



Grade 9 Course Descriptions 2020-2021

ENGLISH

English 9 – Literary Touchstones (1 credit)

This course introduces students to the literary touchstones of world civilization. While the literary works are examined in their historical context, students discover that many of the traditions, values, and ideas that they take for granted had their origins in, and are reflected in, the mythical archetypes of this ancient and medieval literature. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary acquisition and application, literary analysis, narrative writing, discussion, and creative projects. Students are also guided through the basics of formal research in an essay integrated with their World History 9 course.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1 (1 credit)

This course introduces basic concepts of algebra while helping students to develop their skills in symbolic manipulation and their fluency in the “language of algebra.” This material provides a necessary foundation for many of the topics students will study in future mathematics and science courses. There is an emphasis on problem solving and application. Linear functions are thoroughly investigated. Other topics include real numbers, quadratic functions, exponential functions, systems of equations, polynomials, radicals and rational expressions. Scientific calculators will be used where appropriate.

Intermediate Algebra (1 credit)

This course covers operations with real numbers, graphs of functions, domain and range of functions, linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations; operations with polynomials, rational expressions, exponents and radicals; equations of lines. Emphasis is also on problem-solving. It is a course specifically designed to bridge skills between Algebra 1 and Algebra 2. **Prerequisite:** Algebra 1 or Geometry.

Geometry (1 credit)

This course introduces logic and the concept of an axiomatic system. Students learn to justify and communicate their reasoning both through formal proofs (two-column, flow and paragraph proofs) and informally as they solve a variety of problems. Geometry software is used by the students to discover and reinforce many important concepts. Topics studied include reasoning and proof, area, perpendicular and parallel lines, triangles and congruence, quadrilaterals, transformations, similarity, right triangles, circles, surface area and volume. Scientific calculators will be used where appropriate. **Prerequisite:** Algebra 1.

SCIENCE

Biology (1 credit)

Biology is a course designed to survey basic concepts and principles of life. Emphasis is placed on understanding topics through various laboratory activities to develop analysis and reasoning

skills. Areas covered in this course include the organization and classification of living organisms (plants, protists, animals, fungi, bacteria), cellular biology, genetics, forensics, and ecology.

SOCIAL STUDIES

History of the Classical World (1 credit)

This course for freshmen surveys the development of complex civilizations in the ancient Mediterranean world from the Paleolithic Period through Late Antiquity. Emphasis will be placed on the major developments in the political, social and economic history of the ancient Near East, Egypt, Greece and Rome, with special attention to those institutions and ideas that significantly influenced the development of western civilization.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Chinese 1 (Mandarin) (1 credit)

This is an introductory course designed for students who have had no previous study of Mandarin Chinese. Speaking and listening skills are emphasized through the use of multimedia, classroom exercises and other teaching methods. Chinese writing, pinyin and tonal systems are introduced. Culture, history and other aspects of the language are taught.

Chinese 2 (Mandarin) (1 credit)

Students who have successfully completed Mandarin Chinese 1 continue their study of grammar, vocabulary, writing, reading and culture. Conversation, writing and speaking are emphasized.

French 1 (1 credit)

This is a course for Upper School students who have had no previous study of French or who are interested in learning a second foreign language. The course uses an oral-aural approach in which speaking and listening are emphasized through classroom exercises, videos, and a workbook. Basic vocabulary, reading, and writing skills are taught through the study of cultures where the language is spoken.

French 2 (1 credit)

Students who have successfully completed French 1 continue their study of grammar, vocabulary, writing, reading, and culture.

Spanish 1 (1 credit)

This is an introductory course designed for students who have had little or no previous exposure to Spanish, or students who would like to begin the study of a second foreign language. The course emphasizes listening and speaking skills and introduces the study of cultures where the language is spoken.

Spanish 2 (1 credit)

Students who have successfully completed Spanish 1 continue their study of vocabulary, grammar, and culture. Communication is also emphasized in this course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE for Lifelong Fitness I, II (.25 credit)

Students learn the basic concepts of lifetime fitness goals through various activities. In a laboratory setting, students begin with health-related fitness concepts and come to an understanding of these concepts through hands-on activities. The students will utilize all of our athletic facilities.

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

DANCE

Contemporary Jazz I (.25 credit)

This course will explore a number of contemporary dance styles from jazz and hip-hop to different social dance steps. All of these styles of movement are fun and energetic. They include elements such as kicks, leaps, turns and isolations. Time, space and musicality are all incorporated into movement. Students will learn basic choreography structure and have opportunities to freestyle and develop group compositions of their own.

Hip Hop Dance II (.25 credit)

This high-energy class infuses the latest styles of street and social dancing, musicality and rhythm. This class will encourage students to step outside of the box by bringing their own individual style and personality to the movements. Hip hop dance is aerobic and requires students to have the strength and stamina to successfully perform moves. Each class includes upper and lower body conditioning as well as a rigorous warm-up to help prepare students for more intense movements.

Stretch and Strengthen I, II (.25 credit)

Using a combination of Yoga, Pilates, Calisthenics, and Dance warm-ups, this course will focus on stretching and strengthening techniques. Using your own body for weight and resistance, these techniques will improve your health and decrease your risk of injury in day to day activities. The main focus is to increase flexibility and strengthen all muscles, in particular your core. Students can expect to see results in all ranges of movement, energy, balance and posture.

MUSIC

Concert Choir I, II (.5 credit)

Open to all Upper School students, Concert Choir performs vocal music from a variety of style periods. Performances include the Ardent Arts Concert (Oct.), Jubilate Concert (Dec.), and Finale Concert (May). Choir students are encouraged to repeat this class.

Symphonic Orchestra I, II (.5 credit)

In these ensembles, students master music for chamber orchestra and jazz ensemble. Performances include the Ardent Arts Concert (Oct.), Jubilate Concert (Dec.), and Finale Concert (May). Music students are encouraged to repeat this class. **Prerequisite:** Students need to have achieved high school proficiency (Class B or better) on their instrument.

TECHNICAL THEATRE

Introduction to Technical Theatre I, II (.25 credit)

Open to all Upper School students, this class serves to provide students with a basic understanding of the different technical elements of a theatrical production. They will develop basic skills in construction, design, painting, props, and whatever else the current production may need. **Note:** Enrollment limited to 15 with two teachers. 8 with single teacher.

Technical Theatre Workshop II (.5 credit)

Students in this course will be responsible for creating the technical elements of the mainstage production for the semester. This includes, but is not limited to, construction, painting, lighting, props, and sound. Over the course of the semester, they will refine their abilities in all of these areas and gain a deeper understanding of the process of technical theatre. **Prerequisite:** Introduction to Technical Theatre and/or approval of instructor. **Note:** Enrollment limited to 18 with two teachers.

Video Production I, II (.5 credit)

From pre-production to principal photography and post-production, this course will dissect the nuances of video production and give a base of knowledge for creating high quality video. Students will learn how to operate cameras in order to design their scenes and sequences and produce compelling products. The course utilizes the platforms of Adobe Premiere Pro CC which is the industry standard in non-linear video editing. Additionally, by the end of this course, each student will have begun their own professional-grade portfolio.

THEATRE

Introduction to Acting I, II (.25 credit)

Students will study comedic and dramatic acting, utilizing voice, body, and face, to create interesting characters. Students will explore improvisational acting, scene study, movement based acting, and self-expression.

Fall Play Cast I (.5 credit)

In this production ensemble class, students will rehearse and perform a One-Act Play. This One-Act will be presented at the "Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival" at various school throughout the state. All rehearsals will be in class except for a final dress rehearsal and festival performances.

Spring Play Cast II (.5 credit)

In this production ensemble class, students will rehearse, and perform a play that will be produced at the Prairie School at the end of the semester. All rehearsals will be in class except for a final dress rehearsal and school performance.

VISUAL ARTS

General Art I, II (.5 credit)

This course is designed primarily for freshmen and sophomores but is open to any Upper School student as an introduction to the Upper School Visual Arts program. Students will be introduced to basic skills, techniques, and vocabulary with a variety of visual art media. Media

used may include but is not limited to drawing, painting, printmaking, metal sculpture, ceramics, glass, and fiber. Incoming freshmen who have completed with high passing grades both 2D Art and 3D Art in Middle School may be exempt from this introductory course with teacher permission.

Advanced Art II (.5 credit)

This upper level art course is for students who have successfully completed General Art. It includes a more in-depth exploration of art media, with more challenging art assignments in a variety of art media. Students will have the opportunity to select more individual and independent projects, with regular small group feedback and critique circles. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Digital Photography I, II (.5 credit)

This course is an introduction to the basics of digital design using the Adobe Suite. Students will also be introduced to digital photography basics, including the skills and vocabulary needed to operate a digital SLR camera. Limited DSLR's are available for student use; students are welcome to bring their personal devices. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Glass Studio II (.25 credit)

In this course, students will be introduced to several glassmaking processes including fusing, hot working/blowing, cold working, bead making and casting. Emphasis will be placed on studio safety, skill building, collaboration and developing ideas from two-dimensional sketches into three-dimensional glass pieces. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Printmaking II (.5 credit)

This course will guide students through a more in-depth exploration of art media such as drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and other forms of non-sculptural design. Guided practice in how to participate in art critique and craft and artist's statement are a part of the course. Students will have the opportunity to select an individual project of study during the second half of the semester. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Sculpture II (.5 credit)

This course will guide students through exercises covering the concepts of sculptural design. With the medium of clay, students will learn basic hand-building skills and will have the opportunity to throw on the pottery wheel. The course will also cover a variety of other sculptural methods and materials including but not limited to wire, glass, metal and fiber. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.