



Upper School Course Offerings 2017-2018

THE MONTGOMERY ACADEMY

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English

American Literature Grade 9 (Year Course)

The ninth grade survey of American literature will begin with an introduction to literary reading and writing with heavy emphasis on active, close reading of literary texts. Focusing on genres, the course will then address the major literary and cultural movements of American literature including the Enlightenment, Romanticism/Transcendentalism, Realism/Naturalism, Modernism, and Post-Modernism.

Through traditional approaches and collaborative activities such as reading circles and Socratic seminars, students will read, understand, and appreciate a variety of works from authors such as Mark Twain, Alice Walker, Emily Dickinson, and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Important to the class is the notion of student choice in the selection of major texts. At five points in the year, students will select longer texts (novels, nonfiction works, plays, etc.) they wish to read. Working through the writing process of pre-writing, drafting, revising, and editing, students will produce both personal and creative writing as well as literary interpretations/analyses of short stories, poems, and essays. Students will also complete an MLA-based research essay. The Membean online vocabulary program will also aid student vocabulary acquisition throughout the year. The course's goals aim to enhance students' reading, writing, and critical thinking skills as students engage with some of America's finest writing.



British Literature Grade 10 (Year Course)

The tenth grade course traces the progression of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon Period to Modernism and Post-Modernism. A study of representative writers of each major time period offers students a glimpse into a body of literature which has influenced writers the world over, especially American authors. Analytical and creative writing will help enhance students' understanding and appreciation of one of the world's richest literary traditions. The course content is divided into semesters: first semester covers the Anglo-Saxon Period through the Age of Reason; second semester covers Romanticism through Modernism and beyond. The Membean online vocabulary program will also aid student vocabulary acquisition throughout the year.

World Literature Grade 11 (Year Course)

Over the course of a year, students will travel the world via its greatest literature. They will explore ancient Greek tragedy in Oedipus, and modern Greek tragedy in Donna Tartt's The Secret History. Students will read South American poetry and prose, an Argentinian mystery, Camus' The Stranger, a satirical French play, and a novel set in Afghanistan. Throughout the year, students will link philosophy from around the world with texts that challenge our philosophical leanings, including works such as Walt Whitman's poetry and Joyce Carol Oates' short stories, and end the year exploring the first third of Dante's Inferno. During class, students will closely read whichever Shakespeare work is currently playing at ASF in order to best enjoy their viewing of the play. Students will write extensively, critically, analytically, and creatively, seeking always to become better readers, writers, and thinkers. The Membean online vocabulary program will also aid student vocabulary acquisition throughout the year.

**AP Language and Composition Grade 11 (Year Course)**

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition offers an intensive exploration of composition and literature, focusing on elements of form, style, rhetorical devices, and authorial purpose and choices. Students will examine works in many genres: nonfiction, fiction, and other diverse kinds of writing including speeches, memoirs, advertising, and political writing. By studying these works closely and writing extensively about them, students will hone their own writing style, pushing ever closer to confidence, eloquence, and unique voice and perspective.

Prerequisites: The standards for admission include at least a 92 average first semester and a 92 average third quarter in English 10 and a meeting with the AP instructor to review course content and expectations prior to scheduling. To be considered for the class, students who do not meet the 92-average requirement for both first semester and third quarter may appeal by completing an appeals essay. Qualified appeals students, those who score adequately on the appeals essay, will be admitted as space in the class allows.

Senior English Seminar Grade 12 (Semester Course)

The Senior English Seminar course will focus on intensive special studies in essay writing, poetry, fiction, and drama. The course's goal is to serve as a culmination of the student's English studies, offering students concentrated study of language skills they have been honing throughout their MA experience. To achieve that goal, students will write extensively, critically, analytically, and creatively, seeking to become better readers, writers, and thinkers as they prepare themselves for their collegiate careers and beyond. The Membean online vocabulary program will also aid student vocabulary acquisition throughout the course.

AP Literature and Composition Grade 12 (Year Course)

Ostensibly, the senior AP course focuses on preparing students for the AP exam in May. More important, however, is the course's rigorous emphasis on critical reading and thinking and on writing confidently and effectively. Focusing on literary criticism, thematic and genre studies, and literary interpretation, students will read widely and voraciously all year long. Composition assignments will demand that students engage deeply and creatively with the texts, demonstrating profound and creative insights and the ability to express them clearly, eloquently, and convincingly. Prerequisites: The standards for admission include at least an unweighted 92 average in English 11 for both first semester and third quarter. Students who do not meet the 92 average requirement may still appeal by completing an appeals essay. Qualified appeals students, those who score adequately on the appeals essay, will be admitted as space in the class allows.

History

Human Geography Grade 9 (Year Course)

Human Geography is a year course that takes an in-depth look at the branch of geography dealing with how human activity affects or is influenced by the earth's surface. In this course, students will be introduced to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students will learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences while studying different cultures on a global scale and learning about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and application.

The Modern World Grade 10 (Year Course)

The Modern World introduces world history from the early modern era (1500) to the present. Topics include global exploration, cultural change, revolution, imperialism, ideologies, economics, nationalism, human rights, and globalization. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources and discuss interpretations of major events and problems in world civilizations.

AP World History Grade 10 (Year Course)

AP World History is a rigorous, college-level course designed to explore human history from 8000 B.C.E. to the present. We will emphasize the development of analytical and writing skills necessary for success on a collegiate level. To this end, the course devotes considerable time to the critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources, analysis of historiography (principles, theories, or methodology of scholarly historical research and presentation), and inquiry into global connections that have shaped our present world. A special emphasis will be given to preparation for the National AP Exam, including historical writing through essay and document-based questions (DBQ) as well as objective evaluations. Requirement: a minimum (weighted) average of 90 in Human Geography and English for the year immediately preceding AP World.



US History Grade 11 (Year Course)

United States History is a comprehensive survey of our nation's history from 1450 to the present, concentrating upon that area of the New World that would develop into the United States. During the first semester, students examine the development of Colonial America, its political, religious, economic, and social growth; its intellectual development, the formation and organization of the Republic; and the evolution of political, social, economic, and cultural institutions through the Civil War. In the second semester, students study the impact of war and Reconstruction on the nation, patterns of industrialization and immigration and their impact on American society and politics, the emergence of a distinctively modern culture, and the advent of the U.S. as a world power in the 20th century. Development of analytical reasoning and essays are emphasized.

AP US History Grade 11 (Year Course)

AP United States History is a comprehensive survey of United States history from 1450 to the present designed to expand the students' understanding of the themes, events, and issues in our nation's history and to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination in United States History, which students take in the spring. During this intensive study of the American past, students explore our collective heritage as a means of understanding

our role and place in history. The focus throughout is upon the significant events and ideas that have led to the development of a modern democratic society. In the process, students gain a comprehensive understanding of the nation's political, social, economic, and cultural development. They will also master skills necessary for successful college-level work: the ability to write effective essays, interpret primary and secondary sources, think critically, conduct research, and communicate their ideas with sophistication. Requirement: Minimum (weighted) average of 90 in AP World or Modern World History and English for the year immediately preceding AP U.S. History.

Psychology Grades 11 and 12 (Fall Semester)

Psychology is the study of the mind and human behavior. This class focuses on understanding psychology and gives an overview of the concepts of psychology. Some of the topics covered in this class will be motivation, personality, disorders, stress and health, developmental psychology and states of consciousness. This class will answer many of the "whys" that we all have about our behavior. We will be using a textbook as well as out-of-class experiments and observations.

AP Psychology Grades 11 and 12 (Year Course)

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals and prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination in Psychology students will take in the spring. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students will also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Requirement: Minimum weighted average of 90 in history for the year immediately preceding AP Psychology.



Introduction to Economics Grades 11 and 12 (Fall Semester)

This course explores both theoretical and practical approaches to the study of economics. In order to prepare for college-level study, students learn some of the key theories of microeconomics, such as the laws of supply and demand and the effects of monopolies. Students also learn some key theories of macroeconomics, which include government budgets, banking, and the money supply. In addition to theory, students explore the importance of personal finance and how investment in the stock market works utilizing business data and virtual stock trading. Students will be required to participate in the Stock Market Game at a cost of approximately \$15 each.

World Religions & Modern Ethics Grades 11 & 12 (Year Course)

First semester, students will gain an appreciation and understanding of world religions. The course will take an historical approach in the hopes of providing a clear, straightforward account of the development, doctrines, scriptures and practices of the more influential religions of the world. In the second semester, students will delve into the world of ethics. By understanding the nature of morality, and the various standards of right and wrong, the course will look at many complicated issues in the world order to help students develop their own sense of ethics in a modern world.

AP European History Grade 12 (Year Course)

This college-level course explores in depth European history from 1450 to the present. The relationships of Europe with the world, industrialization, the rise of the nation-state, changing ideologies, and the rise of the European Union are key themes. Students will prepare for requirements of the National AP Exam, which include free-response essays and document-based question (DBQ) essays. Requirement: Minimum (weighted) average of 90 in AP U.S. History or U.S. History and English for the year immediately preceding AP European History.

AP Comparative Government & Politics Grades 11 & 12 (Spring Semester)

This college-level course gives students an analytical perspective on comparative global governments and politics. An introduction to political theory precedes study of six different political systems, including structures of government, major political issues, and political culture in the United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Iran, Nigeria, and the European Union. This course is offered to both juniors and seniors for the 2017-2018 school year; it will not be offered for the 2018-2019 school year. Requirement: Minimum weighted average of 90 in most recent history class.

International Relations Grades 11 & 12 (Fall Semester)

This course introduces the theories and problems of contemporary international relations in preparation for college-level study of political science and international studies. Topics include the rise of the nation-state, the theories of realism and liberalism, international conflict, the developing world, international organizations such as the United Nations, human rights, and the environment.

US Government and Politics Grades 11 & 12 (Spring Semester)

After studying the origins of government, this course will closely examine the foundations of the United States federal government. Studying the United States Constitution and the government it created in comparison to other systems of government will help students understand and appreciate the uniqueness of America's democratic experiment. The course will examine in depth all three branches of government as well as covering a unit on civil rights and civil liberties. Students will then investigate the political process and the role they can play in it.



Science

Biology Grade 9 (Year Course)

Biology is a laboratory science course in which students explore biological concepts through an inquiry approach. Exposure to the content areas of cellular and molecular biology (cytology, cell physiology, macromolecules, bioenergetics and genetics), organismal biology (homeostatic mechanisms, developmental biology and behavior), and ecological and evolutionary biology (genetic variation, natural selection, speciation, extinction, systematics, interrelationships, population factors, ecosystems, energy flow, nutrient cycles, sociobiology, and environmental biology) will be emphasized. While important to the study of biology, vocabulary will be a means to understanding and communicating rather than an end unto itself. Students will also explore the ethical implications of science and technology and place theories and discoveries of significant persons into a historical perspective. With the reality of anticipated breakthroughs in science and the personal, environmental, and societal issues that will accompany them, biological literacy for all students is essential. By investigating the basic principles of biology, students gain a deeper appreciation for the world around them and finish the course with the skills needed to think critically about important biosocial issues.



Chemistry Grade 10 (Year Course)

Chemistry is an extensive study of the composition and properties of matter. This introductory course is designed to provide a strong background in conceptual chemistry with an emphasis on mathematical application. Laboratory experiments are conducted regularly to provide students with practical applications for the concepts covered.

Chemistry Honors Grade 10 (Year Course)

Chemistry Honors is similar to Chemistry in that it is an extensive study of the composition and properties of matter. This course differs from the Chemistry course primarily in its depth of coverage, but also differs in its pace so that additional topics will be studied. A greater depth of conceptual understanding is also required in order to solve more difficult problems. Laboratory experiments are conducted regularly to provide students with practical applications for the concepts covered. Some of the laboratory experiments are more complex in nature. Corequisite: Algebra II, Honors or a higher-level mathematics course

Essentials of Physics Grade 11 (Year Course)

Essentials of Physics is a study of physics that includes selected topics from the areas of mechanics, sound, light, electricity and magnetism. Although an emphasis is placed on a conceptual understanding of physics, numerical problem solving is also a part of this course. Problems requiring multiple steps are divided into single step parts that require the application of a single concept, which is expressed in mathematical form. Laboratory experiences are an integral part of instruction and are incorporated into class activities. Corequisite: Algebra II or a higher-level course in mathematics.

**Physics Grade 11 (Year Course)**

Physics utilizes Modeling Instruction and includes the study of Newtonian mechanics with the possibility of studying electrical circuits. Modeling Instruction requires students to construct and use basic models, such as constant velocity motion, uniformly accelerated motion, and momentum in order to describe, to explain, to predict and to control physical phenomena. Each modeling unit typically begins with a laboratory experiment in which students are involved in the experimental design. Data is collected, analyzed, graphed, and conclusions formed. Once a model has been developed, students will apply this model to various physical situations. Problem solving often requires multiple steps in order to obtain a final solution. Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra II, Honors.

AP Physics 1 Grade 11 (Year Course)

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop scientific critical thinking reasoning skills. This course requires that 25% of the instructional time be spent on in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide students with opportunities to apply the science practices. This course meets for double periods twice each week. Prerequisite: A weighted average of 90 or higher in Chemistry or Honors Chemistry. Enrollment in Pre-Calculus, Honors or a higher-level course in mathematics is required.

Anatomy and Physiology I Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Fall Semester/Year Course) Anatomy and Physiology II Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Spring Semester/Year Course)

This class emphasizes the complementary nature of structure and function, homeostasis and its regulating mechanisms, and basic human metabolic processes. Students in this course will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the human body through a variety of methods: class discussion, case studies, lectures, videos, dissections, and other laboratory exercises. While the main focus of this course is the normal function of the human body, various medical applications and pathological conditions will also be explored. This course is designed to be a yearlong class, but it may be taken for only one semester. The course content is scheduled as follows: Anatomy I: anatomical terminology, body tissues, integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous systems, and the special senses; Anatomy II: endocrine, blood, cardiovascular, immune, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems. Prerequisite: Biology

Food Science Grades 11 & 12 (Fall Semester)

Food is essential for health and survival. In this course students will learn the human body's requirements for food and nutrients. Topics will include the structure and function of the six main nutrients and sub nutrients, daily requirements of nutrients, the impact of nutrients on general health and well being, nutrition for fitness and sport, proper food handling and safety, nutrient deficiencies, and medical applications of diet and nutrition. Students will be exposed to real world applications of nutrition and food science through regularly scheduled lab activities and case studies. Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry



Forensic Science Grades 11 &12 (Fall Semester)

Forensic science is a course in which students practice science as inquiry, using the scientific method to reach conclusions or opinions. As an interdisciplinary course, forensic science draws upon concepts in chemistry, zoology, anatomy, genetics, physics, medicine, mathematics and statistics, sociology, psychology, communications, and law. In this course, students will focus on practicing forensic science and analyzing physical evidence found at crime scenes, while developing skills that would allow them to make sense of complex problems. This course will also investigate how forensic science can be used to help solve noncriminal activities such as structural failures and mass disasters.

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Environmental Science Grades 11 & 12 (Spring Semester)

Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary course embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, chemistry, and geography. Environmental Science is designed to increase understanding of the interrelationships in the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and man-made, to evaluate the risks associated with these problems, and to examine solutions for resolving and preventing them. Some topics covered are ecology; conservation; human populations and resource utilization; environmental quality of air, soil, and water; and environmental decision-making and tradeoffs. Hands on activities, videos, case studies, lecture, discussion, and labs will enhance student content knowledge and cultivate scientific critical thinking skills. Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry

AP Environmental Science: Grades 11& 12 (Year Course)

AP Environmental Science course is the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science, through which students engage with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of 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. Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry.

AP Biology Grade 12 (Year Course)

AP Biology provides students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with this rapidly changing field of study. The synthesis of basic biological facts into major concepts and themes is stressed throughout the course. Topics include biochemistry, cellular biology, heredity, molecular biology, evolution, botany, anatomy, and ecology. Because of the course content and the emphasis placed on laboratory activities requiring more time than a single period per day, this course meets for double periods twice each week. Prerequisites: A weighted average of 90 or higher in Chemistry or Honors Chemistry and Biology

AP Chemistry Grade 12 (Year Course)

AP Chemistry is designed to bring all the aspects of chemistry—thermochemistry, chemical kinetics, electrochemistry, acid-base chemistry, and descriptive chemistry—together through a conceptual understanding of the underlying nature of chemical structure. Because reasoning is essential for the advanced chemist, application of these principles is stressed in this course through independent critical thinking, mathematical problem solving, and advanced laboratory skills. Because of the course content and the emphasis placed on laboratory activities requiring more time than a single period per day, this course meets for a double period twice each week.

Prerequisites: A weighted average of 90 or higher in Chemistry or Honors Chemistry and Biology



Mathematics

Algebra I Grade 9 (Year Course)

Algebra I explores linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations, exponential, rational, and quadratic functions graphically, numerically, and symbolically. In addition, operations of polynomials, radicals, and rational expressions are studied. Included are the properties of exponents. Problem solving and applications encourage students to model patterns and relationships with variables and functions using algebraic symbols.

Geometry Grades 9 & 10 (Year Course)

Geometry emphasizes visualizing and understanding Euclidean geometric properties and mathematical relationships, making and verifying conjectures, and establishing connections between geometric and algebraic properties. After an introduction to logic and reasoning, students develop a thorough foundation in proof writing using theorems and postulates. Students apply their proof and problem solving skills to the concepts of measurement, congruence, proportionality, and similarity. Exploration of geometric properties is completed with a study of right triangle trigonometry, properties of circles, and an introduction to measurement of two and three-dimensional shapes. Placement Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I as determined by the math department.



Intermediate Algebra II Grades 10 & 11 (Year Course)

Intermediate Algebra II is a bridge course connecting geometry concepts with algebraic concepts. The course reviews Algebra I topics and their applications. An emphasis is placed on the investigation of different functions graphically, numerically, and algebraically. Additional topics include probability and statistics. Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

Algebra II Grades 9, 10 & 11 (Year Course)

Algebra II covers the real and complex numbers emphasizing the development, understanding, and practical applications of algebraic expressions, equations, relations, functions, and inequalities. Focus is placed on the graphical, numerical, and algebraic analysis of algebraic and transcendental functions, including a unit on trigonometry. Geometry concepts are integrated into the course. In addition, the course includes an introduction to conics and matrices.

Algebra II Honors Grades 9, 10 & 11 (Year Course)

Algebra II Honors incorporates challenging problems that are at the mastery level. The course covers the real and complex numbers emphasizing the development, understanding, and practical applications of algebraic expressions, equations, relations, functions, and inequalities. Focus is placed on the graphical, numerical, and algebraic analysis of algebraic and transcendental functions, including a unit on trigonometry. Geometry concepts are integrated into the course. In addition, the course includes an introduction to linear programming, conics, and matrices. The course moves at a fast pace to allow for exploration of these topics in greater depth. Placement prerequisite: A grade of 92 or higher in Algebra I and Geometry, the Algebra I and Geometry teachers' recommendations, and the score on the placement test.

**Algebra III Grades 11 & 12 (Year Course)**

Algebra III provides a further study of advanced algebraic concepts including equations and inequalities, graphical analysis of algebraic and transcendental functions, trigonometry concepts, and probability and statistics. Placement prerequisite: teacher recommendation

PreCalculus Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Year Course)

PreCalculus begins with a thorough review and extension of the graphical analysis of algebraic and transcendental functions. Intensive focus is placed on trigonometric and circular functions, including solving triangles, transformations on graphs of trigonometric functions, inverse trigonometric functions, verifying and applying trigonometric identities, and solving trigonometric equations. Additional topics covered include complex numbers, conics, and parametric and polar functions.

PreCalculus Honors Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Year Course)

PreCalculus Honors, designed for students with very strong mathematical ability, covers the properties, the algebra, the language, and the graphs of algebraic and transcendental functions. Intensive focus is placed on trigonometric and circular functions, including solving triangles, transformations on graphs of trigonometric functions, inverse trigonometric functions, verifying and applying trigonometric identities, and solving trigonometric equations. Additional topics covered include complex numbers, conics, and parametric and polar functions. The course moves at a fast pace to allow for exploration of these topics in greater depth. Placement prerequisite: A grade of 92 or higher in Algebra II or an 87 or higher in Algebra II Honors, and the Algebra II teacher's recommendation.

Statistics Grade 12 (Year Course)

Statistics introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, organizing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students explore data by recognizing patterns and departures from patterns, plan studies by determining what to measure and how to measure it, and anticipate patterns by producing models using probability concepts. This is an introductory statistics course for seniors.

AP Statistics Grade 12 (Year Course)

AP Statistics emphasizes student explorations of statistical problems in the real world. Major themes are exploratory analysis of data, design of data collection, including experiments and observational studies, probability as a descriptor of the patterns that emerge in random phenomena, and statistical inference as implemented both in hypothesis tests and confidence procedures. This is a senior level course.

Calculus Grades 11 & 12 (Year Course)

Calculus is a survey of basic differentiation and integration of algebraic and transcendental functions and respective applications by utilizing previously learned mathematics to develop new concepts. The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to Calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The course covers limits, derivatives, integrals, approximation, and applications and modeling using

properties, algebra, and graphs of elementary functions to develop the concepts. These functions include linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, inverse trigonometric, and piece-wise. Placement prerequisite: PreCalculus

AP Calculus AB Grades 11 & 12 (Year Course)

AP Calculus AB emphasizes a multi-representational approach to Calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The themes of AP Calculus AB, limits, derivatives, integrals, approximation, and applications and modeling, are developed using properties, algebra, and graphs of elementary functions. Placement prerequisite: Strong foundation in Algebra, Geometry, and Pre-calculus and a grade of 92 or higher in Pre-calculus or an 87 or higher in Pre-calculus Honors, and the AP Calculus teacher's approval.

AP Calculus BC Grade 12 (Year Course)

AP Calculus BC covers the differential and integral Calculus of single variable functions and includes extended applications to parametric, polar, and vector-valued functions as well as units on sequences and series, numerical solutions to differential equations, indeterminate form limits and improper integrals. Placement prerequisite: AP Calculus AB and 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam.





World Language

French

French I Grades 9 or 10 & 12 (Year Course)

French I serves as an introduction to the French language and culture through the four essential skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Activities in class focus on these skills as students build vocabulary and learn basic grammatical structures. We will practice reading comprehension through short readings in various mediums including but not limited to newspaper articles, songs, editorials and much more! Written activities to expand vocabulary and practice new structures using these various forms will assist in daily practice. Students will spend a considerable amount of time using French in a communicative setting through various oral activities and with the use of authentic resources that will emphasize practical usage of the French language. We will also begin an exploration of French and Francophone culture around the world to further emphasize the important role the French language plays in contemporary global societies. My goal for French I students is to reach a middle to high novice level in all four skills while gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of the importance of learning a second language. Diverse activities both inside and outside of class will compliment our exploration of other cultures as well as assist in building confidence communicating in the target language. Bienvenue à la classe française !

French II Grades 9, 10, or 11 (Year Course)

French II is a continuation of the structures studied in French I with a continued emphasis on the four skills of language learning: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. In French II we will continue to perfect our communicative abilities in the target language as well as explore cultural components of this diverse language. My goal for all students in French II is to reach low to middle intermediate proficiency in all four skills as well as a deeper understanding of the important roles French plays in our global community. Students will build skills to interact more confidently in the target language and explore a variety of tenses in the past, present, and future. Students will learn a large amount of vocabulary included but not limited to: academic life, family and friends, hobbies and extracurricular activities, vacations, and much more! Communication will take place in all covered verb tenses about relevant cultural topics in the French and Francophone world. A variety of assignments and projects will be given throughout the year and students will leave their comfort zones in order to gain confidence communicating in the target language through these activities and daily classroom participation. French is not a spectator sport! In order to succeed, students must take risks and actively engage themselves in every class period. French II is an extremely challenging level. Students will be exposed to large amounts of grammar and vocabulary, among other topics. Students are expected to maintain a strong work ethic and devote appropriate time towards homework, class assignments and projects, as well as daily participation and engagement. Personal organization and strong study skills are mandatory.

French III Grades 10, 11, or 12 (Year Course)

French III students will review concepts studied in French II as well as build on these structures to explore more advanced concepts including, but not limited to, grammar and culture. We will use a variety of resources including film and music to experience authentic use of the French language and explore the French and Francophone world, as well as build proficiencies in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in the target language. French III students will narrate and describe events in the present, past, and future tenses and will practice skills to help maintain conversations in French with native speakers. Students will also explore current event issues, pop culture, story telling, and many other diverse mediums relating to France and the Francophone world. A variety of assignments and projects will be assigned to compliment these mediums that will allow students to continually improve upon their understanding and knowledge of the target language and cultures. My goal for all of you is to reach a low intermediate to high-intermediate level of French proficiency, including a greater appreciation and understanding of the diverse cultures included in this language.

**French IV Grades 11 or 12 (Year Course)**

French IV students will explore various themes to help nourish higher-level conversational skills in the target language. As a class, we will review previously studied grammar topics but students will move away from a perfection-based outlook of the target language and instead shift towards fluidity of the French language to express ideas, opinions, and other topics. Films, literature, current events, and other mediums will help students open up dialogues to enrich the classroom dynamic and improve communication and understanding of the French language and the diverse cultures that share French as a common language. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking competencies of all students will be explored and challenged and students will be expected to communicate in and remain in the target language for the duration of each class period. The art of conversation will certainly be at the forefront of this course and students will be encouraged to share their experiences to enrich conversations and dialogues with classmates and the teacher. My goal for all French IV students is to reach an advanced level of communication in the target language that allows students to speak confidently, knowing they can successfully convey and exchange ideas and opinions with native speakers on a wide variety of topics.

French V Grade 12 (Year Course)

As the birthplace of cinema, France has served as a cultural hub for filmmakers and film aficionados around the world to explore this ever-changing visual art form. In this course, students will watch a large variety of films and explore the beginnings of French cinema right through to contemporary features. These films will seek to augment and facilitate speaking, reading, writing and listening skills in French and promote discussion of culturally relevant topics in more abstract ways. We will begin in the early 20th century and follow in the footsteps of some of the most famous and renowned directors who sought to promote this visual medium through a diverse range of films using a diverse range of actors. These films will serve as models of the French language through their various explorations of French and Francophone culture as well as lenses through which students may examine,

critique and discuss various social issues. Students are expected to participate to the best of their ability and remain in the target language at all times. Other authentic resources including but not limited to short readings, film critiques and songs will nurture conversations about the films at an advanced level as well as expand students' vocabulary and help practice grammatical structures studied in the previous levels.

AP French Language & Culture Grade 12 (Year Course)

The AP French Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP French Language and 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 French. The AP French Language and 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).

Latin



Latin I Grades 9, 10 , & 12 (Year Course)

Latin I includes basic vocabulary with English derivatives, an introduction to grammar, the translation of beginning stories, and a study of Roman culture. Culture units include Roman sports and entertainment, the house, and foods, with each unit relating Roman culture to modern culture. There are weekly quizzes, periodic tests with sections on vocabulary, grammar, and translation, and a project with each culture unit.

Latin II Grades 9, 10 , & 11 (Year Course)

Latin II includes vocabulary, a review of Latin I grammar and the continuation of the study of grammar, the translation of more difficult material, and a study of Roman history, with some of the Romans' famous people and events, and culture. There are weekly quizzes, periodic tests, student presentations, and occasional culture projects.

Latin III-IV-V Grades 10, 11, & 12 (Year Course)

(Sallust/Cicero) emphasizes vocabulary development, a review of grammar, the translation of Sallust's history and various works by Cicero, including his First Oration Against Catiline. The course also includes translation of works by additional Roman authors, a study of the devices of rhetoric and syntax, and a study of Roman history and culture. There are regular tests, weekly quizzes, and occasional projects.

Spanish

Spanish I Grades 9, 10 & 12 (Year Course)

Upper School Spanish I program introduces the basic structures of spoken and



written language with specific emphasis on communicative skills. Students will develop vocabulary, grammatical structures, reading comprehension and written and oral expression in Spanish through the integrated skills approach across three communicative modes: Interpersonal (interactive communication), Interpretive (receptive communication) and Presentational (productive communication). The instructor will use a series of computer-based technologies to expand and individualize basic textbook activities. Use of the Internet and select websites provided by adopted textbook will reinforce and broaden concepts learned in the classroom. Digital voice recording and technology-based projects are additional means of student's performance assessment. At this level, students examine Culture and Civilization of Spain and several Latin American countries with especial emphasis on art, music, history and literature.

Spanish II Grades 9, 10 & 11 (Year Course)

Spanish II strengthens the students' language skills, expanding oral and written expression. Level II bridges the introductory programs of Level I and intermediate Level III. Integrated activities will develop reading, writing, listening and speaking skills to foster students' proficiency across three communicative modes: Interpersonal (interactive communication), Interpretive (receptive communication) and Presentational (productive communication). Course highlights include the individual study approach using the latest web site technology as a broadening extension of currently adopted textbooks. Digital voice recording and technology-based projects allow multifaceted student assessment. Students increase their knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world Culture and Civilization with special emphasis on artistic, musical, literary and historical traditions.

Spanish II Honors Grades 9, 10 & 11 (Year Course)

This course bridges the basic Spanish I and intermediate Level Spanish III Honors. It is oriented to the students who performed at the top of their classes in Level I and are ready to accept an accelerated course of studies at Level II. Course content expands and refines the basic structures of spoken and written Spanish acquired previously. Integrated activities develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills to foster the students' proficiency across three communicative modes: Interpersonal (interactive communication), Interpretive (receptive communication) and Presentational (productive communication). The five major goals of foreign language learning: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities anchor the development and expansion of all three communicative modes. Daily use of Spanish in the classroom helps develop students' interactive and productive communication. Digital voice recording and technology-based projects allow multifaceted student assessment.

Spanish III Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Year Course)

This course provides the intermediate level high school student with review and expansion of the structures of spoken and written Spanish learned in Levels I and II. This course enhances students' command of the language, as well as deepens understanding of the Spanish-speaking peoples and their cultures. Daily exposure to Spanish in the classroom helps develop effective expression in the language. The four distinct areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking are integrated in different activities to foster the students' proficiency across three communicative



modes: Interpersonal (interactive communication), Interpretive (receptive communication) and Presentational (productive communication). Students will personalize their understanding of written and auditory selections that contain more complex language concepts reinforcing culture, grammatical structures and vocabulary. They will also learn communicative strategies that allow them to function in real-life situations. Digital voice recording and technology-based projects allow multifaceted student assessment.

Spanish III Honors Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Year Course)

This course provides the intermediate level high school student with in-depth review and expansion of the structures of spoken and written Spanish. The primary purpose of this Level III section is to prepare students interested in pursuing Advanced Placement Language Spanish IV the following year. The four distinct areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking will be integrated in different activities to foster students' proficiency across three communicative modes: Interpersonal (interactive communication), Interpretive (receptive communication) and Presentational (productive communication). The five major goal areas of foreign language learning: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities anchor the development and expansion of all three communicative modes. Daily use of Spanish in the classroom will help develop the students' interactive and productive communication. At this level, strong verb conjugation, grammatical structure mastery, pronunciation refinement, and vocabulary expansion strengthen all three modes of communication. Digital voice recording and technology-based projects allow multifaceted student assessment.

Spanish IV Grades 11 & 12 (Year Course)

This course is intended to continue the development of the student's language skills with particular emphasis on providing communicative strategies for real life situations. Development of the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) will expand at a higher performance level. The reading selections at this level stress the cultures and the current demographics of the Spanish-speaking world. Advertisement, magazine and news articles as well as commentaries are the preferred formats for the reading selections. The students will demonstrate an understanding of the material studied through speaking, writing, and listening activities. Digital voice recording and technology-based projects allow multifaceted student assessment.

AP Spanish Language Grades 11 & 12 (Year Course)

This course prepares upper-level Spanish students to sit for the end-of-year College Board Examination. The teacher's near exclusive use of spoken and written Spanish in all facets of the course (and the requirement that students do the same) strengthens students' Spanish proficiency, integrating communicative skills through use of authentic materials and sources established by College Board directives in the Spanish AP Course Description booklet. The four areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking are integrated into different activities to foster proficiency across three communicative modes: Interpersonal (interactive communication), Interpretive (receptive communication) and Presentational (productive communication). The five major goals of foreign language learning: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities anchor

development and expansion of all three communicative modes. The overall purpose of the course is to enhance students' language proficiency to function and communicate effectively in a cultural context other than their own. Daily classroom use of the Spanish language emphasizes grammatical structures, oral expression, and vocabulary expansion.

Spanish V Grade 12 (Year Course)

Regular Spanish V continues to refine upper-level students' language skills with particular emphasis on readings of literary selections and individual expression in the language. The reading list consists of selected works from Peninsular and Spanish American literatures. Readings encompass the Medieval and Golden Ages, the XIX and XX centuries, and the representative authors provide a framework of literary contexts to analyze and to develop advanced composition skills. Students will read the literary works entirely in Spanish, as well as discuss them orally and produce essays in the language. In the process, they will be developing and refining their oral skills as they make individual presentations of assigned projects. Daily classroom use of the language will emphasize grammatical structures, oral expression and vocabulary expansion. The purpose is to strengthen students' oral and written use of the language. Digital voice recording and technology-based projects allow multifaceted student assessment. Highlights of this course continue to be Spanish film presentations and discussion as an instrument to gain a deeper understanding of Spanish and Hispanic American societies.



AP Spanish Literature Grade 12 (Year Course)

AP Spanish Literature prepares upper-level Spanish students to take the end-of-year College Board Examination. Criteria established by the College Board equate Spanish V-AP Literature to a third-year college Introductory Spanish Literature course, focusing on selected works from Peninsular and Spanish American literary figures. Readings are based on a chronological survey encompassing the Medieval and Golden Ages, and XIX and XX century works selected by the College Board. These works provide the framework to analyze and to develop advanced composition skills. Students will read the literary works entirely in Spanish, as well as discuss them orally and produce written analyses in that language. In the process, they will develop and refine their language skills, acquiring the necessary proficiency to sit for the examination at the end of the year. Daily classroom use of the language emphasizes grammatical structures, oral expression and vocabulary expansion. The purpose is to sharpen students' oral and written use of the language. This course is a challenge and a delight for the student inclined toward literature.

Chinese

Chinese I Grades 9, 10, 11, & 12 (Year Course)

This course is a beginning level course of Mandarin Chinese designed for students without any Chinese Language background. Introductory Chinese will provide you with a rudimentary knowledge of the Mandarin phonetic system (Pinyin), pronunciation, tones, the writing system, daily vocabulary, and basic sentence structure. Speaking and Listening practice will be emphasized in this course. Students will learn how to greet, ask for names, ask for nationality, ask about the address, ask the date etc.

Electives

Technology: Robotics Grade 9, 10, 11, & 12 (Fall Semester)

This course provides an introduction to robotics for students with no programming background using LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 kits. Students will learn to construct, control and program these robots through investigative and exploration activities. Research projects will expose the students to the engineering process. Students will develop time management and problem solving skills that can be applied to areas beyond computer science.

Technology: Intro to Programming Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 (Fall or Spring Semester)

Intro to Programming is a course that introduces programming logic and structure through game design. Students will learn to code in both Python and JavaScript. The course concludes with a final, comprehensive project completed in Unity. Students should have a strong foundation in math and be comfortable with problem solving to complete this course successfully.

Technology: Intro to Engineering Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 (Spring Semester)

From aerodynamics to robotics, students will be introduced to fundamental engineering fields and principles in an interactive, hands-on environment. They will create projects that test and affirm these fundamentals through the engineering process. Intro to Engineering is the pre-requisite for Advanced Topics in Engineering.



Technology: AP Computer Science Principles Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Year Course)

The AP Computer Science Principles course is designed to be equivalent to a first-semester introductory college computing course. In this course, students will develop computational thinking vital for success across all disciplines, such as using computational tools to analyze and study data and working with large data sets to analyze, visualize, and draw conclusions from trends. The course is unique in its focus on fostering student creativity. Students are encouraged to apply creative processes when developing computational artifacts and to think creatively while using computer software and other technology to explore questions that interest them. They will also develop effective communication and collaboration skills, working individually and collaboratively to solve problems, and discussing and writing about the importance of these problems and the impacts to their community, society, and the world.

Technology: AP Computer Science A Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Year Course)

AP Computer Science A is equivalent to a first-semester, college level course in computer science. The course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications

of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using Java language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. The AP Computer Science A course curriculum is compatible with many CS1 courses in colleges and universities. Prerequisite: Intro to Programming or completion of Algebra II

Art: Contemporary Drawing Grades 9 &10 (Fall Semester)

Learn to draw with ease and confidence! This course uses tried and true methods that allow students to develop their untapped drawing abilities or enhance skills they have already discovered! Students explore traditional and non-traditional drawing techniques through observational and imaginary imagery. This foundational course is also designed to expose students to the variety of disciplines offered in the Visual Art Department. Students are guided through a series of visual exercises designed to foster confidence and success.

Art: Color and Design Grades 9 &10 (Spring Semester)

Through a sustained experience in color media this foundational course reinforces basic design principles and their application on the two-dimensional surface. Through a variety of projects, students in this studio course will investigate the effective use of color schemes and will investigate the functions and properties of the formal elements (line, shape, pattern, etc.) and their organization through the use of relational schemes (repetition, progression, closure, etc.).



Art: Painting I Grades 10 & 11 (Fall Semester)

This intermediate level course engages students in the use of color media through a variety of experiences that focus on the method and styles of historic and contemporary artists. Through a series of guided experiences with an emphasis on color, composition, content, and contrast. Students will hone their technical skills as they experiment with a variety of wet and dry color media including watercolor, acrylic, and pastel. Students will explore objective and non objective content derived from observation, original photography, expressionistic, imaginary, and abstracted imagery.

Art: Painting II Grades 10 & 11 (Spring Semester)

Painting I is not required as a prerequisite. This intermediate level course builds upon an understanding of basic color theory and design concepts. It will focus on mixed media and related painting experiences. Students will explore mixed media processes which combine collage, painting, drawing, digital photography photo transfers and other art techniques. Through a variety of contemporary and traditional processes, students will reinforce their understanding of the principles of design, especially pattern, repetition, rhythm, balance, and color. The keeping of a visual journal will also provide opportunities for concept development, observational, and experimental imaging.

**Art: Ceramics Grades 10 & 11 (Fall Semester)**

This introductory course explores a variety of traditional and contemporary applications in the production of functional, sculptural, and decorative works in clay. Through assignments that focus on a variety of hand-building techniques, students will reinforce their understanding of the elements and principles of 3D design. Students will develop skills in glazing and firing, and work with a variety of different clays including terra cotta and stoneware.

Art: Sculpture Grades 10 &11 (Spring Semester)

This course provides students with an introductory experience in three dimensional design. Through individual projects, group collaborations, and on-site installations, students will experience a variety of processes and materials which emphasize the exploration of the elements of design and their relationship to the principles of form and space. Traditional and contemporary applications will be explored as students gain an understanding and appreciation of the work of contemporary and traditional sculptors.

Art: Advanced Portfolio Grades 10 &11 (Spring Semester)

This course is required for students who plan to take AP Studio Art the following Fall, but open to any juniors who possess a genuine desire to further explore their artistic gifts. It is designed to help students build a well rounded portfolio that reflects their understanding of a broad range of drawing and design issues. (It would be rare for a sophomore to take this unless she or he is planning to complete the AP Studio Art Portfolio in their junior year. Prerequisite: portfolio review and teacher approval.

Art: Computer Graphics & Design Grades 11 & 12 (Fall Semester)

This course introduces students to graphic design as a form of visual communication through the use of type, image, form, and color. Projects explore design processes in two and three dimensions, communications, and creative problem solving. Students will be required to experiment and begin to master computer image manipulation software such as Adobe Photoshop. This area of study includes work with a practical commercial application including but not limited to logos, product design, CD/book covers, advertising campaigns, font designs, letterhead, and brochures.

Art: Ceramics II Grades 11 & 12 (Spring Semester)

This course allows students to either continue their experience and expand their technical ability, or ‘get their hands dirty for the first time!’ Students will apply visual problem solving skills and broaden their design vocabulary as they explore form and space on a deeper level. Students will have opportunities in wheel throwing, constructing, carving, and sculpting. Traditional and contemporary applications will be explored with an emphasis on originality, craftsmanship, experimentation, and concept development. Exposure to the work of 3D artists and museum field trips are an important aspect of this course.

Art: Printmaking Grades 11 & 12 (Spring Semester)

This course provides an excellent blend of design and drawing practices, allowing students to develop their personal interest and skill level in either or both. This

technically rich course introduces and expands on a variety of printmaking and transfer techniques which include: etching, linocuts, collograph, image transfer/lithography, mono-printing and embossing. This course reinforces the principles of good design and the expressionistic use of line and color with an emphasis on experimental and mixed media printing processes. The work of contemporary and traditional artist will be explored.

Art: Digital Imagery Grades 11 & 12 (Fall Semester)

This course provides each student with an introduction to the basic concepts of digital imaging as applied to photography. With hands-on experience using applicable technology, modern developments will be presented which have led to the present applications of digital imaging, which combine traditional photographic ideas with electronic media. The student will have the opportunity to learn how to operate image manipulation software such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator using a variety of scanning equipment, software tools and output devices by executing new assignments and applying these technologies to their photographic process. Assignments challenge students' insights into their own portfolios of photographs as well as those of other photographers.

**Art: Photography Grades 11 & 12 (Fall Semester)**

This course teaches the refining methods, materials, and techniques of photography, as well as developing working knowledge of chemistry, film, and paper. Assignments challenge students' insights into their own portfolios of photographs as well as those of other photographers. Photography students learn to see photographically through an exploration of the basic tools, techniques, and aesthetics of 35mm black-and-white photography with emphasis on creative use of camera controls, film exposure and development, printmaking, and proper use of chemicals. The course is a combination of lectures, demonstrations, supervised labs, and critiques.

Art: AP Studio Art Grades 11 & 12 (Year Course)

Students who enroll in this class have expressed a strong desire to engage in the creative process and have exhibited the work ethic and creative drive necessary for the successful completion of the AP portfolio. The student's originality, technical skill, and artistic voice is expressed through the development of a three part portfolio. The Breadth portion exhibits their understanding of a broad range of drawing and design issues. The Concentration portion requires students to complete a 12 piece investigative study in their area of interest. The Quality portion allows them to submit what they consider to be their best work. Students will choose one of three following portfolios: 2d Design(including Photography and/or digital work), Drawing, or 3d Design. Students who fulfill the requirements of Advanced Placement Studio Art demonstrate their ability to work conceptually, technically, and creatively on a first year college course level. Students will be required to submit their completed portfolio in the spring. Prerequisite: Advanced Portfolio (Spring) or equivalent. Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

Art: AP Art History Grade 12 (Year Course)

AP History of Art provides the same benefits to a secondary school as those offered by an introductory college course in art history. It gives an understanding and enjoyment of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within the



historical and cultural context. Students examine major forms of artistic expression of the past and the present from a variety of cultures. No prior experience in art history is necessary. Students who have excelled in the humanities are encouraged to enroll. Students will be required to take the AP exam in the spring. Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

Drama: Dramatic Improvisational Theater Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 (Fall Semester)

Improvisational Theater students gain experience in a growing, popular form of theater arts that can be traced back to its roots in the Commedia Dell Arte period and forward to Second City in Chicago. Improvisational Theater will be a workshop course stressing the skills of ensemble playing, and evolving performances from fellow actor and audience suggestions. A developmental skills course for actors, improvisation also can offer interdisciplinary links with psychology and sociology with a focus upon interpersonal communications and motivation. A final student-generated presentation will be performed.

Drama: Dramatic Film Analysis Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 (Spring Semester)

Students will study films in and out of class while learning about such areas of production as editing, lighting, cinematography, and production design. Students will also gain an understanding of film history with attention to the role played by genre and auteur theory. While focusing mainly on American cinema, European and Asian cinema will also be discussed.

Speech & Debate Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 (Fall Semester or Year Course)

Speech & Debate provides students the opportunity to develop their ability to stand before a group of people and make a presentation, which manifests itself through competition in debate, speech, and/or interpretation events. Lincoln-Douglas Debate involves 1 student debating an issue that revolves around propositions of value. Public Forum Debate involves 2 students debating a topic dealing with current events. Speech Events have students developing both prepared and limited prep speeches while the Interpretation Events have students performing selections from published printed novels, short stories, plays, and/or poetry. Students are graded on participation and effort through involvement in competitive speech and debate tournaments. As a member of the National Speech & Debate Association, The Montgomery Academy Speech & Debate Team has traveled to tournaments in 39 states and has qualified students to the National Tournament for 22 consecutive years. At the state and regional level, MA students have won a combined 132 Individual State Titles and 17 Team State Championships since 1993. To enroll, students must complete the Speech & Debate Course Appeal process. Please see Mr. Rye or Mrs. McBride to receive the Speech & Debate Course Appeal process.

Music: Upper School Chorus Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 (Fall/Spring Semester or Year Course)

The choral tradition at The Montgomery Academy Upper School includes 70 students in grades 9-12 which consist of 30% of the student body. The US Chorus



consistently receives “Superior” ratings at state and national competitions and has earned first place honors at the Heritage National Choral Competitions in Seattle (2016), New York (2015) and New York (2013). In addition The US Chorus has been invited to perform at state, regional, and national conventions of the American Choral Director’s Association (2009, 2011, 2014) and the National Association for Music Education (2005, 2007, 2013, 2015).

The US Chorus participates in all Alabama Vocal Association events which includes: State Choral Performance Assessment, All- State Choral Festival, and State Solo/ Ensemble Festival. The Upper School Chorus tours twice a year, recent tours include: New York, San Francisco, Chicago, North Carolina, South Carolina, San Diego, Washington, Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida. The Upper Chorus also competes on a national level every spring.

Music: AP Music Theory Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Year Course)

A.P Music Theory is first-year theory at the college level. This course is offered to students who have an outstanding aptitude for music. Music Theory is a course designed to emphasize the theory of music, sight-singing and keyboard harmony. Specialized skills relative to the basic principles of composition and various notational systems should be developed. Instruction in Music Theory should allow students to listen to, enjoy and respect quality compositions and skilled arrangements. Students should be proficient in analyzing works, notating original musical ideas arranging pieces of music for instruments and/or voices, creating musical compositions in a variety of media, and improvising simple accompaniments on the piano or other instruments. No Prerequisite exist for this course.

Health & Physical Education Grade 9 (Year Course)

Health & Physical Education is a required course for all ninth grade students in the Upper School. The Upper School Physical Education curriculum is based on improving the students fitness level and teaching students to live a healthy lifestyle after high school. The Upper School program includes activities that develop cardiovascular and respiratory endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and agility. Weight training, circuit training, cross country running, cross training, stretching, and various forms of aerobics are included as activities to build on each student's health-related fitness. Health related topics include; nutrition and weight management, basic exercise standards and guidelines, monitoring cardiorespiratory exercise, medical considerations of exercise, psychological benefits of fitness and leadership skills. Methods and measuring techniques of determining and improving fitness levels are taught to enable students to design their own fitness program in later years. In addition, the rules, skills, and strategies of major and minor competitive and lifetime sports are taught and practiced. Physical Education uniforms are required.

Interpersonal Relations Grades 11 & 12 (Year Course)

Interpersonal Relations/Youth Leadership, a course that is a part of the YMCA, offers seniors an opportunity to develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills in a classroom setting and to apply these skills directly to real-life situations and relationships. Students apply their skills in a relationship with a “little buddies” at a local elementary school. Students meet with their “little buddies” three times a week and keep journals of their progress throughout the course of the year. Class

COURSE OFFERINGS

ELECTIVES

participants have two day retreats in the fall and one day retreat in the spring. They do one community service project each quarter.

Yearbook Grades 10, 11 & 12 (Year Course)

Yearbook students begin the course with terminology and work into layout, design, and copy. After development of these skills, students work independently with their section editors. Teamwork is stressed. Prerequisite: teacher approval

Study Hall Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 (Fall/Spring or Year Course)





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