruction is carefully crafted to foster both independent and collaborative work. With scaffolded lessons and assessments tailored to individual learning needs, students receive personalized support. Hands-on projects provide real-world relevance, while technology and online resources enhance the learning experience. In embracing a dynamic approach to mathematics education, our goal is to empower students to become confident problem solvers equipped with the skills they need for success in an ever-evolving world.

PRE-ALGEBRA

6th-7th Grade

Students will learn the basics of modeling sentences with algebraic expressions. Students will also be able to manipulate simple equations and inequalities, solving for a single variable. Basic number theory will be covered, distinguishing between integers, rational, and real numbers. Students will study basic geometric concepts, including plane figures and solid calculations. Finally, students will study ratios, percentages, and probability.

ALGEBRA 1

8th-9th Grade

Students learn to represent linear functions graphically, algebraically, and numerically. Other topics include linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, exponential functions, polynomials, factoring, and probability.

GEOMETRY

9th-10th Grade

Students learn to apply inductive and deductive reasoning to a variety of mathematical applications, including informal and formal proofs. Other topics include properties of triangles, including basic trigonometry, angle relationships, segment lengths in circles involving tangents and chords, perimeter, circumference, area, and similarity in a variety

of plane figures leading into surface area, volume, and similarity for three-dimensional solids. Algebraic concepts are included in all geometric applications.

ALGEBRA 2

10th-11th Grade

Algebra 2 focuses on the concepts of functions and relations with emphasis on linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, and rational functions. Students apply algebraic concepts to a variety of real-world situations that can be modeled mathematically. All topics are approached through an exploration of numerical, algebraic, and graphical methods using a TI-84 graphing calculator.

STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS

11th-12th Grade, Dual Credit Eligible

Major topics include experiments and observational studies, descriptive statistics, probability, hypothesis testing for binary, categorical, and numeric data, linear regressions, and nonlinear models. The course introduces students to the R statistical programming language, which is used in academia and jobs related to data analysis and data science. This seminar style course mirrors first-year college courses in size, instruction, and expectations. *This course is eligible for dual credit from the University of Pittsburgh.*

PRE-CALCULUS

11th-12th Grade

The course focuses on mastery of critical skills and exposure to new skills necessary for success in subsequent math courses. Topics include fundamental concepts of algebra, functions and graphs, polynomials and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, analytic trigonometry, systems of equations and inequalities, matrices and determinants, conic sections and parametric equations, polar coordinates, sequences and series, and an introduction to limits.

AP CALCULUS

12th Grade, Dual Credit Eligible

Major topics include limits and continuity, derivatives, integrals, and functions (logarithmic, exponential, logistic, trigonometric, and inverse trigonometric). Applications of derivatives include optimization, related rates, movement (position, velocity, acceleration). Applications of integration include slope fields, volume (cross sectional area, disk, washer) and accumulated rate of change. Students explore numerical, algebraic, and graphical methods. *Students enrolled in the course may select to take the AP Calculus AB Exam.*

CALCULUS

12th Grade

Calculus is a study of mathematical concepts and techniques used in business, economics, and the social sciences. It is designed for those students who have completed Algebra and wish to further their study of mathematics in Calculus without the expectation of an Advanced Placement exam. Students learn about functions; limits and continuity; derivatives and their applications to business problems; optimization; marginal analysis; and basic integration. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, modeling real-world scenarios, and interpreting mathematical results in a business context.

ADVANCED CALCULUS AND OTHER TOPICS

12th Grade, Dual Credit Eligible,

This course is designed for students that have completed our Calculus course or its equivalent and are looking to expand their understanding of mathematics. The course will be paced to the students in it and explore advanced topics from Calculus 2 and potentially Linear Algebra curriculums. *Students enrolled in the course may select to take an AP Calculus Exam.*

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN MATHEMATICS

Special Permission Required

Students that have exhausted our mathematics curriculum may be eligible to incorporate an independent study in their schedule. The student must have a faculty sponsor, an identified curriculum, textbook, or online program, and the permission of the Head of School.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING IN JAVA

10th-12th Grade, Offered Based on Interest

Designed for students with some previous experience in computer programming, this course is a rigorous introduction to the Java coding language. The course incorporates data types, algorithms, class architecture, loops, inheritance, and recursion. *Students enrolled in the course may select to take the AP Computer Science A Exam.*

COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE

11th-12th Grade, Semester Only

Students in this class will break open computers to understand hardware. They will be invited to work as a class to build their own desktop computer by researching and ordering parts online. Students also learn about basic bit representations and logic gates. Students will also get the opportunity to code Arduino boards using C++.

WEB DESIGN WITH JAVASCRIPT

10th-12th Grade, Semester Only

Students learn the basics of HTML and CSS coding, allowing them to build their own websites. They also receive a primer on the JavaScript coding language that they then incorporate into their CSS code. Students learn how to incorporate animations, user interface options, and data storage.

SCIENCE

Courses explore scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies that explain the natural world. Students learn to conduct experiments, collect and analyze data, make calculations, interpret information, hypothesize and test predictions, and draw well-reasoned conclusions. Teachers scaffold lessons based on each student's needs, abilities, and interests. Projects address real-world scientific issues and challenge students to find possible solutions and assess relative risks. Courses incorporate laboratory work and inquiry-based field investigations to develop 21st-century skills as collaboration, innovation, and critical thinking.

EARTH SCIENCE

6th-9th Grade, (offered 2025-2026)

This survey course introduces younger students to the disciplines of earth and space science, as well as basic aspects of physics and chemistry. The course prioritizes individual inquiry and hands-on activities to develop skills for laboratory investigations. *Offered in alternating years with Life and Physical Science.*

LIFE SCIENCE

6th-9th Grade, (offered 2026-2027)

This survey course introduces topics in biology: cells, genetics, plant and animal diversity, and human systems. The course prioritizes individual inquiry and hands-on activities to develop skills for laboratory investigations. *Offered in alternating years with Physical and Earth Science.*

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

6th-9th Grade, (offered 2027-2028)

This introductory course integrates physics and chemistry into the study of the hydrosphere, exosphere, geosphere, and atmosphere. Students investigate how each of these "spheres" interact with each other and how the laws of physics and the intricacies of chemistry help us understand our planet and its systems. Coursework includes hands-on lab activities, discussion of current events in fields

of science, research, and written responses, all of which help develop organizational skills. *Offered in alternating years with Earth and Life Science.*

BIOLOGY

10th Grade

This required course prepares students for higher-level life science courses by considering a number of themes: science as a way of knowing, continuity and change, how advances in technology impact influence our world and understanding of the biosphere, the diversity and interdependence of living things, and the organization of living things.

CHEMISTRY

11th Grade

In this required course (for students who have completed Algebra I), students learn about the classification and properties of matter, mixtures and pure substances, the scientific method, and fundamental concepts of energy, mass, mathematics of counting, and the "mole." Students learn about the periodic table; how elements are classified and named; the structure of the atom; and chemical equations, reaction rates, and chemical equilibrium. Significant laboratory work includes formal lab reports and inquiry-based assessments.

PHYSICS

11th-12th Grade

In this elective course (for students who have completed Algebra 2), students begin by studying mathematical definitions and applications of position, velocity, acceleration, force, energy, work, and momentum to describe linear and rotational motion. They learn about wave mechanics and electromagnetism.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

11th-12th Grade

In this elective course, students learn to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and man-made. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing a wide variety of

topics from different areas of study. The curriculum draws upon biology, earth science, and physical science.

AP Biology

11th-12th Grade, Offered Based on Interest

AP Biology is a study of the core principles that govern living organisms and biological systems. This course is preparation for advanced studies in biological sciences, medicine, research, and other science-based careers. It is designed for those students who have taken biology and who wish to deepen and expand their understanding of the subject. Students learn about the chemistry of life; cell structure and function; genetics and evolution; biological diversity; plant and animal physiology; and ecology. Emphasis is placed on scientific inquiry, laboratory investigations, and real-world applications of biological concepts.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

11th-12th Grade, Offered Based on Interest

Anatomy and Physiology is a study of the structure and function of the human body. This course is preparation for advanced biological studies, biomedical nursing, and other

science-based careers. It is designed for those students who have taken biology and who wish to further their study of biology. Students learn about the major body systems; how the body systems work together to provide homeostasis; body functions in the healthy and diseased states; blood typing; muscle action; cranial nerve functioning; and bioethics.

WORLD LANGUAGES

SPANISH 1

Students are advised to start Spanish by their 10th Grade year

Students learn the basics of the Spanish language and the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Through interactive activities focused on listening, speaking, reading, and writing, students will develop foundational vocabulary and grammar skills, enabling them to communicate in everyday situations and appreciate diverse cultural perspectives.

SPANISH 2

Students continue building their linguistic skills and vocabulary, learning advanced tenses, syntactic constructions, and idioms. They write



short paragraphs and essays to develop their presentation skills while applying Spanish-specific concepts. Spanish 2 emphasizes and requires more translation and aural/oral practice in class.

SPANISH 3

Development of vocabulary and grammar continues. Students engage in higher level analytical work in Spanish. Varied texts, media, and native sources provide real-life application. Emphasis is on students' speaking and thinking in Spanish, in and out of class. Students conduct research in Spanish to prepare for the rigors of the college classroom.

SPANISH 4

This rigorous course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish. Students are also encouraged to engage in conversation with native Spanish speakers outside of class. Modes of communication include interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. Studies include literary and non-literary texts as well as Spanish newscasts, podcasts, movies, and music.

SPANISH 5

This rigorous course is available for students who have completed the Spanish 4 course. The course is designed around the needs of the student(s) enrolled in the course and is repeatable for multiple years.

FINE ARTS

STUDIO ART 1 AND 2

All Grades

Students experience a diverse genre of creative art, working in a variety of media such as clay, paint, collage, and colored pencils. They explore the fundamentals of artwork by designing projects that emphasize self-expression, including some elements of Graphic Design, using programs such as Photoshop, Indesign, and Illustrator to edit photographs, produce magazines, design logos, and create their own marketing brand identity. Studio Art 2 further develops artistic skills and techniques that were

learned in Studio Art 1, challenging students to create a portfolio of work that demonstrates competency in various art forms.

3D ART

All Grades, Semester Only

Students will explore the principles and techniques of creating three-dimensional art forms using various media such as clay, wire, paper, and found objects. Emphasizing creativity and craftsmanship, the course will guide students through projects that develop their skills in sculpture, modeling, and spatial design, culminating in unique, tangible artworks.

PAINTING AND DRAWING

All Grades, Semester Only

Students will master fundamental techniques in various media, including pencil, charcoal, ink, watercolor, and acrylics. Focusing on both representational and abstract styles, the course will encourage individual expression and creative exploration through guided projects and open studio work.



YEARBOOK AND JOURNALISM

All Grades, Semester Only

Students will develop skills in writing, photography, design, and layout as they collaboratively produce the school's yearbook. Emphasizing journalistic principles and creative storytelling, the course will provide hands-on experience in capturing the essence of the school year through compelling narratives and visually engaging pages.

VISUAL STORYTELLING

All Grades, Semester Only

Students learn about, read and create their own visual stories, including comic books, short stories, fairytales, graphic novels, illustrated poems and more. The purpose of this class is to reflect on how visual and written language can work together to form an engaging story that allows you to form deeper connections with multiple meanings. Creating their own visual stories allows students to improve both their writing and artistic skills, while investing in their characters, works of art, and plotlines.

AP ART AND DESIGN

11th-12th Grade

This course allows students to develop their skills in inquiry-based artmaking through practice, experimentation, and revision. Students create a portfolio of work that demonstrates purposeful artistic investigation and personal voice. The course emphasizes the development of original ideas through sustained investigation, with a focus on 2-D design, 3-D design, or drawing. Students submit a final portfolio to the College Board for AP evaluation.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Middle School

Students learn the basics of living a healthy lifestyle, how to construct their own workout,

gym safety, and the rules of a variety of different sports.

LION'S TRAINING

Placement By Athletic Director.

Students learn about and engage in physical conditioning, plyometrics, basic weight and circuit training, and cardiovascular and overall body fitness. This course is designed for students in year-round athletic academies.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM (ASP)

ASP helps students face learning challenges by providing more than modifications and accommodations suggested by IEPs or 504 Plans. The academic learning support specialist provides instruction and learning activities in light of each learner's unique needs. ASP helps students develop practices in time management, organization, concentration, and active listening. Students work with the learning specialist in effort to become a more successful, confident learner who better understands their own learning strengths and needs.

ASP is added to a student's schedule as a regular class period, taking the place of one of their academic courses. The class is pass/fail and repeatable for multiple years.

Please note that the Academic Support Program is subject to an additional fee. Please contact Admissions at admis@thephelpsschool.org for more information.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

The College Counseling office's main goal is to prepare and educate students on college readiness, career exploration, college applications, and financial aid throughout their secondary education at The Phelps School. By the end of 11th Grade, students have a better understanding of their individual skills, talents, and career pathways along with an acute knowledge of different college programs and the application process to set them up for a successful application season during their senior year.

EXPLORING COLLEGE OPTIONS IN THE JUNIOR YEAR

Students and their families are encouraged to meet with the College Counselor as early as they would like to begin thinking about the college search process.

In the second semester, juniors are expected to take the College Explorations semester long course. Through personal college exploration, students start to define a specific plan before the application process begins. Some examples of questions we want to clarify before application season are:

- o What type of degree do I want to obtain?
- o What area of study do I want to major/minor in?
- o Do I want a big university or smaller liberal arts college?
- o Do I want to live in an urban, rural, or suburban setting?
- o Does the college have the extracurriculars that I want?
- o How can I pay for college?

Students are expected to visit a few colleges before they complete their junior year and will have an opportunity as part of this class to draft their college essay.

THE SENIOR YEAR EXPERIENCE: TRANSITIONS TO COLLEGE

The senior class meets weekly with the College Counselor as part of the Transitions to College experience. Students explore a variety of topics related to the transition from high school to college, such as time management, goal setting, study habits, and relaxation. Students also meet individually with the counselor to discuss their college search plan and work on their applications and essays.

Students will also get a general understanding of the financial aid process and spend time filling out applications like FAFSA if relevant. Students are given a detailed explanation of each financial aid application, how to apply, and what types of financial aid can be rewarded. They eventually work with the College Counselor to analyze the packages they received closer to the end of the year. Our hope is that students will gain the ability to advocate for themselves, gain a greater understanding of finances in regard to higher education, and get to pursue post-secondary education that is affordable.

All seniors end their Phelps experience with the writing of their senior speech.

