



Perkiomen School

Course Catalog
2026-2027

OUR MISSION

The Perkiomen community inspires students to risk becoming their best.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our Community

Perkiomen School is a boarding and day school dedicated to fostering a diverse and multi-talented student body. We challenge each other to work and rework in pursuit of excellence each and every day.

Our Program

Perkiomen School affords the best of a liberal arts education while cultivating entrepreneurial spirit in our students. We promote active inquiry and problem-solving, making education relevant and exportable to a future we cannot predict.

Our Students

Perkiomen School's students embrace global citizenship. Our students join together from different countries, races, socio-economic backgrounds, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, and worldviews to be the heart of campus life.

Our Faculty

Perkiomen School's faculty meets students where they are. Our faculty members are collectively accomplished in academics, athletics, and the arts, with a desire for continuing education and a passion for mentoring students.

Our Campus

Perkiomen School provides a range of opportunities for students to explore their interests and the world around them. We are an inviting, safe home that nurtures a sense of curiosity, physical well-being, and belonging.

Our Motto

Perkiomen School's motto is "SOLVITUR VIVENDO." The motto is translated to mean "It is solved by living." We believe that experience is the best teacher and that the challenges of modern life are only solved through engaged and thoughtful living.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM (GRADES 6-8)

Perkiomen School's Middle School curriculum is thoughtfully designed to foster active engagement and a love of learning. Coursework balances academic rigor with creativity and enjoyment, encouraging students to grow intellectually while developing confidence and curiosity.

Students in Grades 6 and 7 enroll in seven classes each term. Typically, two of these courses are shaped by student choice, allowing learners to explore personal interests and take ownership of their education. Students in Grade 8 enroll in six classes and are given a free period, which serves as an important transition to Upper School, where students take five or six classes and are expected to manage greater independence.

All Middle School students complete a core academic program that includes English, mathematics, history and social science, a world language, and elective courses. Middle School courses are designated with a course number that starts with 0. Eighth grade students are eligible to take some Upper School courses. Sixth-grade students begin their world language study with Introduction to Latin, providing a strong foundation for future language learning. In addition, all Middle School students participate in one Life Arts course per term, supporting personal development, well-being, and essential life skills.

Electives (2)

- Team Building (6th and 7th grade)
- Foundations of Institutes
- Analog Game Design (8th grade)
- Explorations in Art
- Explorations in Music
- Performance
- Photography (8th grade)
- Critical and Creative Writing (8th grade)
- World Cultures Through Fantasy and Folklore (8th grade)
- American History: Historical Fiction and Counterfactual Perspectives (8th grade)
- Sociology of Music in American History (8th grade)
- Ornithology (8th grade with permission)

Note: English, mathematics, history & social science, and science have a three-year curricular sequence. Each year, two of the three courses are offered. This rotation allows for greater scheduling flexibility. Each course is differentiated for the age level of the students enrolled in the course.

UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM (GRADES 9-12, PG)

The Upper School curriculum for students in Grades 9–11 is intentionally designed to strengthen critical thinking and independent learning skills. Through a broad and challenging range of coursework, students are encouraged to solve complex problems, engage in analytical thinking, evaluate abstract ideas, and develop a strong personal voice and academic identity.

Students are required to enroll in five courses each year, and most students choose to take six. Enrollment in seven courses is not permitted in order to maintain a healthy balance between academic rigor and student well-being. Students are encouraged to take an active role in selecting their courses, seeking a diverse and well-rounded program that offers both challenge and enjoyment. Rather than focusing narrowly on a single academic area, students benefit most from exploring multiple disciplines. Colleges value applicants whose transcripts reflect intellectual curiosity and breadth across subjects.

Sample grade-level schedules are provided below for reference. However, Perkiomen students come from a wide range of educational backgrounds, and prior coursework may have been completed in different sequences. Students are not expected to repeat courses they have already successfully completed, as repeating coursework does not strengthen an academic program. Students may enroll in an Institute at any grade level. More details regarding the Institutes are listed in their department section. Course selection and sequencing are individualized for each student, with schedules thoughtfully designed to broaden academic experiences and support continued growth.

Grade 9 Schedule:

1. English – Foundations of Literature and Composition
2. Mathematics – Appropriate level
3. History & Social Sciences – Human Geography (Qualified students may opt into AP Human Geography)
4. Science – Physics (Qualified students may opt into AP Physics 1)
5. World Language – Appropriate level (*If English is not the student's first language, the World Language requirement is waived*)
6. Elective (optional)

Grade 10 Schedule:

1. English – World Literature or AP Seminar
2. Mathematics – Appropriate level
3. History & Social Sciences – Modern World History or AP World History
4. Science – Chemistry
5. World Language – Appropriate level
6. Elective (optional)

Grade 11 Schedule:

1. English – American Literature or AP Language and Composition
2. Mathematics – Appropriate level
3. History & Social Sciences – United States History or AP United States History
4. Science – Biology (*eligible students may take AP sciences and/or other electives*)
5. World Language – Appropriate level (*Two years of the same World Language fulfill the graduation requirement, highly competitive colleges expect more than two years*)
6. Elective (optional)

Students in Grade 12 or PG are expected to enroll in five courses, with most students choosing to take six. All students are required to include courses in English and mathematics. Careful and intentional course selection is especially important during the final year of Upper School, as students balance academic responsibilities alongside college applications and other commitments.

A well-balanced schedule supports strong academic performance and reflects a continued progression in the rigor of a student's coursework. Students may choose to "double" in a subject area that aligns with a demonstrated strength or academic interest. For example, a student may enroll in two science courses while not taking a history course in the same year. Academic schedules for Grade 12 or PG students serve as a bridge to collegiate study and play an important role in preparing students for the expectations and demands of higher education.

Grade 12 or PG Schedule:

1. English – Contemporary Literature and Communications or AP Literature
2. Mathematics – Appropriate level
3. History & Social Sciences
4. Science
5. World Language – Appropriate level
6. Elective (optional)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 60 course credits are required for graduation, including:

ENGLISH: 12 credits

All students are required to complete four years of English study for graduation. English as a Second Language Literature fulfill the English requirement as well.

MATHEMATICS: 12 credits

All students are required to complete four years of mathematics.

HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCES: 9 credits

All students are required to complete three years of History & Social Sciences study for graduation, including one required year of United States History or AP United States History.

SCIENCE: 9 credits

All students must complete three years of science for graduation.

WORLD LANGUAGES: 6 credits

Upper school students are required to take two consecutive years of the same world language. Students who start their World Language in middle school are required to complete the third year of the language in upper school. If English is a student's second language, they may consider English class to be their World Language. Three or four years are preferable for college admission.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS: 3 credits

Students are required to complete one year of visual or performing arts. Students may apply for academic credit and a grade for Studio Intensive which meets during after school activities.

ELECTIVES: 9 credits

Students must supplement with three courses of their choosing in any department. Elective courses are other academic courses.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Perkiomen School does not offer physical education classes. To satisfy the physical education requirement, students must participate in after-school activities. One trimester must be an approved physical activity or interscholastic athletic team. There are several options for each term.

HEALTH

Students must complete a non-graded Health class as a graduation requirement. Health meets during the Life Arts period. Typically, students take Health class in 10th grade. Additionally, all students engage in the Wellness curriculum through the advisory program.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Students must complete a non-graded Personal Finance class as a graduation requirement. Personal Finance meets during the Life Arts period. Typically, students take Personal Finance in 10th grade.

GRADING, REPORT CARDS, GPA, AND TRANSCRIPTS

GRADING

As a college preparatory school, Perkiomen does not have an online grade book. Students are expected to take ownership of their academic journey and manage their daily work. Online grade books tend to provide a distorted view of individual assignments. Ten homework grades can quickly be deflated by a poor test. Additionally, online grade books miss the bigger picture of learning versus day-to-day assessments. Students must be focused on the academic process and the love of learning instead of prioritizing individual points. Families new to Perkiomen will find this transition to be initially challenging. Quickly families see their student take ownership of the academic journey and understand the future value of the growth opportunity.

GRADE RANGES

A = 100 to 93, A- = 92 to 90, B+ = 89 to 87, B = 86 to 83, B- = 82 to 80, C+ = 79 to 77,

C = 76 to 73, C- = 72 to 70, D+ = 69 to 67, D = 66 to 63, D- = 62 to 60, F = 59 and below

REPORT CARDS

Perkiomen's school year is based on a trimester schedule. Each trimester is divided into two grading cycles. Reports cards are issued six times during the school year at the mid-term and at the end of each term. Report cards are issued digitally and are housed in the student's account. Mid-term report cards include grades, an academic section comment, and an individual academic comment from each of the student's teachers. The section comment includes details of the composition of the grade (tests, quizzes, papers, homework, etc). Term end report cards include grades, an academic section comment, and an advisor comment.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Perkiomen uses a 4.0 GPA scale. (A= 4.0, A- = 3.6, B+ = 3.3 B = 3.0, B- = 2.6, C+ = 2.3, C = 2.0, C- = 1.6, D+ = 1.3, D = 1.0, D- = .6, F = 0)

Honors and AP classes are weighted on a 5.0 scale. (A= 5.0, A- = 4.6, B+ = 4.3 B = 4.0, B- = 3.6, C+ = 3.3, C = 3.0, C- = 2.6, D+ = 2.3, D = 2.0, D- = 1.6, F = 0)

GPA is only calculated at the end of the year. Students may inquire about a mid-year GPA if needed.

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts are generated for all students at the end of their junior year. These transcripts only include year-end grades. These transcripts are housed in the SCOIR account. Transcripts include GPA average both weighted, unweighted, and the calculation standard.

During the senior year, transcripts are generated and stored in students' SCOIR accounts at the end of each grading cycle. Final transcripts only include year-end grades and are sent to the college of intended matriculation in June.

International students may request a year-end transcript at any grade level for home country validations. Transcripts will be customized for the individual country's requirements.

ACADEMIC STANDING

Honors standing is awarded at each report card based on the following standards:

- High Honors is awarded to students who earn all "A" grades.
- Honors is awarded to students who earn no grade below an "A-"
- Honorable Mention is awarded to students who earn grades A, A- and no more than one B+

At the end of each school year academic keys recognize consistent performance over the course of the year

Academic Keys

- Gold keys are awarded to students who earn High Honors five out of six grading cycles
- Silver Keys are awarded to students who earn at least Honors five out six grading cycles
- Bronze Keys are awarded to students who earn Honors at least three out of six grading cycles.

Academic Recovery Plan

Students who have missed more than 3 school days will be placed on an Academic Recovery Plan. Faculty members may waive assignments and extend deadlines without penalty while a student recovers from their absence.

Academic Warning

Students who earn one or more C- or lower are placed on Academic Warning. Students on Academic Warning will meet with the academic office and their advisor to develop a plan to improve their academic status.

Advanced Placement Courses

Perkiomen School offers a broad and rigorous selection of Advanced Placement (AP) courses designed to challenge motivated students and prepare them for the academic expectations of college and university study. An Advanced Placement course is a college-level class taught at the high school level, allowing students to engage deeply with material that is typically covered in a first-year undergraduate course. At the conclusion of the academic year, students have the opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of the subject by taking a standardized AP examination. Depending on the policies of individual colleges and universities and the score earned, successful performance on an AP exam may result in college credit, advanced placement, or both.

Beyond the possibility of earning college credit, enrollment in AP courses reflects a student's willingness to take on academic challenge and rigor. Colleges and universities often view AP courses as a strong indicator of preparation and commitment, and these courses carry significant weight on a student's transcript during the college application review process. However, AP courses are intellectually demanding and require a high level of discipline, time management, and sustained effort. Students are encouraged to consider carefully their overall academic workload, extracurricular commitments, and personal responsibilities when selecting AP courses, and to seek guidance from faculty and advisors when making these decisions.

Students who enroll in an AP course at Perkiomen School are required to sit for the corresponding AP examination, which is administered in May. AP examinations involve an additional fee, which is the responsibility of the student and family. Students may not independently study for or register for an AP exam at Perkiomen School unless they are officially enrolled in the corresponding AP course. However, if Perkiomen School does not offer a particular AP course, students may be permitted to take that AP examination at Perkiomen School, subject to availability and administrative approval.

Alternate Courses

Students may petition for approval to take a course online or at an accredited university either in addition to, or as a replacement for, one course offered at Perkiomen School. Such requests are considered on an individual basis and must align with the student's academic goals and graduation requirements. Students are expected to initiate discussions regarding alternative coursework in the spring prior to the academic year in which they intend to enroll, allowing sufficient time for review, approval, and scheduling.

Students who wish to bypass or accelerate through a sequential course, most commonly in mathematics or world languages, must obtain prior approval and complete an approved alternative course, typically during the summer. In most cases, the school expects this coursework to be completed through the University of Nebraska Online High School, ensuring consistency, rigor, and alignment with Perkiomen's curriculum standards. Placement in the next sequential class is granted only upon successful completion and submission of official documentation.

Students with distinctive academic interests or special circumstances may also petition to design an independent study. An independent study must be academically rigorous, clearly defined, and contain six units of credit. Each independent study requires the supervision of a current Perkiomen School faculty member who will serve as the student's advisor, guiding the course design, monitoring progress, and evaluating final outcomes. As with alternative and summer coursework, students should begin discussions regarding independent study in the spring prior to the year in which they plan to undertake the study.

Academic Institutes

True learning begins with discovery. Perkiomen's Academic Institutes provide students with a structured yet flexible pathway to explore their interests, develop expertise, and define their academic and professional goals. Students may pursue one of four institutes: **Artificial Intelligence, Design Thinking, Entrepreneurship, or Medical Studies.**

Each institute offers foundational coursework, opportunities for interdisciplinary study, and the completion of a culminating capstone project. Through this experience, students apply their learning in meaningful, real-world contexts.

Students seeking to earn **Distinction** (a graduation honor) in an institute must:

- Complete the institute's foundational course
- Participate in an external experience coordinated with the Institute Director
- Complete two cross-listed courses aligned with their capstone topic
- Design and complete a capstone project under the guidance of the Institute Director

Students must declare their intent to pursue Distinction by mid-term of the Fall Term in their graduating year. All capstone projects must be completed by mid-term of the Spring Term of their graduation year. While it is possible to complete the requirements within one academic year, students are encouraged to engage in the program over multiple years for a deeper and more meaningful experience.

The Institute journey challenges students to grow through both successes and setbacks. By developing initiative, expertise, and resilience, students distinguish themselves in the college admission process and beyond.

Middle School Institute Courses

INS-010 Foundations of Institutes

This project-based course introduces students to the core disciplines of Entrepreneurship, Medicine, Artificial Intelligence, and Design Thinking. Students engage in hands-on, collaborative projects that emphasize creative problem-solving, innovation, and value creation. Through the design thinking process, they develop leadership skills, resilience, and a growth mindset, learning to view iteration and failure as essential components of success.

INS-020 Team Building

Team Building offers sixth and seventh grade students the opportunity to develop collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills through interactive physical and mental challenges. By working together to overcome obstacles, students learn the value of teamwork and strengthen interpersonal skills that support success in the classroom and beyond.

Upper School Institute Courses

Artificial Intelligence Institute

INS-110 Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

This year-long course explores the role of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in society, industry, and daily life. Designed for all students—no technical prerequisites required—the course develops critical understanding of how AI systems work and how they shape the future. Students examine real-world applications, ethical considerations, and innovation in technology while creating an individualized plan aligned with Institute requirements.

INS-210 Technology of Wireless Communication

In this interdisciplinary elective, students explore the technologies, capabilities, and limitations of wireless communication systems. Integrating principles of mathematics, science, geography, language, and social responsibility, students learn to select and apply appropriate communication technologies for real-world purposes. The course prepares students for the FCC Technician Class Amateur Radio license in partnership with a local radio club, with the goal of making long-distance contacts—including with the International Space Station.

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 (completed or concurrent enrollment).

INS-310 Computer Programming

This introductory course develops foundational computer science skills through problem-solving and programming in Python. Students learn to analyze complex problems, design structured solutions, and implement functional programs. Topics include variables, control structures, testing, debugging, and stepwise refinement. No prior programming experience is required. Successful completion prepares students for advanced coursework, including AP Computer Science.

INS-312 Digital Game Design

Students learn the fundamentals of game design using the Unity game engine. The course covers design planning, 3D environment development, animation, camera control, and special effects. Students create original interactive games while gaining insight into industry-related careers and the game development process.

INS-410 Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles

AP Computer Science Principles introduces the foundational concepts of computer science and computational thinking. Emphasizing creativity and innovation, students design and implement original computational artifacts through an iterative development process. The course complements AP Computer Science A and may be taken in any order. Students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP examination. Exam fees may apply.

INS-412 Advanced Placement Computer Science A

AP Computer Science A is designed for students seeking a rigorous study of programming using Java. The course emphasizes algorithm development, data structures, object-oriented design, and problem-solving strategies. Topics include classes, arrays, recursion, searches and sorts, and data abstraction.

Prerequisite: Computer Programming or AP Computer Science Principles.

Students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP examination. Exam fees may apply.

INS- 415 Honors Artificial Intelligence

Offered in conjunction with **Ursinus College**, this year-long course explores the transformative role of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in society, industry, and everyday life. Designed for all students, no prior technical experience is required.

Through analysis of real-world applications, ethical considerations, and innovative technology trends, students gain a critical understanding of how AI systems operate and influence the future. Participants also develop an individualized project plan aligned with Institute requirements, applying their knowledge in meaningful, practical ways.

Students have the opportunity to earn **college credit** through Ursinus College (additional fee required), providing an advanced, college-level experience while still in high school.

INS-500 Honors Institute Capstone

The Capstone Project is the culminating experience of an Academic Institute pathway. In this student-driven course, participants design and execute an original project that applies their foundational knowledge to a real-world problem, question, or opportunity within their chosen institute. Working closely with the Institute Director and, when appropriate, external mentors, students conduct research, develop solutions or products, and demonstrate sustained inquiry, critical thinking, and professional skills. The experience concludes with a formal presentation and reflection, showcasing both the process and the impact of their work. This six-credit class is added to the transcript after the capstone project is completed.

Design Thinking Institute

INS- 120 Foundations of Design

The Design Institute develops students' ability to apply strategic, user-centered thinking to real-world challenges. Guided by the design thinking process—empathize, define, ideate, prototype, test, and implement—students strengthen their organizational and creative skills while learning to connect problems with innovative solutions. Through collaboration and practical application, students build structured, deliberate approaches to problem-solving that prepare them for leadership across the private, nonprofit, and public sectors. Design thinking serves as a foundation for future success in any field.

INS-122 Analog Game Design

This course explores the design and mechanics of card, dice, board, and tabletop games. Students analyze classic and contemporary games to understand probability, strategy, and player experience, then apply those insights to modify existing games and design original creations. Through playtesting, troubleshooting, and peer feedback, students refine their ideas and develop a deeper understanding of effective game design.

This course fulfills the Visual and Performing Arts requirement.

INS-420 Honors Design (Design-X)

Design-X is an advanced course in sustainable design and innovation offered in partnership with the University of Delaware (co-enrollment required; \$500 additional fee paid directly to the University). Students explore collaborative ecosystem design, sustainable business models, product-service systems, and eco-design principles. Emphasizing design thinking, the course develops skills in creative problem-solving, empathy, systems analysis, and cross-sector collaboration. Students may enroll independently or extend prior Design Institute coursework to deepen or expand their capstone project.

INS-500 Honors Institute Capstone

The Capstone Project is the culminating experience of an Academic Institute pathway. In this student-driven course, participants design and execute an original project that applies their foundational knowledge to a real-world problem, question, or opportunity within their chosen institute. Working closely with the Institute Director and, when appropriate, external mentors, students conduct research, develop solutions or products, and demonstrate sustained inquiry, critical thinking, and professional skills. The experience concludes with a formal presentation and reflection, showcasing both the process and the impact of their work. This six-credit class is added to the transcript after the capstone project is completed.

Michael J. Krasja '67 Entrepreneurship Institute

INS-130 Foundations of Entrepreneurship

This year-long, project-based course prepares students for success in the Entrepreneurship Institute. Through personal reflection and hands-on experiences, students explore their interests, strengths, and leadership style while developing skills in collaboration and project management. Core business concepts—including marketing, finance, and management—are introduced as students design an individualized plan to guide their entrepreneurial journey.

INS-430 Honors Entrepreneurship (EntreX Lab)

This honors-level, experiential course challenges students to transform innovative ideas into meaningful impact. Through hands-on engagement in the entrepreneurial process, students develop skills in idea generation, creative problem-solving, leadership, evidence-based decision-making, resilience, teamwork, and persuasive communication. Juniors, seniors, and PG students co-enroll in the University of Delaware's Horn School of Entrepreneurship, gaining access to a broader network of emerging entrepreneurs. (Additional \$500 fee paid directly to the University of Delaware.)

INS-500 Honors Institute Capstone

The Capstone Project is the culminating experience of an Academic Institute pathway. In this student-driven course, participants design and execute an original project that applies their foundational knowledge to a real-world problem, question, or opportunity within their chosen institute. Working closely with the Institute Director and, when appropriate, external mentors, students conduct research, develop solutions or products, and demonstrate sustained inquiry, critical thinking, and professional skills. The experience concludes with a formal presentation and reflection, showcasing both the process and the impact of their work. This six-credit class is added to the transcript after the capstone project is completed.

Medical Institute

INS-140 Foundations of the Medical Field

This interest-driven course provides the foundation for success in the Medical Institute and future healthcare studies. Students explore diverse fields within healthcare and medicine while engaging in projects aligned with their individual interests. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, ethical analysis, problem-solving, and effective communication. Each student develops an individualized plan to support their pursuit of Medical Distinction and continued growth in the field.

SCI-400 Honors Scientific Research and Design

Students develop advanced skills in research methodology, experimental design, and scientific communication. The course emphasizes data analysis, critical evaluation of scientific literature, and independent inquiry. Each student completes a year-long research project culminating in a research paper, presentation, and poster, with opportunities to explore any STEM field of personal interest.

INS-500 Honors Institute Capstone

The Capstone Project is the culminating experience of an Academic Institute pathway. In this student-driven course, participants design and execute an original project that applies their foundational knowledge to a real-world problem, question, or opportunity within their chosen institute. Working closely with the Institute Director and, when appropriate, external mentors, students conduct research, develop solutions or products, and demonstrate sustained inquiry, critical thinking, and professional skills. The experience concludes with a formal presentation and reflection, showcasing both the process and the impact of their work. This six-credit class is added to the transcript after the capstone project is completed.

First Year Seminar

FYR-100 First Year Seminar

First Year Seminar is designed to provide strong foundational academic and organizational skills for 9th and 10th grade students who are new to Perkiomen. This course supports students as they transition into the school's academic expectations and prepares them for success in rigorous coursework across disciplines.

Students develop essential skills in problem solving, computational thinking, and graphing, alongside core writing mechanics, including grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph development, and essay writing. Emphasis is placed on building academic confidence, oral expression, and the ability to communicate ideas clearly and effectively.

The course also focuses on organizational and study skills, such as outlining, graphic organizers, note-taking strategies, time management, test-taking strategies, and effective study techniques for assessments. Through guided practice and reflection, students learn how to manage their workload, approach challenges independently, and develop habits that support long-term academic success.

English

Middle School

ENG-015 Studies in Historical Literacy

This course builds strong reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through engaging works of historical fiction and nonfiction. Students learn to develop clear thesis statements, support their ideas with evidence, and strengthen grammar and vocabulary in both written and spoken communication. Through texts such as *The Miracle Worker* and *The Shakespeare Stealer*, students deepen their understanding of history while building confidence as analytical readers and writers.

ENG-025 Identity and Ideals

In this course, students explore themes of identity, belonging, and self-discovery through thought-provoking literature. Through close reading, annotation, and structured essay writing, students strengthen analytical thinking and written expression. The curriculum also emphasizes responsible technology use, vocabulary development, and effective communication. Texts such as *The Outsiders* and *The Giver* encourage students to reflect thoughtfully on their values and place in the world.

ENG-035 Cultural Literacy

Designed to prepare students for the rigor of Upper School English, this course explores resilience, empathy, and community through classic and contemporary literature. Students develop advanced analytical writing skills, engage in meaningful discussion and debate, and refine their command of grammar and vocabulary. Works such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *American Born Chinese* challenge students to think critically about identity, responsibility, and civic engagement while strengthening the academic skills essential for future success.

Upper School

ENG-100 Foundations of Literature and Composition

This course develops essential reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students study classic and contemporary texts—including novels, poetry, and short stories—through discussion and writing assignments, while exploring complex themes that resonate with today's youth. Writing practice emphasizes thesis-driven essays, creative storytelling, and original poetry, building a strong foundation for Upper School English. Possible texts include *The Poet X*, *Fresh Ink*, and *An Abundance of Katherines*.

ENG-200 World Literature

Students examine global literary voices to deepen cultural understanding and historical awareness. The course emphasizes literary analysis across genres—novels, drama, essays, and poetry—while highlighting universal themes and archetypes. Writing instruction focuses on MLA format, grammar, and mechanics, preparing students for advanced academic work. Texts may include *The Alchemist*, *The Kite Runner*, *Interpreter of Maladies*, and *Born a Crime*.

ENG-220 Critical and Creative Writing

This course emphasizes frequent, reflective writing to develop both analytical and imaginative skills. Students produce original work several times per week, refining their writing through feedback and revision. Open to grades 8–12 and PG students, this elective strengthens expression and creativity but does not fulfill the English graduation requirement.

ENG-300 American Literature

Students explore how American literature reflects and shapes the nation's history, culture, and society. The course emphasizes literary analysis and interpretation, with writing assignments including persuasive letters, analytical essays, and nonfiction narratives. Texts range from classics like *Their Eyes Were Watching God* to contemporary YA and nonfiction works such as *Let Me Hear a Rhyme* and *Into the Wild*.

ENG- 310 World Cultures Through Fantasy and Folklore

Explore the world through myths, folktales, and fantasy! In this class, students read, analyze, and discuss stories to uncover what different cultures value, believe, and imagine. Through creative writing, retelling, and performance, students bring these stories to life while deepening their understanding of the cultures behind them. By the end, they'll see how storytelling connects us across time and place—and shapes the way we see the world. This is an elective course.

ENG-320 American History: Historical Fiction and Counterfactual Perspectives

This course explores U.S. history through the lens of historical fiction, focusing on “what if” scenarios that reimagine key events and eras. Students examine pivotal moments—such as the War of 1812, World War II, or the Cuban Missile Crisis—while reading authors who explore alternate outcomes. Through reading, discussion, and research, students deepen their understanding of actual historical causes and consequences and learn to ground creative storytelling in accurate historical analysis. Over the year, students will craft and refine their own historically informed alternate histories, blending imagination with rigorous scholarship. This is an elective course.

ENG-400 Contemporary Literature and Communications

Designed for seniors and postgraduates, this course develops advanced literacy, composition, and communication skills. Students practice academic and narrative writing—including college essays—while engaging with modern media forms such as podcasts, social media, and visual communication. Vocabulary development and critical reading remain central.

ENG-410 AP Seminar

AP Seminar challenges students to think critically, conduct independent research, and collaborate on interdisciplinary topics of personal interest. Students develop skills in argumentation, synthesis of multiple sources, and evidence-based analysis. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply.

ENG-420 AP English Language and Composition

This college-level course prepares students to read and analyze complex prose across rhetorical contexts and to write effectively for multiple purposes. Students study the interplay of writer intent, audience, genre conventions, and language to craft mature, sophisticated writing. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply.

ENG-430 AP English Literature and Composition

This introductory college-level course develops literary analysis skills through close reading of diverse texts. Students examine character, setting, structure, perspective, and figurative language while honing interpretive and analytical writing. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply.

English as a Second Language**ESL Program Overview**

The ESL program at Perkiomen School provides a structured, rigorous pathway for multilingual learners to develop advanced English proficiency and succeed in an academically challenging environment. Students are placed in literature and language courses that align with their current skills, ensuring targeted instruction and meaningful progress. Those with emerging English proficiency may take history and science courses on a pass/fail basis while continuing to strengthen academic language. Student progress is closely monitored through formal assessments at the beginning, middle, and end of the year, allowing for individualized support and measurable growth in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

ENG-6100 Introduction to Literature (ESL)

This course introduces multilingual learners to global literature while strengthening English reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students engage with texts through discussion, writing, and interactive projects to develop comprehension, vocabulary, and sentence-level accuracy. Emphasis is placed on academic vocabulary, understanding context, and connecting ideas across texts. Instruction is tailored to each student's language proficiency to build confidence and prepare learners for success in mainstream academic classes.

ENG-6200 Intermediate Literature (ESL)

Designed for multilingual learners building on foundational skills, this course explores American culture and society through historical and contemporary literature. Students use their own cultural experiences to engage with fiction and nonfiction texts, while developing vocabulary, reading comprehension, and cohesive writing. Instruction emphasizes paragraph structure, formal writing conventions, and critical thinking, preparing students for more advanced academic English and literary analysis.

ENG-6300 Advanced Literature (ESL)

This advanced, reading- and writing-intensive course challenges multilingual students to analyze complex texts and refine their academic English. Students expand academic vocabulary, engage with non-simplified literature, and produce longer, cohesive compositions. By the end of the course, students develop analytical skills to identify authorial strategies, understand nuance, and write with sophistication, preparing them for college-level coursework.

WOL-6110 English Language I

This course supports multilingual students in developing proficiency across the four domains of English—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—with a focus on oral communication. Using WIDA Can-Do descriptors, students set individualized goals to improve fluency in academic and social contexts. Level-appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and cultural competency are explicitly taught.

WOL-6210 English Language II

Building on foundational skills, students refine listening and speaking fluency while expanding reading and writing proficiency. Lessons emphasize academic English, grammar, and vocabulary development within meaningful social and classroom contexts.

WOL-6310 English Language III

This course advances multilingual learners' academic English through focused practice in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students tackle increasingly complex texts and tasks, applying grammar and vocabulary in academic settings. Classroom activities foster fluency, comprehension, and cultural awareness.

WOL-6410 English Language IV

This course prepares multilingual learners for the academic rigor of mainstream classes by strengthening advanced English skills in all four domains. Students engage with challenging texts, refine writing for cohesion and precision, and develop confidence in oral and written communication. Cultural competency and portfolio reflection continue to support learners' progress toward academic independence.

History

Middle School Courses

HSS-025 Foundations of History

This hands-on course introduces students to American history from the Pre-Columbian era through the Second Industrial Revolution while building essential research, writing, and public speaking skills. Through museum studies, material culture, and oral history, students engage in experiential projects—such as exhibits or documentaries—that connect learning to the wider school community. Major themes include the evolution of race and gender, changing ideas of democracy, and the tension between competing American values. Students leave the course with a strong foundation in historical analysis and the methodologies of Public History.

HSS-035 Trade and Communication

Students explore how geography, resources, and human ingenuity have shaped civilizations and global interactions throughout history. From early empires to the modern world, the course examines why nations develop as they do and how they interact with one another. Case studies highlight the power of physical landscapes, internal and external barriers, and the connections that unite or divide societies. Through this global perspective, students develop critical thinking and analytical skills while gaining a deeper understanding of the interconnected 21st-century world.

HSS-045 Turning Points in History

This course challenges students to think critically about how historical narratives are constructed. Students analyze textbook accounts of key events alongside primary and secondary sources to evaluate accuracy, bias, and perspective. Beyond content knowledge, students learn to assess how history is taught—examining questions, assessments, and storytelling methods—to sharpen critical thinking and develop analytical skills that prepare them for advanced study in history and related disciplines.

Upper School

HSS-100 Human Geography

This year-long course examines the distribution, processes, and impact of human populations on the planet. Students study population, migration, culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political and economic systems, industry, agriculture, and urban development. Emphasis is placed on geographic models, global case studies, and applications to U.S. and local contexts. Qualifying students may opt into **HSS- 400 AP Human Geography**. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply. Transcripts are updated to reflect the AP course after the exam is completed.

HSS-200 Modern World History

Students explore global history from the Scientific Revolution to the present, analyzing 18th- and 19th-century revolutions, responses to imperialism, the World Wars, the Holocaust, and decolonization. Critical thinking, discussion, and research are central, as students craft well-supported arguments in writing assignments culminating in an extended-term paper. Diverse global perspectives are highlighted.

HSS-300 United States History

Students examine major themes in American history by analyzing primary and secondary sources to understand political, social, economic, and cultural developments. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical reasoning, argumentative writing, and understanding historical cause-and-effects, continuity, and change. Assignments include a thesis-driven essay and other compositions to connect historical events to contemporary life.

HSS-351 Advanced Global Studies

An introduction to international politics and global systems, this course explores the origins, development, and contemporary dynamics of world politics. Students evaluate international relations theories, analyze global actors, and apply critical reasoning to contemporary political puzzles, gaining a deep understanding of the forces shaping our interconnected world.

HSS-360 Economics of Athletics

Explore the business, strategy, and culture behind sports in this project-based course. Students analyze the economics of athletics through real-world case studies, including statistical approaches like Moneyball, the rise of media in college sports (from the Big East to ESPN), and the financial and legal implications of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) deals.

The course also examines the impact of gambling on sports—from historical scandals like Shoeless Joe Jackson to today’s online betting—and how financial incentives shape the games we watch and play. Through projects, research, and analysis, students gain a deeper understanding of how money, media, and law intersect in the world of athletics.

HSS-370 Sociology of Music in American History

This course will offer a rigorous, interdisciplinary examination of how music reflects and drives social change throughout American history. By analyzing distinct genres, artists, and songs through historical and sociological lenses, students will explore the relationship among cultural movements, group dynamics, and the art of music. This course will challenge students to treat music as a primary source document, thereby requiring and honing critical thinking and media literacy skills. It will provide a unique avenue for students to engage with complex historical narratives while understanding the societal impacts of this prolific form of artistic expression: music.

HSS-380 Social Psychology

Students investigate human behavior through social cognition, personality, multiculturalism, motivation, emotion, and ethical concerns in psychological research. Using scholarly journals and APA resources, students apply concepts to understand behavior in communities and society.

HSS-410 AP World History: Modern

This AP-level course surveys global history from 1200 to the present, emphasizing change, continuity, and comparative analysis across societies. Students develop advanced writing and research skills, crafting well-supported arguments with historical evidence. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply.

HSS-420 AP United States History

This rigorous AP survey covers U.S. history from European colonization to the 2000s. Students independently learn foundational facts to allow class time for in-depth discussion, analysis, and application. Writing-intensive, the course emphasizes thesis-driven arguments, evidence-based reasoning, and historical context. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply.

HSS-430 AP Art History

This AP course challenges students to analyze major works of art and architecture with scholarly rigor. Students expand visual literacy, vocabulary, and writing skills while preparing for the AP exam through advanced projects, research papers, and regular assessments. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply.

HSS-440 AP Micro and Macroeconomics

Students study micro- and macroeconomic principles, including decision-making by individuals and governments, market functions, scarcity, opportunity costs, comparative advantage, and the business cycle. The course develops analytical reasoning and quantitative skills, preparing students for both AP Microeconomics and Macroeconomics exams. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply.

HSS-450 AP U.S. Government and Politics

This college-level course analyzes U.S. political institutions, foundations, and contemporary issues. Students engage in persuasive writing, discussion, and research, critically examining civic structures and political behavior. Daily engagement with current events is expected. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply.

HSS-460 AP Comparative Government and Politics

AP Comparative Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in comparative government and politics. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students cultivate their understanding of comparative government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like power and authority, legitimacy and stability, democratization, internal and external forces, and methods of political analysis. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

HSS-470 AP European History

AP European History is an introductory college-level European history course. Students cultivate their understanding of European history through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like interaction of Europe and the world; economic and commercial developments; cultural and intellectual developments; states and other institutions of power; social organization and development; national and European identity; and technological and scientific innovation. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

HSS-480 AP Psychology

Students explore human behavior and mental processes across major psychology subfields, applying scientific methods and ethical principles. Project-based learning connects theory to real-world contexts. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

Mathematics

MAT-020 Pre-Algebra

This course focuses primarily on developing a strong foundation for future algebraic concepts. Students learn to use variables, rational numbers, and functions to represent patterns and relationships. In addition, they continue to write and solve equations as well as graphing these functional relationships. Students practice real-world application of these skills through problem-solving using current data. Basic concepts of probability, statistics, and geometry are integrated into the course.

MAT-100 Algebra 1

In this course, students learn fundamental algebraic skills, relationships, and applications. They use variables and functions to represent patterns and relationships; gain experience with quadratics, geometry, and trigonometry; focus on setting up and solving equations, and work with polynomials and graphing concepts. The course ends with an introduction to solving general quadratic equations.

MAT-200 Geometry

This course not only focuses on deductive reasoning and proofs, but also emphasizes skills in visualization, pictorial representation, and the application of geometric ideas to the world around us, as well as some trigonometry. Topics include segments, angles, deductive reasoning, parallel and perpendicular lines, coordinate geometry, congruent and similar triangles, quadrilaterals, right triangle trigonometry, circles, and area and volume. Learning is enhanced through the use of DESMOS. Students develop mathematical reasoning and organizational skills needed for future mathematics courses.

MAT-201 Honors Geometry

Qualified students with strong algebraic understanding may enter an honors section of geometry with the recommendation of the Math Department. The course not only focuses on basic geometric properties of lines, planes, and angles but also emphasizes visualization, understanding of enclosed spaces, reasoning with large and small solutions, volume occupancy, and proportional area. Topics include algebraic proof, lines, segments, angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, ratios and proportions, congruence and similarity, special properties of right and non-right triangles, trigonometry, circles and volume, and surface area. Learning is enhanced through the use of DESMOS, designed for an emphasis on coordinate geometry, which is a main focus throughout the course. Students develop mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills needed for future mathematics courses.

MAT-302 Algebra 2

This course begins with a review of Algebra 1 fundamentals, incorporating the use of helpful websites, calculator lessons, and standardized test practice questions. It also includes the solving of linear equations, inequalities, systems of equations, polynomials, a focus on factoring principles, quadratic equations, rational equations, and conic sections. Algebra 2 prepares students for Algebra 3/Trigonometry and for other future high school math studies.

MAT-310 Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry

Open to qualified students, this course covers the material of two other courses – Algebra 2 and Algebra 3/Trigonometry – over the course of one year. It begins with a review of Algebra 1 fundamentals, incorporating the use of helpful websites, calculator lessons, and standardized test practice questions. It also includes the solving of linear equations, inequalities, systems of equations, polynomials, quadratic equations, and conics. Students will then end the year by completing a study of trigonometry and then proceeding to polynomial functions, rational polynomial expressions, logarithmic functions, series and sequences, and probability and statistics. This course prepares students for Pre-Calculus and for other future high school math studies.

MAT-320 Data Analysis and Collection

Data is a key tool in every aspect of both academic and real-world applications. This course will focus on how to create data collection tools. Then, students will engage in the process of how data is analyzed. They will dive into both big and small data sets and modes of data analysis. Also, students will learn how to evaluate both the bias and ethics in data collection.

MAT-350 Algebra 3/Trigonometry

Students complete the study of polynomial functions, rational polynomial expressions, logarithmic functions, series and sequences, probability, and statistics and then proceed to trigonometry. This course prepares students for Pre-Calculus.

MAT-375 Advanced Algebra with Financial Application

This course is designed to inform students about their role as a citizen, students, family members, consumers, and active participants in the business world. This course is intended to provide opportunities for self-awareness, expression, and satisfaction in a highly technical and competitive society. Students will learn applications of multivariate statistics and their use in market research. Students will review and learn to understand financial statements, how to measure cash flow, valuing a company, raising additional debt and equity capital. Students will get an introduction to basic accounting concepts and gain practice on the following topics: debits, credits, the chart of accounts, the ledger, inventory measurement, net realizable value, recovery of bad debts, and methods for computing interest. The course also includes fixed assets, depreciation and scrap value, methods of depreciation, payroll, and payroll taxes.

MAT-400 Pre-Calculus

This course is open to students who have successfully completed MAT-302: Algebra 2, MAT-301: Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry, and have the recommendation of the Math Department. The goal of this course is to prepare students for MAT-450: Honors Calculus while developing analytical thinking skills. The course covers functions, domain, range, graphing, and problem solving of trigonometric, logarithmic, exponential, polynomial, and rational functions. The concept of a limit is introduced for sequences and then for more general functions.

MAT-401 AP Pre-Calculus

Students must have successfully completed either Algebra 3/Trigonometry or Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry to be eligible for this course, whose goal is to prepare students for calculus. The course covers functions of a real variable: domain, range, graphing, and problem solving of trigonometric, logarithmic, exponential, polynomial, and rational functions. The concept of a limit is introduced for sequences and then for more general functions. Continuity and the derivative of polynomial functions are vigorously developed. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

MAT-410 Honors Calculus

This course is open to students who have successfully completed MAT-400: Pre-Calculus or MAT-401: Honors Pre-Calculus and desire exposure to calculus on a non–Advanced Placement level. It focuses on the study of change using fundamental calculus concepts. The class begins with limits before exploring the differential and integral calculus of a single variable. The use of the TI-84 Plus or TI-89 calculator is required.

MAT-420 Advanced Placement Statistics

This course is open to qualified students who have completed MAT-350: Honors Algebra 3/Trigonometry, MAT-301: Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry, MAT-400: Pre-Calculus, or MAT-401: AP Pre-Calculus with an average of B+ or higher and have the recommendation of the Math Department. It prepares students to take the AP Statistics exam. This course introduces students to ideas and methods for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data and probability models, distributions, hypothesis testing and estimations. Concepts include: exploring data, sampling, experimentation, anticipating patterns, and inference. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

MAT-430 AP Calculus AB

This course is open to qualified students by recommendation of the Math Department and prepares them to take the AP Calculus AB exam. It focuses on the study of change using fundamental calculus concepts. The class begins with limits before exploring the differential and integral calculus of a single variable. The class helps students prepare for the AP exam by giving them a strong conceptual understanding of calculus. A college-level course, it moves at a very fast pace and requires thorough preparation in pre-calculus and strong mathematical skills.

Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.

MAT-440 AP Calculus BC

This course is open to students who have completed MAT-430: Advanced Placement Calculus AB with an average of B+ or higher and have the recommendation of the Math Department. Scores on the Advanced Placement Calculus AB exam may be taken into consideration. This course prepares students to take the AP Calculus BC exam. Leading to a deeper understanding of fundamental concepts of differential and integral calculus of a single variable, this course begins with a review of Calculus AB topics before tackling applications of integration, infinite series, differential equations, and polar and parametric equations. Students gain experience with applications and methods through weekly quizzes and practice with Advanced Placement exams.

Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.

MAT-450 Honors Linear Algebra

This course is open to students who have completed MAT-440 AP Calculus BC with an average of a B+ or higher. This course provides a rigorous introduction to the theory and applications of linear algebra, a foundational discipline in mathematics, science, and engineering. Students explore vector spaces, linear transformations, matrices, determinants, eigenvalues, and eigenvectors, with an emphasis on both computational proficiency and conceptual understanding. The course integrates real-world applications, including data analysis, computer graphics, economics, and engineering problems, to illustrate the power of linear algebra in solving complex, multidimensional problems. Students will develop critical problem-solving skills, logical reasoning, and the ability to construct clear, precise mathematical arguments.

Science

Middle School Courses

SCI-015 Science Foundations

This course introduces students to the essential principles of physics, biology, and chemistry through hands-on, project-based learning. Students develop critical scientific skills, including observation, experimentation, and analysis, while engaging in labs both inside and outside the classroom. The course culminates in a science fair project, giving students the opportunity to apply their knowledge in a meaningful, real-world context.

SCI-025 Science Discovery

In Science Discovery, students explore the fundamentals of scientific investigation and experimentation. Emphasis is placed on developing formal lab skills, including forming hypotheses, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting findings. Interactive lab work both inside and outside the classroom prepares students to showcase their learning through a culminating science fair project.

SCI-035 Science Exploration

Science Exploration exposes students to a broad range of scientific disciplines, from life sciences to physical sciences. Through hands-on experiments and investigations, students strengthen skills in observation, data analysis, problem-solving, and communication. The course includes labs both in and out of the classroom and culminates with a science fair project that highlights students' creativity and mastery of scientific inquiry.

Upper School

SCI-100 Physics

This conceptual physics course, designed for students entering Grade 9, builds foundational scientific and mathematical skills through a step-by-step approach to problem-solving. Students explore kinematics, projectile motion, forces, momentum, circular motion, and energy through real-world examples and mathematical models. Hands-on laboratory experiences require students to design procedures, collect and analyze data, and draw evidence-based conclusions, cultivating critical thinking and analytical skills essential for advanced science coursework.

SCI-200 Chemistry

This course introduces students to the major principles of chemistry while developing conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills. Students engage in classwork, homework, and laboratory investigations designed to strengthen their knowledge of chemical reactions, atomic structure, bonding, and stoichiometry. Emphasis is placed on analytical thinking and preparation for advanced studies, including Advanced Placement or college-level chemistry. Prerequisite: Competency in Algebra 1.

SCI-300 Biology

Biology provides a comprehensive exploration of life sciences, emphasizing evolution, ecology, molecular biology, genetics, and human body systems. Through inquiry-based, hands-on learning and laboratory investigations, students analyze and evaluate scientific information while connecting biology to real-world applications. The course prepares students for Advanced Placement or college-level biology through rigorous study and critical thinking exercises.

SCI – 310 Astronomy

This entry-level high school astronomy course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of the universe, from our solar system to distant galaxies. Students will explore topics such as planetary motion, stars, galaxies, black holes, and the life cycles of celestial bodies. Through a combination of classroom instruction, hands-on lab activities, telescope observations, and data analysis, students will develop critical thinking and scientific reasoning skills. Emphasis is placed on applying mathematical models, interpreting astronomical data, and understanding the connections between physics, chemistry, and space science. By the end of the course, students will gain a strong foundation in astronomy and the skills necessary for further study in physical sciences or space-related disciplines.

SCI-320 Engineering and Applied Sciences

This course introduces students to engineering principles, emphasizing analytical problem-solving and the creation of functional products. Students engage in real-world applications of engineering concepts, collaborating to develop solutions that reflect their individual creativity. Coursework fosters critical thinking, iterative design, and practical skills applicable to industry and scientific research.

SCI-330 Anatomy and Physiology

This year-long course explores the human body as an integrated system, emphasizing structure, function, and movement. Students study bony landmarks, fine motor development, system interactions, and the healing process. Labs provide hands-on learning and detailed anatomical study, ideal for students preparing for medical or health sciences. Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently enrolled in Biology.

SCI-335 Ornithology

Ornithology explores avian biology, including anatomy, physiology, behavior, migration, and population ecology. Students gain field experience in bird identification and contribute to citizen science conservation projects. This course combines rigorous study with real-world applications. Note: Pending NCAA approval.

SCI-340 Science of Agriculture

This course investigates the complex relationships between agricultural practices, ecological systems, and society. Students examine sustainable solutions to global challenges such as food security, climate change, and biodiversity loss, integrating historical, environmental, economic, and cultural perspectives. Note: Pending NCAA approval.

SCI-350 Forensics

This lab-based course immerses students in the application of scientific investigation to real-world contexts. Students use the scientific method to analyze evidence, conduct experiments, and produce professional-quality lab reports, developing reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

SCI-355 Chemistry of Nutrition

This course explores the scientific relationship between nutrition, performance, and recovery. Students analyze macronutrients, hydration, nutrient timing, and supplementation to develop personalized nutrition strategies. Hands-on activities, including food preparation and applied projects, reinforce learning and support lifelong health and athletic performance. Note: Pending NCAA approval.

SCI-400 Honors Scientific Research and Design

Students develop advanced skills in research methodology, experimental design, and scientific communication. The course emphasizes data analysis, critical evaluation of scientific literature, and independent inquiry. Each student completes a year-long research project culminating in a research paper, presentation, and poster, with opportunities to explore any STEM field of personal interest.

SCI-410 Honors Physics (Opt in to AP Physics 1)

This algebra-based physics course emphasizes inquiry-based learning in topics including Newtonian mechanics, work, energy, power, circular motion, rotational dynamics, and fluid dynamics. Students spend significant time on hands-on laboratory investigations, developing analytical, critical thinking, and experimental design skills. Co-requisite: Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry. Qualified students may opt for AP Physics 1. AP exam enrollment is required; fees may apply. Transcripts are updated to reflect the AP course after the exam is completed.

SCI-420 AP Biology

AP Biology is a rigorous, college-level course that emphasizes analysis, interpretation, and application of biological concepts. Topics include evolution, molecular biology, genetics, and ecology. Students complete extensive laboratory work, statistical data analysis, and independent study, developing advanced critical thinking and scientific communication skills. Prerequisite: Biology. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

SCI-430 AP Chemistry

AP Chemistry provides a college-level foundation in chemical principles including atomic structure, bonding, reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. Students engage in inquiry-based labs, problem-solving, and analysis of complex concepts to prepare for AP exams and advanced study. Prerequisite: Chemistry. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

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SCI-440 AP Environmental Science

This AP course examines environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem dynamics. Students develop fieldwork, laboratory, and analytical skills through hands-on investigations and real-world projects, preparing for AP exams and advanced environmental studies. Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently enrolled in Biology. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

SCI-450 AP Physics 2

AP Physics 2 is a rigorous algebra-based course covering mechanical waves, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, optics, and modern physics. Students engage in inquiry-based labs to apply scientific principles and develop critical reasoning skills. Co-requisite: Pre-Calculus. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

SCI-460 AP Physics C: Mechanics

AP Physics C: Mechanics is a calculus-based, college-level course exploring Newtonian mechanics, energy, momentum, oscillatory motion, and rotational dynamics. Labs and collaborative projects provide hands-on application of concepts. Co-requisite: Calculus. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

SCI-470 AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism is a calculus-based, college-level course covering electrostatics, circuits, magnetism, and electromagnetism. Students engage in collaborative labs, data analysis, and problem-solving with applied mathematical modeling. *Prerequisite: AP Physics I or AP Physics C Mechanics and AP Calculus AB or BC. Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

The Learning Center

TLC-100 The Learning Center

The Learning Center (TLC) is designed to strengthen academic and social-emotional learning competencies through a Universal Design for Learning-Based Curriculum. The three units of study each year are Communication Skills, Social-Emotional Learning, and Academics for the Diverse Learner. The content of the units is rotated on a three-year cycle and further differentiated to the needs and age level of the individual classes. The course utilizes a center-based approach where students have a main teacher but are also able to utilize all teachers in the center as needed. Students work on executive functioning skills through personalized short-term and long-term goal setting and progress monitoring. A major emphasis is placed on the “how-to” of learning which helps advance student metacognition. Students are led to discover a customized “formula for academic success” based on identifying their signature strengths and implementing strategies for managing areas of academic weakness. Subject area course work is used to reinforce the strengthening of skill areas which is further supported by extra assistance and feedback from classroom teachers. Cultivating resilience and self-advocacy skills are primary goals for all TLC students since the ultimate objective for every TLC student is to increase learning independence.

Visual and Performing Arts

Middle School

VPA-040: Explorations in Art

In this hands-on, project-based course, students explore a wide variety of artistic materials and techniques in both two- and three-dimensional art. Projects may include drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, graphic design, ceramics, recycled sculpture, installation art, and wire sculpture.

Students build creativity and confidence as they learn to express their ideas visually. Along the way, they develop a strong foundation in the Elements and Principles of Design—key concepts that help them understand how art works and how to create balanced, thoughtful compositions.

This course encourages imagination, problem-solving, and creative risk-taking in a supportive environment. Our goal is to nurture each student's artistic voice while fostering a lasting appreciation and passion for the visual arts.

VPA-050 Explorations in Music

This engaging, hands-on course introduces students to the exciting world of music through percussion, choral singing, and music appreciation. Designed for students of all ability levels, this class welcomes beginners as well as those with prior experience—no auditions or previous training required.

Students will explore rhythm and teamwork through a variety of percussion instruments, building coordination, focus, and confidence. In choral singing, they will learn healthy vocal techniques, blend and balance, and experience the joy of performing together as a group. Through music appreciation activities, students will discover different musical styles, cultures, time periods, and influential artists—developing listening skills and a deeper understanding of how music shapes our world.

This course nurtures creativity, collaboration, and self-expression in a supportive and inclusive environment. Whether your child already loves music or is just beginning to explore it, this class helps students grow in confidence, discipline, and teamwork while developing a lifelong appreciation for music.

Upper School

VPA-100: Studio Art

If you like to create, experiment, or just want to try something new, Studio Art is your space. This course explores a wide range of two- and three-dimensional materials—from drawing and painting to mixed media and sculpture.

You'll build real skills while developing your own artistic style. Projects are hands-on and designed to challenge you at your level, whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist. Along the way, you'll learn how to talk about art, give and receive feedback, and think creatively. By the end of the course, you won't just have finished projects—you'll have a stronger artistic voice and a portfolio that reflects your growth.

VPA-101: Ceramics and Sculpture

Get your hands dirty and bring your ideas to life in 3D. This introductory course focuses primarily on clay, while also exploring other sculptural materials and techniques. You'll learn a variety of hand-building and forming methods, experiment with surface design, and create both functional and expressive pieces. No prior experience is required—just curiosity and a willingness to experiment.

VPA-106: Photography

Love taking photos? Want to learn how to make them stand out? This course dives into digital photography, darkroom (wet) photography, videography, animation, graphic design, and a final project of your choice.

You'll explore how to capture compelling images, edit like a pro, and tell stories visually across different media. Students should have access to a device capable of taking digital photos (iPhone or iPad works great). Whether you're interested in social media content, filmmaking, design, or fine art photography, this class helps you sharpen your creative and technical skills.

VPA-110: Choir

If you love to sing—or want to build your confidence—Choir is for you. This performing ensemble is open to all students interested in group vocal music. You'll develop vocal techniques, learn to read music, and gain performance skills while preparing exciting choral works for Vespers, the Winter Concert, and the Spring Concert. Choir is about teamwork, energy, and the thrill of live performance.

VPA-111: Vocal Arts

Vocal Arts goes beyond singing—it explores how music tells stories, shapes culture, and sparks change. In this course, you'll develop vocal technique while studying music history and the powerful role music plays in society. Students will record and perform music that reflects the human experience, building confidence both on stage and in the studio. Each term culminates in a recording or live performance. If you're ready to grow as a vocalist and use your voice to connect, express, and inspire, this course is for you.

VPA-131: Music Composition

Have ideas for songs in your head? Ready to create your own music? This year-long, project-based course is all about songwriting and musical creativity. You'll learn how songs are built—from structure and transitions to melody and harmony—while analyzing music across genres. Most importantly, you'll write, revise, and produce your own original compositions.

VPA-201: Advanced Ceramics and Sculpture

Take your 3D work to the next level. This course is designed for students ready to deepen their technical skills and develop a focused artistic direction. Working alongside the introductory class, you'll push beyond the basics—experimenting with form, scale, surface, and concept. A major focus of the course is creating a cohesive series of at least three related works that reflect your personal vision and growth as an artist. The course culminates in the opportunity to exhibit your work in the Schumo Gallery—giving you real-world experience presenting your art in a professional setting.

VPA-210: Jewelry

Explore the art of jewelry making in this beginner-friendly course, focusing on cold joining techniques with some annealing and soldering. Students will work with brass, copper, and silver, using various hand tools to cut, shape, texture, and assemble their designs. Through hands-on projects, participants will learn riveting, wire wrapping, and basic soldering to create unique, wearable pieces. No prior experience is necessary, just a willingness to experiment and create! By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in metalworking and a collection of handmade jewelry.

This is a studio-based course built on creativity, feedback, and revision. You'll share your work, receive critiques, and refine your designs like a professional artist. Basic materials are provided; students who wish to expand their projects may choose to purchase additional materials.

VPA-220: Music Theory

Music Theory offers an introduction to the building blocks of music, including rhythm, melody, harmony, and form. Through guided listening, analysis, and hands-on exercises, students learn to read, interpret, and understand musical ideas. No prior experience or instrumental skills are required—this course is designed to spark curiosity, deepen musical appreciation, and provide a strong foundation for further study in music.

VPA-300: Graphic Design and Marketing

This course explores the fundamentals of graphic design across print and digital media. You'll work with Adobe Creative Suite to create and manipulate images while learning typography, layout, branding, and the Elements and Principles of Design.

Projects include logo development, web design, and marketing materials—and you may even design campaigns for real businesses or your own entrepreneurial ideas. Through critiques, presentations, and hands-on projects, you'll gain skills used in today's communication and marketing industries. Perfect for students interested in art, branding, social media, business, or digital media careers.

VPA-310: Performance

Performance is designed for individuals or small groups who want to strengthen their stage presence and refine their craft. Students select their own repertoire (all genres welcome) and work independently with regular instructor and peer feedback.

You'll focus on technique, confidence, audience connection, and professionalism—culminating in public performances. This course is open to both Middle and Upper School students who are serious about growing as performers.

VPA-320: Advanced Jewelry

Building on skills in cold connections and soldering, this advanced course challenges you to create more complex and refined jewelry designs. You'll work with brass, copper, and silver while mastering precision soldering, layered construction, and mixed-metal techniques. Projects emphasize innovation and personal voice, encouraging you to push boundaries in both design and technical execution. Ideal for students who want to strengthen their portfolio and explore jewelry making at a higher level.

VPA-330 Media Production

Dive into the world of modern media in this hands-on course, where students create content across broadcasting, podcasting, and vlogging platforms. Learn professional storytelling, audio/video production, and editing techniques while producing projects that engage real audiences. This course combines creativity and technical skills, giving students the tools to craft compelling media and develop a professional-quality portfolio.

VPA-354: Additive Manufacturing

Go beyond 3D printing and explore the future of innovation. In this hands-on course, you'll build, calibrate, and operate a 3D printer while learning how additive manufacturing is transforming industries such as aerospace, biomedical engineering, product design, and consumer goods.

You'll prototype, test, and refine your ideas through real-world applications. The course culminates in a major project where you research an industry need, design a solution, and manufacture a functional prototype. Perfect for students interested in engineering, entrepreneurship, design, or emerging technologies.

VPA-400: Advanced Graphic Design and Marketing

This advanced, project-based course is for students who want to expand their design and marketing expertise. Building on prior experience (or with teacher approval), you'll explore the theory, history, and professional practice of graphic design and branding. Projects are tailored to your interests and may include advanced branding systems, campaign development, portfolio pieces, or entrepreneurial ventures. The course culminates in a self-directed capstone project or series that showcases your creative and strategic growth. Ideal for students considering careers in design, business, marketing, media, or communications—and for anyone ready to produce portfolio-level work.

VPA-490 AP 2D Art and Design

This course is an introductory, college-level Two-Dimensional Design experience for students ready to challenge themselves creatively and conceptually. Throughout the year, students refine their technical skills while exploring composition, visual storytelling, and design thinking across a variety of media.

Students will develop a focused body of work that demonstrates inquiry, experimentation, and growth. Emphasis is placed on process—brainstorming, risk-taking, revision, and reflection—as students investigate ideas and push their creative boundaries.

Over the course of the year, students will build a comprehensive portfolio that includes finished works, process documentation, and written reflections explaining their artistic decisions and development. After submitting their work to the College Board, students exhibit their artwork in the Schumo Gallery. *Please note: Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently enrolled in Studio Art Intensive, and/or Studio art. Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

VPA-491 AP Drawing

AP Drawing is a rigorous, year-long, college-level studio course designed for highly motivated art students ready to deepen both their technical mastery and conceptual thinking. Building on prior studio experience (completion of at least one studio art course is required), this course challenges students to develop a sustained and thoughtful body of work.

Students explore a wide range of two-dimensional drawing media and approaches while engaging deeply with the Elements and Principles of Design. Emphasis is placed not only on skill development, but also on investigation—examining formal qualities such as composition, mark-making, value, space, and line, alongside conceptual themes and personal voice.

Throughout the year, students are expected to produce a minimum of fifteen finished works that demonstrate experimentation, growth, and refinement across diverse techniques and subject matter. A significant portion of the portfolio centers on a self-directed, sustained investigation, allowing students to explore a personally meaningful theme. Through research, artistic analysis, and iterative practice, students examine how historical and contemporary masterworks inform and inspire their own ideas. *Please note: Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently enrolled in Studio Art Intensive, and/or Studio art. Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

VPA-492 AP 3D Art and Design

AP 3-D Art and Design is a rigorous, college-level studio course for students ready to push their creativity, craftsmanship, and conceptual thinking in three dimensions. This course challenges students to design and construct compelling works of art using a wide range of materials and processes, including sculpture, ceramics, metal, mixed media, installation, and digital modeling. Emphasizing inquiry-based artmaking, students engage in experimentation, problem-solving, and critical analysis as they explore form, space, structure, surface, and scale. Technical skill development is paired with conceptual exploration, encouraging students to take creative risks and refine a distinctive artistic voice.

Throughout the year, students build a comprehensive portfolio for submission to the College Board. The portfolio demonstrates technical mastery (Quality), a range of approaches and problem-solving skills (Breadth), and a sustained investigation (Concentration) centered on a student-developed theme. The sustained investigation requires thoughtful research, iterative practice, reflection, and revision as students explore a cohesive idea in depth.

AP 3-D Art and Design is ideal for highly motivated students interested in advanced studio work and considering future study in art, architecture, design, or related creative fields. *Please note:*

Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently enrolled in Studio Art Intensive, and/or Studio art.

Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year.

Exam fees may apply.

NOTE: Visual and Performing Arts courses are not NCAA approved.

World Language

World Language courses use the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) to guide student progress and skill development.

WOL-010 Latin Foundations (ACTFL - Novice)

This course teaches students that Latin is alive! Students explore how Latin has influenced the English language and that people truly use Latin every day. A derivative tree project at the beginning reinforces these ideas. The course also illustrates the importance of the Roman gods and goddesses in the ancient world and devotes a significant amount of time to the study of mythology, both Greek and Roman. Although it is an introductory course, students still learn a significant amount of vocabulary and are able to read and create simple sentences with the grammar covered. The course closes with a study of the Roman Empire.

WOL-011 Spanish Foundations (ACTFL - Novice)

This course has no previous experience required with Spanish language learning. Course content includes the introduction and mastery of basic categories of everyday vocabulary and the most frequently used verbs in present and past tenses. The goals of this course are to develop beginning communicative proficiency and cultural awareness. Successful students understand how to pronounce Spanish words and how to use cognates and context clues to develop basic communication skills. Students "learn by doing" in accordance with the department's proficiency-based approach to teaching and learning and the progress indicators set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. The Language Department uses the ACTFL can-do statements as guiding indicators for our students' progress within our curriculum sequence. Therefore, by the end of this level, students should be able to present information about themselves as well as communicate and exchange information on familiar topics using memorized words, phrases, and simple sentences. They also develop an awareness of the similarities and differences among the Spanish-speaking cultures of the United States and the Spanish-speaking world. Students are provided with a variety of materials about high-interest topics and situations found in daily living, with attention given to presenting material using instructional techniques appropriate for a variety of learning styles. Daily preparation, attention to detail, accuracy in spoken and written Spanish, and the application of good study skills are emphasized.

WOL-013 Chinese Foundations (ACTFL - Novice)

This course introduces Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture to students. Students learn to speak and understand basic Mandarin Chinese and become familiar with modern Chinese culture through pop songs and cartoons. Students will learn how to participate in the target language, Chinese, through the comprehensible input method as well as tell and read stories. Students will approach the Novice High proficiency level through the course.

WOL-100 Latin I (ACTFL - Novice)

This course provides a base for the study of the fundamentals of Latin grammar and syntax. Students will acquire a large base of Latin vocabulary and will learn to read and understand Latin sentences. Through the study of the many English words derived from Latin, students will increase their own vocabulary in English, as the majority of English words can trace their roots to Latin. They will also acquire a familiarity with and appreciation for the daily life and culture of the Romans. The study of Greek and Roman mythology is a major component of the course. Latin I students are required to take the National Latin Exam in March. Students currently enrolled in another language are also welcome to take Latin as a complement to their existing course. Students should maintain a grade of B or better in their other language courses.

WOL-110 Spanish I (ACTFL - Novice)

This course is an introduction to Spanish, to its pronunciation and intonation, to its basic grammar and idioms, and to an elementary vocabulary. The aim is to develop listening and speaking skills and to acquire a basic level of fluency. The course includes the reading of authentic texts and discussions about the Spanish-speaking world. Students "learn by doing" in accordance with the department's proficiency-based approach to teaching and learning and the progress indicators set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Instruction focuses on communication in real-life and simulated situations. The Language Department uses the ACTFL can-do statements as guiding indicators for our students' progress within our curriculum sequence. Therefore, by the end of this level, students should be able to communicate basic information about themselves, their everyday life, and people they know by using phrases and simple sentences and by asking and answering simple questions. They learn to understand simple questions and statements on familiar topics as well as the main topic of conversations they overhear. They are also able to read and understand notices, schedules, signs, and simple texts in the target language.

WOL-130 Chinese I (ACTFL - Novice)

This class introduces the language and culture of China. Studying Mandarin Chinese and learning simplified characters enable students to communicate with the greatest number of Chinese-speakers. Students also gain insight into the growing importance of the Chinese language in today's rapidly changing world, and China's new position as an economic power. New vocabulary and structures are primarily mastered through games and activities involving movement. Hard work and memorization skills are essential, as students often learn 12 or more difficult Chinese characters a week. Students will approach the Novice High proficiency level through the course.

WOL 140 – French 1

French 1 introduces students to the foundations of the French language through the ACTFL World-Readiness Standards. Students develop skills in the three modes of communication—Interpretive (listening/reading), Interpersonal (speaking/writing), and Presentational (speaking/writing for an audience)—using real-world, meaningful contexts.

Through themes such as family, school, hobbies, food, and daily life, students build essential vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation skills while learning about the cultures of the French-speaking world. Authentic resources help strengthen language skills and cultural understanding.

By the end of the course, students will be able to communicate about familiar topics, understand simple texts, and present basic information with growing confidence. French 1 provides a strong foundation for continued language study and global engagement.

WOL-200 Latin II (ACTFL - Novice)

This course continues the study of the fundamentals of Latin grammar and vocabulary. Students will read at an increasingly sophisticated level and will begin to translate adapted selections from the Classical authors. They will continue to enhance their own vocabulary with knowledge of Latin suffixes, prefixes, and roots, and they will further their study of Roman culture and literature. Throughout the year, they will meet Odysseus, Aeneas, and other Greek and Roman heroes. Students continue to acquire Latin vocabulary, with an emphasis on English derivatives, to further complement their vocabulary. Latin II students are required to take the National Latin Exam in March. Prerequisite: C- or better in Latin I and approval of Latin I teacher.

WOL-210 Spanish II (ACTFL - Novice)

This course, taught primarily in Spanish, focuses on further developing the four basic language skills (listening, speaking, writing, and reading) through various thematic units. Centering around the individual, these units cover such topics as daily routines, health & fitness, and household responsibilities, with an emphasis on communicating in practical, everyday situations. In addition to exploring more in-depth and advanced grammar topics, the content encourages students to think globally and make connections with Spanish-speaking cultures around the world. In accordance with the department's proficiency-based approach of teaching and learning, students "learn by doing." The Language Department uses the ACTFL can-do statements as guiding indicators for our students' progress within our curriculum sequence. Therefore, by the end of this level, students should be able to start, maintain and end a simple conversation on a variety of familiar topics, express needs, wants, and preferences on topics of interest, write about their daily life and understand messages and simple statements on everyday topics.

WOL-230 Chinese II (ACTFL - Novice)

Students must show they have mastered the basics of Chinese I before entering Chinese II, in which they dive deeper into the language and develop the ability to communicate at a basic level through both spoken and written Chinese. Board games are often used to facilitate the enjoyment of learning this difficult language as well as the retention of a large base set of characters. Students will approach the Intermediate Low proficiency level through the course.

WOL – 240 Advanced French

Open to students who have completed French I, this in-person course allows multi-level learners to continue developing their French skills through guided online programs. Students strengthen communication, grammar, and cultural understanding while progressing at their individual level in a structured, supportive classroom environment.

WOL-300 Latin III (ACTFL - Intermediate)

While students in Latin III continue to review and study Latin grammar and construction, they will read and analyze increasingly complex passages at an accelerated pace. Students will read selections in both prose and poetry from the Classical authors and, depending on the interests of the class, will read passages from Ovid, Livy, Pliny, Vergil, Caesar, and Catullus. When reading Latin texts, students will learn to recognize literary figures of speech, identify the metrical components, and expand their Latin and English vocabulary. This class is often taught in conjunction with Latin IV. Latin III students are required to take the National Latin Exam in March.

WOL-310 Spanish III (ACTFL - Intermediate)

This course, taught primarily in Spanish, prepares students to excel in upper-level high school Spanish courses through engaging reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities. The focus of the course is divided between grammar and vocabulary and exploring the culture. Students explore aspects of modern and ancient cultures from Spanish-speaking countries and territories.

WOL-330 Chinese III (ACTFL - Intermediate)

Students must show they have mastered the material in Chinese II before entering Chinese III, in which they broaden their ability to communicate by mastering language related to a large number of practical settings. Chinese idiomatic expressions are studied. Students will approach the Intermediate Mid proficiency level through the course.

WOL-400 Honors Latin IV (ACTFL – Intermediate)

After a thorough review of Latin grammar which will allow Latin IV students to refine their understanding of Latin structure and syntax, students will read selections in both prose and poetry from Roman authors at an accelerated pace. Although Latin IV is often taught in conjunction with Latin III, the content of the course alternates so the selections will not be the same as those of the previous year. Latin IV students will be responsible for additional assignments and readings that will enhance their reading abilities and expand their knowledge of Latin literature. Latin IV students are required to take the National Latin Exam in March.

WOL-410 Honors Spanish IV (ACTFL - Intermediate)

This class prepares students for college-level Spanish courses by helping them develop higher-level proficiency in all language-related skill areas while increasing their knowledge of and appreciation for the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. This course reviews and expands upon major grammar concepts and increases vocabulary through creative independent and collaborative projects and creative writing.

WOL-430 Honors Chinese IV (ACTFL - Intermediate)

This class prepares students for college-level Chinese courses by helping them develop Intermediate High proficiency in all language-related skill areas. Lessons introduce a wide range of cultural and societal issues, which are explored in more depth during the AP course. Students use interpersonal and presentational skills to explore Chinese culture while developing a lexicon.

WOL-490 Advanced Placement Latin (ACTFL - Intermediate High)

This course is open to qualified students by recommendation of the World Languages Department and prepares them to take the Advanced Placement Latin exam. In this course students spend most of their time translating the required lines of Vergil's Aeneid, constituting excerpts from books I, II, IV, and VI, as well as sections of books I, IV, V, and VI of Caesar's De Bello Gallico. In addition to examining the Aeneid story, from both a historical and mythological point of view, and learning new vocabulary and phrases, which must be memorized for the AP exam, students analyze Vergil's meter, structure, grammar (especially his famous irregularities), and poetic devices. They also search for parallels between the Aeneid and Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. Considering the enormous number of lines that need to be translated and mastered, taking WOL-400: Latin IV Honors prior to this course is highly recommended, though it is not a prerequisite. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

WOL-491 Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture**(ACTFL - Intermediate High)**

This course is open to students who have completed Spanish IV, who have performed well in previous Spanish courses, and who receive permission from their current Spanish teacher and the head of the World Languages Department. The class provides comprehensive preparation for the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam as well as for intermediate-level college Spanish courses. In this course, students develop written and oral proficiency in order to compare and make connections with the language, cultures, and communities of the Spanish-speaking world. Speaking and writing focus on interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational forms of communication. The course also aims to improve students' awareness and appreciation of cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world with authentic readings and audio/video programs. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

WOL- 493 Advanced Placement Chinese Language and Culture**(ACTFL - Intermediate High)**

This course is open to qualified students by recommendation of the World Languages Department and prepares them to take the Advanced Placement Chinese Language and Culture exam. The goal of this course is to continue to develop the interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills of intermediate Chinese learners. Extensive readings and media exploration in Chinese prepare students for communication-based assessments. In order to meet standards set by the College Board, lessons are based on cultural, societal, or historical discussion topics. Relevant television and film screenings and interaction with native speakers on campus reinforce the relevance and importance of these cultural topics while helping to prepare students for the required AP exam. *Please note: Students who sign up for AP classes are agreeing to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Exam fees may apply.*

