

LUIS VALDEZ LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

COURSE CATALOGUE

Academic Year 2026-2027



HOME OF THE LIONS

San Jose, California

WELCOME TO LVLA

Welcome to the Luis Valdez Leadership Academy (LVLA) Course Description Catalogue. At LVLA, our mission is to provide a challenging academic program designed to instill a lifelong passion for learning and to equip students with the skills for social and academic success at community colleges and four-year universities.. We offer a challenging academic curriculum designed to prepare students for successful admission and transition to University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and other premier postsecondary institutions.

Our courses span grade-level preparatory subjects, Advanced Placement (AP) pathways, intensive English Language Development, vibrant Visual and Performing Arts, and culturally grounded interdisciplinary studies such as Chicano Theater and Dance. We encourage students and parents to utilize this guide to plan academic tracks, explore rigorous electives, and identify acceleration programs such as Dual Enrollment courses offered.

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HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE

AP WORLD HISTORY

Grade: Grade 10**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None (demonstrated strong motivation via 1-page essay requested)**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

The purpose of the course will be to critically analyze different cultures, societies, leaders, and nations, to understand better how the world people inhabit today came about. Students will also seek to question accepted facts and traditional heroes. While Western Civilization is a focus of the course, students will break out of that traditional mold and study multiple different cultures and patterns of interaction. The main goals for the class will be the development of critical thinking skills, becoming competent writers, as well as growing academically literate by reading challenging texts. Students will analyze and synthesize differing and complicated points of view. The student's ability to write in an intelligent and precise manner will be pushed to the limit, and beyond. A good portion of class time each week will be devoted to preparing for the AP Exam, and the test's related essays. Students can expect to have an increased workload both inside and outside the classroom. At times, students will be required to perform extended reading assignments over the weekends and/or school breaks to prepare for the next week. The level of questions students will attempt to answer and the reading materials for the AP course will be at a college level.

WORLD HISTORY

Grade: Grade 10**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course will focus on the trajectory (path) of democracy through the ages. Students will attempt to examine history from multiple different perspectives to come to an understanding of truth. The purpose of the course will be to critically analyze different cultures, societies, leaders, and nations, to understand better how Democracy, as it is commonly known, came about. Students will also seek to question accepted facts and traditional heroes. Students will take a closer look at America's role in the international community and how it has dramatically impacted world history.

US HISTORY

Grade: Grade 11**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This class focuses on the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War (1865) to the present. Students will refresh their knowledge of the nation's beginnings, growth, and changes to 1900. Students will then be introduced to the movements and events that have shaped and changed America and its landscape during the 20th century. Through this course, students will better understand the political, economic, cultural, and social aspects of the United States.

AP US HISTORY

Grade: Grade 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course provides a general overview of the history of the United States. In chronological order, students will explore America's past, examining the cultural, political, geographical, economic, and technological changes that have taken place and have helped to shape us and guide us as a nation today. Topics will include issues relating to the discovery of the New World through the Reconstruction period, focusing on constitutional issues, the Civil War, industrialization, and immigration.

GOVERNMENT

Grade: Grade 12**Credits:** 5 credits**Duration:** One Semester**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

Students will discuss the foundations of the U.S. government, how laws are made, important court cases, and decisions that have impacted our society. Students will also discuss what is happening now in the American government to be able to understand the world around them. This course should be viewed as the culmination of the civic literacy strand that prepares students to vote, to reflect on the responsibilities of citizenship, and to participate in community activities.

ECONOMICS

Grade: Grade 12**Credits:** 5 credits**Duration:** One Semester**Prerequisite:** Senior Standing**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

Students will look at the American economic system and compare it to others around the world. Students will discuss the impact that the U.S. economy has on the rest of the world and global relationships. Students will also learn to make reasoned decisions on economic issues as citizens, workers, consumers, business owners and managers, and members of civic groups. Students will also examine the stock market, investments, and budgeting for real-life situations.

AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Grade: Grade 12**Credits:** 5 credits**Duration:** One Semester**Prerequisite:** Senior Standing**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. Students will engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete political science research or applied civics projects. AP U.S. Government and Politics is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in U.S. government.

ETHNIC STUDIES

Grade: Grades 10, 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course operates from the consideration that race and racism have been, and continue to be, profoundly powerful social and cultural forces in American society. It offers the experiences of African Americans, Asian Americans, Chicanx and Latinx, American Indigenous people, and other racialized peoples in the United States. It is grounded in the concrete situations of people of color and uses a methodological framing that emphasizes both the structural dimensions of race and racism and the associated cultural dimensions. The purpose of this course is to educate students to be politically, socially, and economically conscious about their connections to history. Ethnic Studies focuses on themes of social justice, social responsibility, and social change. The course spans from past to present, including politics and social reform, allowing students to identify social patterns and universal qualities present in all ethnic/cultural aspects of society, including their own.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 9

Grade: Grade 9**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

The primary emphasis of this course is the development of writing skills, literary comprehension, and analysis, listening and speaking skills, and vocabulary. Texts include the English Language Arts anthologies, short stories, nonfiction, plays, and novels. Outside reading is also required. Writing will be done in response to the literature with an emphasis on informative and argumentative, as well as narrative pieces. Students are instructed in the tools needed for effective writing, including a vocabulary component and reinforcement of grammar skills.

ENGLISH 10

Grade: Grade 10**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course is designed to strengthen the development of reading and writing skills, literary comprehension and analysis, listening and speaking skills, and vocabulary. Required texts include a variety of literature including novels, short stories, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Vocabulary development and outside reading are required. Students are expected to write narrative, informative/expository, and argumentative essays about themes and social issues. Composition assignments emphasize writing as a process. A class community service project is required.

ENGLISH 11

Grade: Grade 11**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This class will focus on the characteristics of various genres, including short stories, poetry, journalism, and novels with the overarching theme of the importance of an educated populace. A comprehensive study of composition principles, and an extensive vocabulary development, is also a part of the curriculum. Essays, written both in class and at home, require students to respond to literature persuasively, analytically, and critically. Creative projects will also be offered throughout the year. Oral expression is emphasized through public speaking seminars and class discussions. Projects, writings, and discussions in this course will emphasize critical thinking skills.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Grade: Grade 11**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** English 9 & English 10**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

The purpose of AP English Language and Composition is to “enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose...to communicate effectively with mature readers” (The College Board 2010). This course is constructed under those guidelines. Through close readings and focused written assignments, students become more aware of rhetorical strategies and the purposeful use of language. As this awareness grows, students are more readily able to incorporate these same strategies into their writing and cultivate personal writing styles. Students also develop the skills needed to analyze visuals (photographs, paintings, sculptures, political cartoons, etc.) with the same critical lens used in traditional print texts.

ENGLISH 12

Grade: Grade 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** Senior Standing**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course is designed to improve student's communication skills further while meeting state standards. Exercises and assignments emphasize improvement in reading comprehension and writing skills as well as speaking, listening, critical thinking, and presentation skills. Reading material includes selected novels, short stories, poems, essays, and other texts. Individualized writing instruction, reading practice, and vocabulary-building activities are included on an as-needed basis. Students are expected to complete various thematic projects.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Grade: Grade 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** English 9, 10, & 11**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course is concerned primarily with understanding, analyzing, writing, and rewriting literature. Students develop both oral and written compositions throughout the year. Summer reading and analysis assignments and research-based papers are a requirement for the course. This course is designed to comply with the curricular requirements described in the AP English Course Description provided by The College Board. The units do not necessarily follow the same sequence from year to year, nor are the same texts taught every year. Texts are added or subtracted according to various criteria including the interests, strengths/weaknesses, and literary background of each class's members.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (ELD)

ELD I: BEGINNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Grade: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**Credits:** High School Credit**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** ELPAC Levels 1-4**UC/CSU (A-G):** High School
Graduation Credit Only

This course is designed for English Learners who are new to the English language. Through the adopted curriculum resources and the CA ELD Framework, students develop foundational skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Instruction focuses on basic vocabulary acquisition, simple sentence structures, and understanding basic grammar. Students will engage in interactive activities that help them communicate in everyday situations and build their confidence as English speakers. This course provides a supportive learning environment to foster a strong language foundation.

ELD II: INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Grade: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**Credits:** High School Credit**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** ELPAC Levels 1-4**UC/CSU (A-G):** High School
Graduation Credit Only

ELD II is tailored for students who have completed ELD I or have achieved a basic understanding of English. Using the adopted curriculum resources and the CA ELD Framework, this course emphasizes expanding vocabulary, strengthening grammar, and building more complex sentence structures. Students develop skills for academic contexts, such as summarizing texts, engaging in structured conversations, and writing short paragraphs. The course integrates listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities to prepare students for more advanced language challenges and build their confidence in diverse social and academic settings.

ELD III: ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Grade: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**Credits:** High School Credit**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** ELPAC Levels 1-4**UC/CSU (A-G):** High School
Graduation Credit Only

In ELD III, students refine their English proficiency and prepare for mainstream academic courses. The adopted curriculum resources and the CA ELD Framework in this course focus on academic language, critical thinking, and complex writing tasks. Students work on advanced grammar, reading comprehension, and expository writing. Instruction emphasizes participation in scholarly discussions, analyzing texts, and producing well-organized essays. By the end of ELD III, students will have the language skills necessary to thrive in an English-speaking academic environment.

MATHEMATICS

INTEGRATED MATH I

Grade: Grade 9**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course formalizes and extends the mathematics standards from the categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Math I is limited to linear and exponential expressions and functions as well as work with absolute value, steps, and functions that are piecewise-defined. The instructional time will focus on 6 critical areas: (1) extend understanding of numerical Manipulation to algebraic manipulation; (2) synthesize understanding of function; (3) deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships; (4) apply linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend; (5) establish criteria for congruence based on rigid motions; and (6) apply the Pythagorean Theorem to the coordinate plane.

INTEGRATED MATH II

Grade: Grade 10**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** Integrated Math I or
Math Placement**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course focuses on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions; comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear and exponential relationships from Math I. It includes standards from the conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. The instructional time will focus on 5 critical areas: (1) extend the laws of exponents to rational exponents; (2) compare key characteristics of quadratic functions with those of linear and exponential functions; (3) create and solve equations and inequalities involving linear, exponential, and quadratic expressions; (4) extend work with probability; and (5) establish criteria for similarity of triangles based on dilations and proportional reasoning.

INTEGRATED MATH III

Grade: Grade 11**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** Integrated Math II**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

The course content expands upon the mathe content and techniques of Math II. Connections among the strands and unifying ideas continue with attention given to depth of understanding. Students successfully completing Course III are prepared for pre-calculus or alternative mathematics courses that emphasize real-world applications in the social sciences, or life and physical sciences. The course emphasizes advanced algebra and trigonometry.

PRE-CALCULUS

Grade: Grade 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** Integrated Math III**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

Students will study relations, functions, graphs, trigonometry, polar coordinates, complex numbers, limits, and derivatives. The student will analyze and graph mathematical functions. There is an emphasis on the verification of trigonometric identities using all of the basic trigonometric identities. Students will use graphing calculators in activities that are appropriate to the topics being studied.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

Grade: Grades 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** Integrated Math I**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

AP Computer Science A is an introductory college-level computer science course that develops students' programming, computational thinking, and problem-solving skills through the Java programming language. Students learn to design, write, test, analyze, and document computer programs while developing an understanding of fundamental programming concepts and algorithms. Topics include variables and data types, objects and methods, control structures, class creation, arrays, ArrayLists, two-dimensional arrays, searching and sorting algorithms, recursion, and data collections. Students engage in hands-on programming and laboratory experiences to design and implement solutions to problems and explore the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes computational thinking practices, including designing, developing, analyzing, and documenting code, and prepares students for the AP Computer Science A examination and further study in computer science and related STEM fields.

SCIENCE

BIOLOGY

Grade: Grade 9**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

Students will embark on a journey into the fundamentals of biological science. Biology is a rigorous and demanding course, which is the equivalent of an introductory college biology course. Content will be covered in more depth and greater expectations will be placed on interpretation and analysis of information than previous biology courses. In addition, statistical analysis of data and modeling of concepts will be expected. A significant amount of studying must be completed at home to allow time for discussion, labs, and inquiry during class time. The course is structured to allow for more class time for labs and discussions. This entails the following subdivisions: biochemistry, cellular biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, and physiology.

CHEMISTRY

Grade: Grade 10**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course is designed to enable all students to learn about the chemical processes that rule their everyday lives, to give them the tools they need to succeed in basic college-level chemistry courses, to build the skills they need to research and resolve their chemistry questions and to inform them of the basic principles of chemistry they will need to make good decisions today and for the rest of their lives in a world that is saturated with so much chemistry. The course is designed to satisfy the California Science Standards for high school students. The course will focus on the following areas: Atomic and Molecular Structure, Chemical Bonds, Conservation of Matter and Stoichiometry, Gases and their Properties, Acids and Bases, Solutions, Chemical Thermodynamics, Reaction Rates, Chemical Equilibrium, Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Nuclear Processes.

FORENSICS

Grade: Grade 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This course includes basic and advanced courses that describe the role of science in solving crimes using an evidence-based system. Topics include the history and role of the forensic laboratory, scientific evidence-gathering techniques, processing evidence, establishing hypotheses, and drawing conclusions. Students will also explore career opportunities in criminalistics and the administration of justice. Course titles may include Advanced Forensic Science, Crime Scene Investigation, Curriculum for Forensic Science: a Biochemical Approach, and Forensics Illustrated: Step Under the Tape.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Grade: Grades 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** Biology & Chemistry with C- or better**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to engage students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental Science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography. This course will also prepare students for the College Board's Advanced Placement Exam in AP Environmental Science.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS (VPA)

DIGITAL MEDIA 1

Grade: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

Digital Media is a course designed to educate students on the ever-changing digital world, as well as to provide hands-on experience with industry-standard software and equipment. The curriculum covers a wide range of areas, so it appeals to a diverse group of students. Topics covered in Digital Media classes include graphic design, animation, audio production, video production, and web design.

VISUAL ART 1

Grade: Grade 11**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

Beginning level course that covers the organization of the elements of design where students apply these skills in two and three-dimensional projects in drawing, color theory, painting, and critiquing processes focused on Latino Culture.

VISUAL ART 2

Grade: Grades 10, 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

This is an intermediate-level course that reinforces the use of The Elements of Design through the organizational use of the Principles of Design in two and three-dimensional projects within an art studio environment with an emphasis on the self-discovery of voice and careers in the arts. Students will further their study in design, drawing, color theory, painting, the critiquing process, media exploration, as well as art history while preparing for Advanced Placement Art.

DANCE

Grade: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** High School
Graduation Credit Only

The course focuses on developing proper technique and performance skills, as well as an appreciation for a variety of dance techniques and styles. Students acquire knowledge of dance history, class etiquette, injury prevention, and the rehearsal process. They also have several opportunities to explore the elements of dance and principles of choreography by creating original dance works, viewing professional examples, and learning to critique and write about dances. Students with no previous training will acquire a basic foundation of dance skills and art appreciation, while more advanced students will continue to advance their technique, artistry and dance awareness.

WORLD LANGUAGES

SPANISH 1

Grade: Grade 9**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

Students will be introduced to the basic language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Language and culture are acquired through meaningful communicative activities centered on real-life situations involving everyday common topics. Students develop linguistic competency as they perform relevant tasks in the new language.

SPANISH 2

Grade: Grade 10**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

A second-year Spanish college preparatory course continues to provide students the opportunity to increase their ability to speak, listen, read, and write in the target language to complete graduation requirements and to continue to develop the language skills and knowledge needed to be successful as they pursue further study of Spanish. Students continue to be reminded of the five goals for foreign language instruction: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. The goals are emphasized throughout the course as students increase their vocabulary development and understanding of the grammatical forms and functions. Accuracy in speaking and writing is emphasized to continue to foster high standards of oral and written communication.

SPANISH 1 FOR NATIVE SPEAKERS

Grade: Grade 9**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

The emphasis of the class is to challenge the student's ability to speak, read, write, listen, and culture development in Spanish. The class is conducted in Spanish and students are expected to converse and participate with the teacher at all times in the target language. I will strive to make the class as lively and interesting as possible, but your positive attitude and participation are critical.

SPANISH 2 FOR NATIVE SPEAKERS

Grade: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** Spanish 1 or Language Assessment**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

Through comparative analysis of selected literary works, the course develops an awareness of cultural and literary contributions from the 21 Spanish-speaking societies. The course is taught in Spanish with an emphasis on composition as a medium of expression. In Spanish II each student will be expected to actively use their proficiency in the target language by writing, reading, listening, and speaking in class activities. The instructor will speak almost entirely in Spanish for students to get accustomed to hearing academic language and working toward gaining more understanding of the target language.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Grade: Grades 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None (Typically 3-4 years of high school Spanish study)**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

The AP Spanish Language & Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Spanish Language & Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish. The AP Spanish Language & Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

AP SPANISH LITERATURE & CULTURE

Grade: Grades 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None (completion of AP Spanish Language recommended)**UC/CSU (A-G):** Meets CSU/UC "A-G"

The AP Spanish Literature and Culture course uses a thematic approach to introduce students to representative texts (short stories, novels, poetry, plays, and essays) from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and U.S. Hispanic literature. Students develop proficiencies across the three modes of communication (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational) in the ranges of Intermediate High to Advanced Mid of the proficiency guidelines from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Through careful examination of the required readings and other texts, students work to hone their critical reading and analytical writing skills. Literature is explored within the contexts of its time and place, and students gain insights into the many voices, historical periods, and cultures represented in the required readings and other texts. The course also includes a strong focus on cultural, artistic, and linguistic connections and comparisons, which is supported by the exploration of various media (art, music, film, articles, and literary criticism).

GRADUATION PATHWAYS & ELECTIVES

ADVISORY 9, 10, 11, 12

Grade: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** High School
Graduation Credit Only

This course focuses on college and career preparedness, through grade-level assigned advisory periods, where credentialed teachers review, monitor, and serve as advocates for students' college and career goals. Our Academic Counselors also provide students with personalized academic advising plans, facilitate college talks, and provide access to information and resources for students related to college which all elements raise awareness of and aspirations toward college.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** None**UC/CSU (A-G):** High School
Elective Graduation Credit

This course provides a core standards-based curriculum. Goals for students include demonstrating a sophisticated knowledge of the many facets of physical fitness, a detailed assessment of fitness levels, and the ability to demonstrate improvement over the year. In addition, students will learn about nutrition and physical, mental/emotional, and social health. Students will learn the value of physical activity for their health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

ADVANCED PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade: Grades 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** Physical Education**UC/CSU (A-G):** High School
Elective Graduation Credit

Advanced PE is a course that mixes in more weight-training elements. Students will develop strength through calisthenics (bodyweight exercises) and weight training (resistance training) with gym equipment provided during the class session. Students will perform these exercises under instructions and guidance from the PE Teacher. Students will also continue to learn about and perform various sports ranging from flag football, disc golf, rugby, and hockey to name a few. Grades have an A, B, C, D, and F breakdown.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Grade: Grades 11, 12**Credits:** 10 credits**Duration:** One Year**Prerequisite:** Physical Education**UC/CSU (A-G):** High School
Elective Graduation Credit

This course develops students' analytical, quantitative, research, and decision-making skills through the study of personal finance and its relationship to individual and societal economic decision-making. Students examine how financial decisions are influenced by income, consumer behavior, credit, debt, economic conditions, taxation, financial institutions, insurance, housing, investments, and global economic trends. Through quantitative problem-solving, analysis of authentic financial documents and data, research, case studies, written arguments, presentations, and technology-based projects, students evaluate financial scenarios and develop evidence-based recommendations. Students analyze the short- and long-term consequences of financial decisions and consider how economic conditions, consumer choices, and access to financial resources affect individuals and families. The course emphasizes mathematical reasoning, critical reading, written communication, research skills, and oral presentation while connecting academic concepts to real-world financial situations.

DUAL COLLEGE CREDIT ELECTIVE

Grade: Grades 11, 12**Credits:** College Credit**Duration:** One Semester / Year**Prerequisite:** Academic Counselor approval**UC/CSU (A-G):** Dual College &
High School Credit

Dual College Credit Elective is an acceleration program that allows students to take postsecondary coursework offered by San Jose City College and simultaneously earn credit toward a high school diploma. This is a great opportunity for students to get ahead in completing college requirements in high school.