

Upper School Course Descriptions

2015-2016

Grade 7

English

The Grade Seven English course focuses on the core elements of reading comprehension, composition, grammar and mechanics, vocabulary development, and speaking. Students will read classic and contemporary selections with the goal of strengthening fluency, while providing an introduction to literary analysis and criticism. Students will write reflective, research, analysis, and comparison/contrast essays, understand literary elements such as theme and characterization, and gain an understanding of the writing process.

Mathematics

By the end of grade seven, students are adept at manipulating numbers and equations and understand the general principles at work. Students understand and use factoring of numerators and denominators and properties of exponents. They know the Pythagorean theorem and solve problems in which they compute the length of an unknown side. Students know how to compute the surface area and volume of basic three-dimensional objects and understand how area and volume change with a change in scale. Students make conversions between different units of measurement. They know and use different representations of fractional numbers (fractions, decimals, and percents) and are proficient at changing from one to another. They increase their facility with ratio and proportion, compute percents of increase and decrease, and compute simple and compound interest. They graph linear functions and understand the idea of slope and its relation to ratio.

Science - Life Science

By the end of this course, students will understand how living organisms are composed of cells, genetic instructions are taken from cells and utilized, and delve into biological evolution. They will become familiar with basic scientific equipment, such as microscopes, to assist in their explorations of life. Theory will also be covered in terms of geologic, anatomical, and physiological evidence, with biological principles being applied to structures and their functions. We will also explore environmental influences and how those have shaped organisms over time.

Health 7

In Grade 7 Health a range of different topics will be studied to help the student identify, develop and maintain positive personal health. By the end of Grade 7 Health students will demonstrate ways in which they can enhance and maintain their health and well-being, practice behaviors that reduce the risk of becoming involved in potentially dangerous situations and react to potentially dangerous situations in ways that help to protect their health. They will also be able to understand and demonstrate behaviors that prevent disease and speed recovery from illness as well as demonstrate how to play a positive, active role in promoting the health of their families. They will understand the variety of physical, mental, emotional, and social changes that occur throughout life.

Religion

This course, looking at Major Religious practices, is aimed at finding out what people believe, how they behave and what they think is important. It explores how different people search for and find meaning in their lives and how it is affected by their religious belief. Religious symbols, images and action; religious beliefs and worldviews about God; and different

viewpoints on life after death are topics that will be covered by this course. In this course, students will not only learn about other people and their beliefs, they will also be asked to think about their own beliefs and opinions.

Geography

Throughout this course students will cover the essential elements of geography. The first quarter of the course begins with an introduction to mapping and other geography related skills. For the remainder of the course, students will conduct a geographic review of major world regions such as the USA, South America, South Asia, Japan, Korea, Australia and Western Europe. Special emphasis will be given to environmental, political and economic conditions, as well as social and cultural characteristics of selected countries.

Physical Education

It is the goal of the physical education program for students to learn the skills and rules necessary for the enjoyment of sports and to develop a positive attitude towards physical fitness, and to encourage a personal awareness of the choices that will lead to a healthy lifestyle. The grade 7 Physical Education course includes the following activity modules: Team building, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Fitness, Juggling, Lacrosse, Floor hockey, American football, Dance, Track and field, Ultimate Frisbee, and Cross country running.

ELL

Grade 7 English Language Learners is an Upper School class offering additional English language support during the time allotted for English and foreign language courses. The class focus is primarily on grammar, reading strategies, reading and writing support, and study skills. A further aim of the course is to correctly use the English language, both orally and in writing. A comprehensive overview of the mechanics, usage, and meaning of all of the essential parts of the English language is given in a systematic format. Students are taught the fundamental components and conventions of the language and are given various exercises and opportunities to practice and master all of the important material. When students gain proficiency in each area they will then apply these rules and grammar points to connect with the writing projects they are doing in other courses. As students master concepts, they will be challenged with more complex rules and grammar practice. Students also practice poised speech, pronunciation, articulation, and listening comprehension skills in North American English. Students are taught and encouraged to improve their speech through daily opportunities to participate in class discussions and through formal opportunities to speak in front of their peers and/or younger students. Grammar and pronunciation points are reviewed during a debriefing and self-reflective process.

Advanced Japanese (Grade 7-8)

This course is designed to provide students with a brief overview of various styles from different fields in Japanese writings. Students will learn the systematic view of Japanese society, its culture, history, and important knowledge and technical terms through newspaper articles, textbooks, stories, and research style reports. By the end of this course, students will be able to understand various Japanese writing styles, and also improve their ability to explain/express their thoughts using technical terms and more challenging words. Students will work extensively in improving their Kanji ability. Students will learn approximately 150-200 Kanji depending on their level.

Intermediate Japanese (Grade 7-8)

This course is designed to provide students with a brief overview of various styles from different fields in Japanese writings. Students will learn the systematic view of Japanese society, its culture, history, and important knowledge and technical terms through newspaper articles, textbooks, stories, and research style reports. By the end of this course, students will be able to understand various Japanese writing styles, and also improve their ability to explain/express their thoughts using technical terms and more challenging words. Students will work extensively in improving their Kanji ability. Students will learn approximately 150-200 Kanji depending on their level.

Beginner Japanese (Grade 7-8)

This course is designed to develop Japanese communication skills in all four language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. It also provides to integrate the acquired language and cultural knowledge to effectively communicate personal perspectives on familiar topics. In addition to acquiring Japanese language skills, students also learn about many traditional ceremonies and events that happen in the nation.

Studio Art (Grades 7-9)

Students are provided with a supportive group environment in which students can grow in self-confidence, creative daring, and technical ability. The program develops an in-depth understanding of the foundations of the elements and principles of design. Students have experiences in drawing, painting, sculpture, textiles, collage, printmaking, and 3D design. Students will express their ideas by using art as a form of communication. As students work toward an appreciation and understanding of art they will relate visual arts to various historical and cultural traditions. Students learn to respect their own ideas and artistic expressions and those of others as they analyze and evaluate works of art.

Music (Grade 7-9)

This is a performance-based course intended to further students' music literacy skills through playing wind band or percussion instruments. Previous music experience is recommended but not required. During the course, students will continue to develop their instrumental skills, play band repertoire, and learn historical and theoretical musical concepts. This semester, we will be focusing on playing and theory in first quarter, and history in the second quarter.

Grade 8

English

The Grade Eight English course introduces students to more sophisticated levels of literature and analysis, while continuing to build on the basic skill sets developed in the previous course. Students will undertake weekly comprehension, essay writing, and vocabulary acquisition assessments. Classic and contemporary works of literature are utilized and students are expected to engage in sustained critical discussion, responding to a wide variety of texts, including novels, short stories, poems, plays, and films. Students will begin to engage in extended projects and assignments.

Prealgebra

Prealgebra is designed for students who need further preparation before undertaking the Algebra 1 course. As well as covering the topics of arithmetic, prime numbers, factoring, operations on integers, exponents, roots, fractions, decimals and percentages, it prepares students for future study of geometry, probability and data analysis.

Algebra 1

In algebra, students learn to reason symbolically, and the complexity and types of equations and problems that they are able to solve increase dramatically as a consequence. The key content for Algebra 1 involves understanding, writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations in two unknowns. Quadratic equations may be solved by factoring, completing the square or applying the quadratic formula. Students should also become comfortable with operations on monomial and polynomial expressions. They learn to solve problems employing all of these techniques, and they extend their mathematical reasoning in many important ways, including justifying steps in an algebraic procedure and checking algebraic arguments for validity.

Science - Physical Science

Physical science is the area of focus in the eighth grade science course. Students study topics and concepts from the 4 main units - Motion and Forces, The Structure of Matter, Chemical Interactions, and Space Science. Sub topics include Gravity, Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Chemical bonding, the Chemistry of Living Systems, our Solar System and Universe. Students will have a hands on opportunity to observe science in action through weekly labs. Mastery of the eighth grade physical science content will greatly enhance the ability of students to succeed in the high school science curriculum.

American History

American History is designed to provide students with an overview of the development of the American nation and government by examining key events and ideas that helped shape the American experience. The course moves chronologically starting with an examination of America before the arrival of European settlers and finishes with contemporary American society. In addition to becoming familiar with the general history of America, a major goal of this course is for students to begin using historical inquiry as a means to develop critical thinking skills. While such skills are developed in other courses of study the social science classroom is an especially appropriate setting for developing such skills. One way students will begin to develop their critical thinking is by using primary sources. By reviewing documents and other original materials, students have an opportunity to interpret the writer's

language and to extract meaning. Critical thinking and class discussion is promoted by using primary sources in conjunction with supplementary material such as textbook readings and class lectures. This course is assessed in a variety of ways including ongoing formative assessments, multiple chapter tests during every semester, creative projects, mid term exam and a final exam.

Physical Education

It is the goal of the Physical Education program for students to learn the skills and rules necessary for the enjoyment of sports and develop a positive attitude towards physical fitness, and to encourage a personal awareness of the choices that will lead to a healthy lifestyle. Students will achieve this goal through demonstrating the motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities. They will show knowledge of movement concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activities and also assess and maintain a level of physical fitness to improve health and performance. Some of the activities that students will experience include, volleyball, minor games, basketball, table tennis, badminton, soccer, ultimate frisbee, hockey, softball and fitness testing.

Health

In Grade 8 Health Education a range of different topics will be studied in order to help the students identify, develop and maintain positive personal health. By the end of Grade 8 Health students will be able to understand and demonstrate how to promote positive health practices within the school and community, including how to cultivate positive relationships with their peers. Students will understand and accept individual differences in growth and development. They will learn about their developing sexuality, will choose how to abstain from sexual activity. In addition they will get instruction about how to protect their sexual health.

Religion

In this course students will learn about the beliefs of major religions. They will have the opportunity to ponder certain issues that are timely and relevant. Students will explore the meaning of prejudice, poverty, war and peace, evil and suffering and care for the environment in relation to their belief and faith. In addition to textbook-based learning there will also be discussion of and projects concerning the justice and morality of war, and social justice problems such as poverty, capital punishment, racial discrimination and others issues.

ELL

The Grade 8 English Language Learners (ELL) class is the highest level ELL course offered in the Upper School. In this course the goal is to prepare students for transition into the mainstream. This course meets each day and for a total of twelve times per six-day cycle. This course will continue to focus on grammar, reading strategies, reading and writing support, vocabulary studies, and study skills. In Grade 8 ELL, the goal is to correctly use the English language, both orally and in writing. Students also practice poised speech, pronunciation, articulation, and listening comprehension skills in English.

Studio Art (Grades 7-9)

Students are provided with a supportive group environment in which students can grow in self-confidence, creative daring, and technical ability. The program develops an in-depth

understanding of the foundations of the elements and principles of design. Students have experiences in drawing, painting, sculpture, textiles, collage, printmaking, and 3D design. Students will express their ideas by using art as a form of communication. As students work toward an appreciation and understanding of art they will relate visual arts to various historical and cultural traditions. Students learn to respect their own ideas and artistic expressions and those of others as they analyze and evaluate works of art.

Music (Grades 7-9) Grace

This is a performance-based course intended to further students' music literacy skills through playing wind band instruments. Previous music experience is recommended but not required. During the course, students will continue to develop their instrumental skills, play band repertoire, and learn historical and theoretical musical concepts. This semester, we will be focusing on playing and theory in first quarter, and history in the second quarter.

Advanced Japanese (Grades 7-8)

This course is designed to provide students with a brief overview of various styles from different fields in Japanese writings. Students will learn the systematic view of Japanese society, its culture, history, and important knowledge and technical terms through newspaper articles, textbooks, stories, and research style reports. By the end of this course, students will be able to understand various Japanese writing styles, and also improve their ability to explain/express their thoughts using technical terms and more challenging words. Students will work extensively in improving their Kanji ability. Students will learn approximately 150-200 Kanji depending on their level.

Intermediate Japanese (Grade 7-8)

This course is designed to provide students with a brief overview of various styles from different fields in Japanese writings. Students will learn the systematic view of Japanese society, its culture, history, and important knowledge and technical terms through newspaper articles, textbooks, stories, and research style reports. By the end of this course, students will be able to understand various Japanese writing styles, and also improve their ability to explain/express their thoughts using technical terms and more challenging words. Students will work extensively in improving their Kanji ability. Students will learn approximately 150-200 Kanji depending on their level.

Japanese (Grades 7-8)

This course is designed to develop Japanese communication skills in all four language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course will integrate previously acquired language and cultural knowledge to effectively communicate personal perspectives on various topics. In addition to acquiring Japanese language skills, students also learn about many traditional ceremonies and events that happen in the nation.

Grade 9

English – Academic (Language)

This course focuses on the development of fundamental English reading and writing skills. Specific focus is placed on vocabulary acquisition, basic composition, grammar, and writing mechanics. While language development is prioritized, a range of literature is implemented to support that process.

English – Academic (Language & Literature)

This course provides a balance of literature and language learning. Focus areas include reading comprehension, literary analysis and appreciation, composition, grammar and mechanics, vocabulary, and speaking. Students read classic and contemporary selections from world literature, encompassing a wide range of time periods and diverse cultures. Literary terms and concepts, and active reading strategies are reinforced via various activities and assessments. Students will develop their compositional skills, in a variety of formats, including narrative, expository, and argument essays.

English – Honors

The Honors course integrates literature and language at a sophisticated level, utilizing high-quality classics and contemporary selections. Students will read and respond to historically/culturally significant texts. Aesthetic and historical approaches to literature are utilized. Students are expected to craft well-developed essays in a range of formats, including narrative, expository, descriptive, and argumentation, and will deliver oral presentations that utilize classical forms, as well as incorporate modern, multi-modal technologies. Grammar instruction is not an integrated component at the Honors level. This course is designed to provide a smooth transition to advanced courses in later grades.

Algebra I

In algebra, students learn to reason symbolically, and the complexity and types of equations and problems that they are able to solve increase dramatically as a consequence. The key content for Algebra 1 involves understanding, writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations in two unknowns. Quadratic equations may be solved by factoring, completing the square or applying the quadratic formula. Students should also become comfortable with operations on monomial and polynomial expressions. They learn to solve problems employing all of these techniques, and they extend their mathematical reasoning in many important ways, including justifying steps in an algebraic procedure and checking algebraic arguments for validity.

Geometry

The main purpose of the geometry curriculum is to develop geometric skills and concepts and the ability to construct formal logical arguments and proofs in a geometric setting. Although the curriculum is weighted heavily in favor of plane (synthetic) Euclidean geometry, there is room for placing special emphasis on coordinated geometry and its transformations. Students construct and judge the validity of a logical argument and give counterexamples to disprove a statement. Starting with undefined terms and axioms, students learn to establish the validity of other assertions through logical deductions; that is, they learn to prove theorems. This is their first encounter with an axiomatic system, and experience shows that they do not easily adjust to the demand of total precision needed for the task. In general, it is important to impress on students from the beginning that the main point of a proof is the

mathematical correctness of the argument, not the literary polish of the writing or the adherence to a particular proof format.

Science - Integrated Science

Integrated Science for Grade 9 will focus heavily on biological concepts: origins, functions, heredity, growth and development, interactions among, and behavior of living things. Content is built around the concepts of biochemistry, cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, physiological systems, and diversity. Emphasis is placed on the utilization of mathematical, analytical, data acquisition, and communication skills as well as interdisciplinary approaches to discovery. Concepts and skills are reinforced by a strong emphasis on hands-on laboratory experiences and the integration of other branches of science. Applications to society, individuals, and the utilization of technology are included as is the consideration of the impact of human activity on biological systems. The goal of this course is to provide a solid basis for an accelerated IB curriculum in biological sciences.

World History I

World History I is the first year of the two year-long World History class during which students study the history and culture of various societies from prehistory until the formation of Western Europe. Following the completion of the first year of World History, students should have a basic understanding of the events, ideas and societies that helped shaped the pre-modern world. The sequence of the class is both *historical*, advancing across the years and *geographic*, advancing across the major continents of the earth. A major goal of the course is to provide basic historical investigation skills, encourage critical thinking, draw conclusions from historical evidence and make inferences.

Physical Education

It is the goal of the Physical Education program for students to learn the skills and rules necessary for the enjoyment of sports and develop a positive attitude towards physical fitness, and to encourage a personal awareness of the choices that will lead to a healthy lifestyle. Students will demonstrate knowledge of and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies needed to perform a variety of physical activities. They will achieve a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Some of the activities taught in Grade 9 Physical Education include volleyball, badminton, table tennis, basketball, dance, soccer, touch rugby, softball, cricket and fitness.

Religion

The Grade 9 Religion course looks at major Religions' teachings such as morality, norms and values This course is designed to enrich students' interest and ultimately make a stand on modern day issues facing society on the whole relating to life, science and ethics in relation to their religion. Topic areas include understanding truth as presented in varied ways, scientific development like, but not limited to, In Vitro Fertilization, cloning, genetic engineering, abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment. A look at the different religious response to these issues will also be covered. This course's intention is not to resolve those issues but to make available to students enough information to allow them to form an educated personal opinion about the issues.

Computers

In this general survey of technology, students are tasked with becoming familiar with technology that will aid them in their current and future academic and professional endeavors. Students begin the class by reviewing and practicing QWERTY keyboarding skills, including proper posture. To do so, they use an online typing tutor to monitor correct

finger use, speed, and accuracy. Students will later extend their keyboarding skills by attempting ASCII Art and video dictation. Later, students will learn strategies and techniques for protecting their property and identity while using the Internet (Digital Citizenship), which includes an activity where they research their own digital footprint. In addition, students will refine their understanding of MS Word through the production of a large project in which they make a business plan for a fictional business of their choosing. Finally, students will finish the year by using MS Excel to create projections and charts for their fictional business' sales. These large projects are designed to challenge students to improve and showcase their abilities and may take several weeks to complete.

Studio Art (Grades 7-9)

Students are provided with a supportive group environment in which students can grow in self-confidence, creative daring, and technical ability. The program develops an in-depth understanding of the foundations of the elements and principles of design. Students have experiences in drawing, painting, sculpture, textiles, collage, printmaking, and 3D design. Students will express their ideas by using art as a form of communication. As students work toward an appreciation and understanding of art they will relate visual arts to various historical and cultural traditions. Students learn to respect their own ideas and artistic expressions and those of others as they analyze and evaluate works of art.

Music (Grades 7-9)

This is a performance-based course intended to further students' music literacy skills through playing wind band instruments. Previous music experience is recommended but not required. During the course, students will continue to develop their instrumental skills, play band repertoire, and learn historical and theoretical musical concepts. This semester, we will be focusing on playing and theory in first quarter, and history in the second quarter.

Advanced Japanese (Grades 9-10)

The Advanced Japanese course will improve the student as a bilingual speaker, reader, and writer. Students will focus on writing essays both in English and Japanese. It will also increase their ability to express complex thoughts and subjects in Japanese. There will be an important opportunity to participate in the Bilingual Speech Contest. Students will also learn the systematic view of Japanese society and its culture. They will also gain knowledge and understanding of technical terms through textbooks, stories, and newspaper articles from medicine, geography, history, politics, finance, and science. By the end of this course, students will have a better view of how to explain/express their opinion using appropriate words, styles, and translation in Japanese. Students will work extensively in improving their Kanji ability. Students will learn approximately 150-200 Kanji depending on their level.

Intermediate Japanese (Grade 9-10)

The Advanced Japanese course will improve the student as a bilingual speaker, reader, and writer. Students will focus on writing essays both in English and Japanese. It will also increase their ability to express complex thoughts and subjects in Japanese. There will be an important opportunity to participate in the Bilingual Speech Contest. Students will also learn the systematic view of Japanese society and its culture. They will also gain knowledge and understanding of technical terms through textbooks, stories, and newspaper articles from medicine, geography, history, politics, finance, and science. By the end of this course,

students will have a better view of how to explain/express their opinion using appropriate words, styles, and translation in Japanese. Students will work extensively in improving their Kanji ability. Students will learn approximately 150-200 Kanji depending on their level.

Beginner Japanese (Grades 9-10)

This course is designed to develop Japanese communication skills in all four language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course will integrate previously acquired language and cultural knowledge to effectively communicate personal perspectives on various topics. Students will be able to recognize an increased number of kanji and to use them in writing. Students will also be able to read text containing Kanji.

In addition to acquiring Japanese language skills, students will have the opportunity to write Japanese Haiku, participate in local or national essay writing competitions and speech contest.

French 2

In this book students learn to communicate and express themselves more effectively in many aspects of daily life. The areas covered are meeting people, inviting friends, going out together, ordering food, choosing clothes, exercising and staying fit and planning vacations. Students will be able to describe past events and talk about plans for the future. Also, they will discover the various aspects of French culture and French-speaking communities around the world.

Grade 10

English – Academic (Language)

This course continues the development of fundamental English reading and writing skills. Specific focus is placed on vocabulary acquisition, basic composition, grammar, and writing mechanics. While language development is prioritized, a range of literature is implemented to support that process. A primary goal of this course is to provide individualized programs of study for struggling students - supporting their transition into higher grades.

English – Academic (Language & Literature)

This course focuses on World Literature. Course texts encompass a wide range of time periods and diverse cultures. Students will appreciate individual cultures, while gaining holistic insights into humanity. Students will read and respond to complex and historically/culturally significant works of literature, developing their comprehension and critical understanding skills. While the course focuses on literature, each week class time is dedicated to increasing language skills. The course works towards developing students' mastery in the core reading, writing, and speaking skills required for senior levels of work.

English – Honors

This course focuses on World Literature. Course texts encompass a wide range of time periods, multiple genres, and diverse cultures. Students will appreciate individual cultures, while gaining holistic insights into humanity. Students will read and respond to complex and historically/culturally significant works of literature, developing their comprehension and critical understanding skills. Students are expected to move beyond simplistic and formulaic styles of writing, and incorporate increasingly rich techniques, abstract thinking and diction. The Honors course serves as a foundation for the rigorous (college-level) AP Language and Composition course. Students will be introduced to increasingly sophisticated texts, concepts, and terms, including an introduction to classical and contemporary rhetoric.

Geometry

The main purpose of the geometry curriculum is to develop geometric skills and concepts and the ability to construct formal logical arguments and proofs in a geometric setting. Although the curriculum is weighted heavily in favor of plane (synthetic) Euclidean geometry, there is room for placing special emphasis on coordinated geometry and its transformations. Students construct and judge the validity of a logical argument and give counterexamples to disprove a statement. Starting with undefined terms and axioms, students learn to establish the validity of other assertions through logical deductions; that is, they learn to prove theorems. This is their first encounter with an axiomatic system, and experience shows that they do not easily adjust to the demand of total precision needed for the task. In general, it is important to impress on students from the beginning that the main point of a proof is the mathematical correctness of the argument, not the literary polish of the writing or the adherence to a particular proof format.

Algebra II

Algebra II expands on the mathematical content of Algebra 1 and Geometry. There is no single unifying theme. Instead, many new concepts and techniques are introduced that will

be basic to more advanced courses in mathematics and the sciences and useful in the workplace. In general terms the emphasis is on abstract thinking skills, the function concept and the algebraic solution of problems in various content areas.

Science - Biology

This course is a California standards-based study of living things: origins, structures, functions, heredity, growth and development, interactions among, and behavior of living things. Content is built around major biological concepts such as biochemistry and the biology of cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, physiologic systems, and the diversity of living things. Emphasis is placed on the utilization of mathematical, analytical, data acquisition, and communication skills as well as interdisciplinary approaches to discovery. Concepts and skills are reinforced by a strong emphasis on hands-on laboratory experiences and the integration of other branches of science. Applications to society, individuals, and the utilization of technology are included, as is consideration of the impact of human activity on biological systems.

World History II

World History II is the second and final year of World History. During this class students examine major turning points in the shaping of the world since the end of the Middle Ages. A major focus of the class is the growing interdependence of cultures and societies. Specific areas of study include, but are not limited to Renaissance Europe and the Protestant Reformation, the Age of Exploration and its effect on Enlightenment thought in Europe, various forms of government including absolute rulers and totalitarianism, reasons for the Industrial Revolution's development in England and the causes and effects of the two World Wars. The course continues to encourage student's critical thinking with an increased focus on analytical thought that is "recognizably adult."

Physical Education

It is the goal of the Physical Education program for students to learn the skills and rules necessary for the enjoyment of sports and develop a positive attitude towards physical fitness, and to encourage a personal awareness of the choices that will lead to a healthy lifestyle. Students will demonstrate knowledge of and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies needed to perform a variety of physical activities. They will achieve a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Some of the activities taught in Grade 10 Physical Education include volleyball, fitness testing, orienteering, basketball, soccer, CrossFit, softball and indoor cricket.

Religion

The theme of *Religious Education 10* is Friendship: Self and Others. Underlying this theme is the idea of the interconnectedness of God, self and others. Units of study are based on these texts: The Little Prince, and The Gospel of Luke. A study of prayer is interwoven in the units. Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on the search for essential values for living. In addition to class work, tests, and homework, students are required to keep a journal of their thoughts.

Computers

In this continued general survey of technology, students are tasked with becoming familiar with technology that will aid them in their current and future academic and professional

endeavors. Specifically, students will sharpen their skills with MS PowerPoint, MS Publisher, Photoshop, online WYSIWIG HTML editors, Prezi, MS Movie Maker, and more. Students will study the concepts of Graphic Design as it applies to digital photography, including a study of the Rule of Thirds and visual balance, and as it applies to the creation of web pages, which will culminate in a project in which the students use HTML and a WYSIWYG editor to create a professional web page. Students will end the year by using JavaScript to implement simple problem solving through appropriate algorithm design. This last unit will be a stepping-stone to possible later programming in AP Computer Science. This class is project-based. Individual projects are designed to challenge students to improve and showcase their abilities and may take several weeks to complete.

French 2

In this book students learn to communicate and express themselves more effectively in many aspects of daily life. The areas covered are meeting people, inviting friends, going out together, ordering food, choosing clothes, exercising and staying fit and planning vacations. Students will be able to describe past events and talk about plans for the future. Also, they will discover the various aspects of French culture and French-speaking communities around the world.

Studio Art (Grades 10-12)

Students will build upon prior art knowledge and experience developed through study at the elementary and middle school levels. Students will continue the study of materials, skills, and techniques of drawing and painting, printmaking and 3D design. Emphasis is on the exploration and development of individual expression and form and content. Students will grow in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, respond, and produce. They continue to use a wide range of subject matter, symbols, meaningful

Music (Grades 10-12)

This course is intended to develop students' understanding and appreciation of music through playing and creating music. Previous musical experience is required. Students will participate in a variety of music activities including playing band repertoire, composition, and larger historical and theoretical musical contexts. This semester, we will be focusing on playing and theory in first quarter, and history and composition in second quarter.

Advanced Japanese (Grades 9-10)

The Advanced Japanese course will improve the student as a bilingual speaker, reader, and writer. Students will focus on writing essays both in English and Japanese. It will also increase their ability to express complex thoughts and subjects in Japanese. There will be an important opportunity to participate in the Bilingual Speech Contest. Students will also learn the systematic view of Japanese society and its culture. They will also gain knowledge and understanding of technical terms through textbooks, stories, and newspaper articles from medicine, geography, history, politics, finance, and science. By the end of this course, students will have a better view of how to explain/express their opinion using appropriate words, styles, and translation in Japanese. Students will work extensively in improving their Kanji ability. Students will learn approximately 150-200 Kanji depending on their level.

Intermediate Japanese (Grade 9-10)

The Advanced Japanese course will improve the student as a bilingual speaker, reader, and writer. Students will focus on writing essays both in English and Japanese. It will also increase their ability to express complex thoughts and subjects in Japanese. There will be an important opportunity to participate in the Bilingual Speech Contest. Students will also learn the systematic view of Japanese society and its culture. They will also gain knowledge and understanding of technical terms through textbooks, stories, and newspaper articles from medicine, geography, history, politics, finance, and science. By the end of this course, students will have a better view of how to explain/express their opinion using appropriate words, styles, and translation in Japanese. Students will work extensively in improving their Kanji ability. Students will learn approximately 150-200 Kanji depending on their level.

Japanese (Grades 9-10)

This course is designed to develop Japanese communication skills in all four language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course will integrate previously acquired language and cultural knowledge to effectively communicate personal perspectives on various topics. Students will be able to recognize an increased number of kanji and to use them in writing. Students will also be able to read text containing Kanji. In addition to acquiring Japanese language skills, students will have the opportunity to write Japanese Haiku, participate in local or national essay writing competitions and speech contest.

Grade 11

English – Academic

The Academic course emphasizes the study of classic literature, and through that literature, multiculturalism. Students use their readings to explore various themes such as democracy, immigrant, race issues, and trace the historical roots of American culture. The course applies knowledge students have gained from their history courses as well as current global issues. Students will also receive regular assignments and vocabulary instruction directed towards developing the skills to perform well on the SAT. By the end of the year, students will have a firm understanding of multiple areas of classic literatures; be able to independently analyze prose and poetry, apply these concepts to their own creative pieces, and write extended research, analysis, narrative, persuasion, and argument papers.

English – AP Language and Composition

AP Language and Composition is a non-fiction based course which enables students to become confident, aware, and highly skilled readers and writers. This College-level course is very demanding, requiring students to work critically/analytically with novels, essays, letters, images, and creative non-fiction. The core focus is rhetoric; students will learn how to both identify rhetorical techniques and incorporate them into sophisticated compositions. Students will develop higher level critical thinking and problem solving abilities as they deal with a range of contemporary issues and events.

Algebra II - Academic

Algebra II expands on the mathematical content of Algebra 1 and Geometry. There is no single unifying theme. Instead, many new concepts and techniques are introduced that will be basic to more advanced courses in mathematics and the sciences and useful in the workplace. In general terms the emphasis is on abstract thinking skills, the function concept and the algebraic solution of problems in various content areas.

Precalculus - Honors

The Precalculus course is a combination of topics in mathematical analysis, trigonometry and linear algebra needed to prepare for the study of AP Calculus. It strengthens conceptual understanding of problems and mathematical reasoning as well as preparing students intending to study calculus, more advanced mathematics, physics and other sciences and engineering at university level.

Science - Physics 1: Algebra Based

Physics 1 is a first year physics course catering for both the Academic level and the Advanced Placement level. As well as classes, students will spend 25% of their time in inquiry based laboratory activities. Students will be exposed to the topics of kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravitation, simple harmonic motion, work and energy, rotation and torque, introductory electrostatics and circuits and finally mechanical waves and sound. Students enrolled in the Advanced Placement option will have extra problem tasks each day as they prepare for the AP Physics 1 Exam in May and will have the option of broadening their knowledge by taking the AP Physics 2 course in Grade 12.

US History

In this course students begin with a selective review of United States history with an emphasis on The Enlightenment and the rise of democratic ideas and the industrial transformation of the new nation, before examining major turning points in twentieth century American. During the year certain themes will be emphasized: the expanding role of the federal government and federal courts; the continuing tension between the individual and the state and between minority rights and majority power; the emergence of a modern corporate economy; the role of the Federal Government and Federal Reserve System in the economy; the impact of technology on American society and culture; change in the ethnic composition of American society; the movements toward equal rights for racial minorities and women; and the role of the United States as a major world power. Students will continue using historical inquiry to further develop critical thinking skills by analyzing various primary and secondary sources. In each unit students will examine American culture, including religion, literature, art, drama, architecture, education, and the mass media.

Physical Education

It is the goal of the Physical Education program for students to learn the skills and rules necessary for the enjoyment of sports and develop a positive attitude towards physical fitness, and to encourage a personal awareness of the choices that will lead to a healthy lifestyle. Students will demonstrate knowledge of and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies needed to perform a variety of physical activities. They will achieve a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. In Grade 11 Students will also show awareness of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activity. Some of the activities covered in Grade 11 Physical Education include volleyball, touch rugby, weight-training, handball, lacrosse, basketball, badminton, soccer, softball, baseball and fitness testing.

Religion

This course is designed to give students from varied religious backgrounds an appreciation of the World Religions. In this course the discussion will center on the origin of religion and proposes a definition of religions which hopefully leads to religious awareness and the role of religion in modern society. Basic facts of each of the religions will be learned and presented through various approaches: research/reading, group discussions, reporting, video viewing, etc. The historical development of the religion, its foundation, basic teachings, current trends, are some of the major areas that will be covered in this process. The goal of *Religions in the World* is not simply to define religion and its expression as one found today. Its goal is to help the students to better understand people – they can do so if they understand their religious orientation.

French 3 and 4

In Grade 11 and 12, students will explore topics in more detail and delve deeply into the French language world and its diverse manifestations. Topics include travelling abroad, making reservations, getting sick, expressing your feelings, etc. Students will be able to discuss using more complex language and expressions when talking about their own culture and the French culture.

Studio Art (Grades 10-12)

Students will build upon prior art knowledge and experience developed through study at the elementary and middle school levels. Students will continue the study of materials, skills, and techniques of drawing and painting, printmaking and 3D design. Emphasis is on the exploration and development of individual expression and form and content. Students will grow in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, respond, and produce. They continue to use a wide range of subject matter, symbols, meaningful

Music (Grades 10-12)

This course is intended to develop students' understanding and appreciation of music through playing and creating music. Previous musical experience is required. Students will participate in a variety of music activities including playing band repertoire, composition, and larger historical and theoretical musical contexts. This semester, we will be focusing on playing and theory in first quarter, and history and composition in second quarter.

Advanced Japanese (Grades 11-12)

The aim of this course is to introduce students to a range of texts from different periods, styles, and genres, and cultivate in students the ability to engage in detailed analysis of individual texts and make relevant connections. Students will develop an understanding of how language, culture and context determine the ways in which meaning is constructed in texts, and will be encouraged to think critically about the different interactions between text, audience, and purpose. The course also works to advance the students powers of expression, both in oral and written communication, and promote an enjoyment and lifelong interest in language and literature. Students will work extensively in improving their Kanji ability. Students will learn approximately 150-200 Kanji depending on their level.

Intermediate Japanese (Grade 11-12)

In this course, students will learn multiple viewpoints and the steps of creative writing in Japanese. The course will guide students to read various styles of writing such as poetry, short stories, essays, classics, and newspaper articles. Particular attention will be made on the comparison between the views expressed within the literature and each student's personal perspective. Students will also focus on higher level of critical thinking and problem solving abilities by learning how to best organize their thoughts and express their opinions, both within their writing and orally, during class discussions. Integral to the above, involves the students increasing their ability to read and write Kanji; every student depending upon level will learn from 150-200 new Kanji during the year.

Japanese (Grades 11-12)

This course is designed to develop Japanese communication skills in all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in interpretive, interpersonal and presentational modes. The course will integrate previously acquired language and cultural knowledge to effectively communicate personal perspectives on various topics. Students will be able to recognize an increased number of kanji and use them in writing. Students will also be able to read text containing Kanji. The language output is in line with cultural expectations and appropriateness.

Grade 12

English – Academic

This course focuses on a range of literature, including a range of themed units designed around classic literature. Additionally, students expand on the public speaking, compositional, and critical literacy skills established in earlier grades. Where required, substantial class time is dedicated to language, ensuring that students' abilities will meet the requirements of college-level study. Students will undertake a variety of critical thinking tasks and extensive project work, exploring the connections between literature and society.

English – Honors

This course focuses on a range of literature, including a range of themed units designed around classic literature. High-quality classics and contemporary selections are provided, supported by extensive skills instruction and practice in writing and speaking. Studying historically/culturally significant works of literature, representing a variety of genres and traditions, students examine how authors have used archetypes drawn from Shakespeare, heroic tales, literature, film, and other texts. Students will write and present tightly reasoned expositions and arguments via personal insight and research, using a combination of rhetorical strategies, building on the strong foundation established in the preceding AP Language and Composition course. In their senior year, students will be capable of crafting highly sophisticated works, in a wide variety of forms, while utilizing and synthesizing multiple sources.

Functions, Statistics & Trigonometry - Academic

Functions, Statistics and Trigonometry builds on the algebra and geometry students have previously studied to examine functions, statistics and trigonometry in a unified way to help students prepare for everyday life and future courses in mathematics. Spreadsheets and other technology are employed to explore and investigate complicated functions and data.

AP Calculus

Calculus is a widely applied area of mathematics involving beautiful intrinsic theory. The AP Calculus course is presented with the same level of depth and rigor as are entry-level college and university calculus courses in order to prepare the students for the Standardized AP Calculus exam in May. The standards outline a complete college curriculum in single variable calculus including the topics of derivatives, integrals, limits, approximation, application and modelling.

Science - AP Physics 2: Algebra Based

AP Physics 2 is a continuation of the AP Physics 1 course in Grade 11. Students who successfully complete the AP Physics 1 and 2 courses will have completed the equivalent of a first year introductory university level physics course. As well as laboratory activities, students will study the following additional topics in class: Thermodynamics, Fluids, Electrostatics (Forces, Fields and Potential), DC and RC Circuits, Magnetism and Induction, Optics and finally Quantum, Atomic and Nuclear Physics.

Science - Marine Biology

Marine Biology is a life science course concentrating on the biological aspects of the world's oceans (emphasis on Japan). Students will research the developments of marine biology in regards to the geological, physical, and chemical aspects of the oceans. Additionally, marine life will be analyzed in regards to morphology, ecological and physical adaptations, and economic importance, as well as the environments in which the organisms live. Finally, the impact of humans on both the organisms and the environment will be analyzed.

Physical Education

It is the goal of the Physical Education program for students to learn the skills and rules necessary for the enjoyment of sports and develop a positive attitude towards physical fitness, and to encourage a personal awareness of the choices that will lead to a healthy lifestyle. Students will demonstrate knowledge of and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies needed to perform a variety of physical activities. They will achieve a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. In Grade 12 Students will also show awareness of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activity. Some of the activities covered in Grade 12 Physical Education include volleyball, touch rugby, lacrosse, handball, basketball, netball, weight-training, badminton, table tennis, softball, baseball and fitness testing.

Religion

Ethics and Religion, is a course of Morality and Ethics that would bring the students on a journey through the historical development of personal, social, ethical theories and applied ethics which consequently leads them to focus on the moral and ethical principles in their own lives. This course is also designed to assist the students to explore philosophical discussion and inquiry in relation to religion. This course is about moral decision-making; it is about applying ethical and moral theories in the resolution of real life ethical dilemmas. The aim is to make available to students background and approaches that consolidate the knowledge and skills they need in order to make correct moral decisions and live a moral life.

Economics

The senior economics course is designed to allow students to master fundamental economic concepts, appreciate how the principal concepts of economics relate to each other and understand the structure of economic systems. Students will use economic concepts in a reasoned, careful manner in dealing with personal, community, national and global economic issues. They will use measurement concepts and methods such as tables, charts, graphs, ratios, percentages and index numbers to understand and interpret relevant data. They should learn to make reasoned decisions on economic issues as citizens, workers, consumers, business owners, managers and members of civic groups.

U.S. Government

This course is designed to teach students the basic concept and principles of government and politics in general and American government specifically. This course is important for students as it provides an important base for future college subjects, but more significantly it helps prepare students to take on their civic responsibilities as they enter into your adult life. Topics covered in the course include but are not limited to government and its purpose, political participation and voting behavior, public opinion and mass media, interest groups, rights of due process.

Studio Art (Grades 10-12)

Students will build upon prior art knowledge and experience developed through study at the elementary and middle school levels. Students will continue the study of materials, skills, and techniques of drawing and painting, printmaking and 3D design. Emphasis is on the exploration and development of individual expression and form and content. Students will grow in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, respond, and produce. They continue to use a wide range of subject matter, symbols, meaningful

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Beginner Japanese (Grades 11-12)

This course is designed to develop Japanese communication skills in all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in interpretive, interpersonal and presentational modes. The course will integrate previously acquired language and cultural knowledge to effectively communicate personal perspectives on various topics. Students will be able to recognize an increased number of kanji and use them in writing. Students will also be able to read text containing Kanji. The language output is in line with cultural expectations and appropriateness.

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Electives for Grades 11 and 12

AP Comparative Government and Politics

AP Comparative Politics is designed to provide students with the information they need to score well on the Advanced Placement test in May. Students who do well on this exam demonstrate to college admission offices that they are well prepared to handle college level work and may receive college credit. Following a long initial unit that covers some political fundamentals the course examines the political structure and process of six countries: Great Britain, China, Russia, Iran, Nigeria and Mexico. The class moves quickly and covers topics such as state sovereignty, authority and power; political institutions; citizens, society and the state; political and economic change; and public policy. There is a tremendous amount to cover in a relatively short time. To stay on top of their assignments as expected, students must be well organized and disciplined.

AP Psychology

This Psychology class is meant to function as a general introduction to psychology and its many subfields in order to prepare for the College Board's Advanced Placement Psychology exam in May. However, another goal of this course is to serve as a user's manual to the human mind, allowing students to explore what it means to be human and the current understanding of the causes of human behavior. During this class, students will study psychological research methods, develop a foundation on which to build their own perspectives, and participate in their own research, hopefully adding to the accumulation of our psychological knowledge.

Forensics

Forensics provides an opportunity for students to enhance their observational skills and reinforce scientific procedures they have learned throughout their science tenure as it pertains to both crime-scene investigation and evidence collection. Emphases in the class will be on the identification and exploration of various pieces of evidence, both organic and inorganic, and how it can lead to isolating persons of interest in criminal investigations. Students will also learn the basics of how to diagnose deceased individuals, through both flesh analysis and bone analysis (conceptual exploration), and how this provides insights into various factors surrounding death and its causes.

Introduction to Java Programming

This course is an in-depth overview of introductory programming using Java. This course emphasizes object manipulation via method calls, looping, String manipulation, writing classes, and elementary data structures--such as arrays. This course deals with these topics in detail and offers students many opportunities to write their own code in the form of projects and self-guided exercises. While many of these topics are covered in the AP Computer Science class, they are not taught at the depth they are in this class. This course has been designed to better prepare students who wish to take the AP Computer Science test and while it is not required to do so, it is encouraged.