



# Course Catalog 2015 – 2016



A **FREE**  
Personalized  
Learning Public  
Charter School

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A Personalized Learning Charter School



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## San Juan Choices Charter School High School Graduation Requirements

<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English	40
Mathematics	
Algebra 1 (Class of 2016, 2017, 2018)	10
- Or -	
Integrated Math 1 (beginning with the class of 2019)	10
Other	10
Science	
Life Science	10
Physical Science	10
Social Sciences/History	
World History	10
U.S. History	10
American Government	5
Economics	5
Social Science Elective	5
Health	5
Physical Education	20
Visual/Performing Arts <sup>+</sup>	10
Required Elective Credits	70
 Total Credits Required for Graduation	 220

+ 5 credits of visual/performing arts may be waived upon the successful completion of 10 credits of a foreign language.



## **Choices Charter School 4 C's of Learning:**

### **Critical Thinking**

- ❖ Question evidence
- ❖ Compare and contrast
- ❖ Formulate/construct informed decision

### **Communication and Collaboration**

- ❖ Listen and learn
- ❖ Articulate ideas
- ❖ Cooperate and compromise
- ❖ Value team work

### **Creativity**

- ❖ Explore ideas
- ❖ Experiment and examine new outcomes
- ❖ Be original

### **Commitment**

- ❖ Set goals and priorities
- ❖ Initiate plan
- ❖ Fail to succeed
- ❖ Accomplish life-long learning

Spring 2016



## Middle School Courses

### English/ Language Arts

#### **ENGLISH 6 (Language Arts)**

6<sup>th</sup> grade students focus on active engagement with the text. They continue to apply their previously acquired knowledge and skills in a more sophisticated way. Students are required to analyze, identify, define, explain and critique rather than to merely understand, describe, use, know and distinguish. Instruction continues in spelling, grammar, and writing conventions, with the goal of improved writing for a variety of purposes and in a variety of forms. This course is delivered on-line and is supported in a biweekly seminar class.

#### **ENGLISH 7**

In English 7, students will make a distinctive transition from the English skills they have learned in earlier grades. Students will be expected to have mastered fluent reading of both narrative and expository text as well as have completed the transition from learning to read to reading to learn. The seventh grade standards are more sophisticated than those for previous grades. Students are expected to identify and trace the development of an author's argument, write persuasive essays and argue using well-articulated evidence, and analyze characterization. Curriculum can be modified to challenge advanced learners. English 7 is delivered in bi-weekly seminar classes.

#### **ENGLISH 8**

The English/language arts standards for eighth grade signify the readiness required of students preparing for the secondary content. They represent an important culmination of curriculum activities emphasized throughout grades four through eight. The curriculum in this course covers the approved California State standards and prepares students for both the annual state testing and for the California High School Exit Exam. (CAHSEE). Curriculum can be modified to challenge advanced learners. English 8 is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

### Mathematics

#### **MATHEMATICS 6**

In this course students will study the topics of Number Sense and Operations, Algebra and Functions, Geometry and Measurement, Data, Statistics and Probability and Mathematical Reasoning. Students will explore the mathematics and their application to the real world. This math course is delivered on-line and supported in a biweekly seminar class.



## **MATHEMATICS 7/8**

This course is designed to reinforce the basic arithmetic skills like operations with integers, decimals, and fractions. Other topics include the following: order of operations, concept of variables, plotting numbers on a number line, comparing numbers, arranging in order, solving one-step linear equations and inequalities, and operating with absolute values. Successful completion of this class will allow student to go on to Algebra 1 course. Mathematics 7 is delivered in bi-weekly seminar classes; mathematics for 8<sup>th</sup> graders is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

## **Science**

### **SCIENCE 6 (Earth Science)**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade students follow a curriculum covering the areas of plate tectonics and Earth's structures, the shaping of Earth's surface, Earth's waters, weather, energy in the Earth system, ecology, and resources. The course is delivered on-line and includes projects and activities that explore and reinforce the covered topics. The course is supported in a bi-weekly seminar class.

### **SCIENCE 7 (Life Science)**

The course introduces students to the branch of science that deals with living organisms. Students will study cell biology, genetics, evolution, and the structures and functions found in living systems. A short study of Earth and life history is included to help students understand the evolution of life on earth. Physical principles in living systems are also examined to emphasize how these principles underlie biological structures and functions. Science 7 is delivered in bi-weekly seminar classes.

### **SCIENCE 8 (Physical Science)**

The course introduces students to the branch of science that deals with the non-living, physical world. Students will study motion, forces, and structure of matter, reactions, the periodic table, density and buoyancy. A short study of Earth in the solar system is included to help students understand the structure and composition of the universe. The chemistry of living systems is also examined to emphasize how these principles underlie the functioning of biological systems. Science 8 is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

## **Social Studies**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 6 (Ancient Civilizations)**

In this course students learn about the people and events that ushered in the dawn of major Western and non-Western civilizations. Included are the early societies of the Near East and Africa, the ancient Hebrew civilization, Greece, Rome, and the classical civilizations of India and China. Emphasis is placed on the major contributions, achievements, and belief systems that have endured across the centuries to the present day. Included in the course is the special significance of geography to the development of the human story. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies is delivered on-line and supported in a bi-weekly seminar class.



### **SOCIAL STUDIES 7 (World History)**

In this course students examine the geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures found in various civilizations from the Middle Ages to Early Modern times. The rise of religions such as Islam, emergence of countries such as China, Africa and Japan and the development of civilizations found in Europe, Andean areas and Meso-America will be explored. Social Studies 7 is delivered in bi-weekly seminar classes.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (U.S. History)**

In this course, students will examine the major events preceding the founding of the nation, colonization and revolution. Students will relate the significance of these events to the development of American constitutional democracy and the founding of the American political system. The impact of territorial expansion and the development of regionalism will be studied. Students will analyze the multiple causes, key events and complex consequences of the Civil War with the lasting consequences of Reconstruction. The transformation of the American economy and the changing social and political conditions in the United States in response to the Industrial Revolution will be explored. Social Studies 8 is delivered in weekly seminar classes and online.

## **Physical Education**

### **P.E. 6**

This course is done independently by the student. Students will log their daily fitness activities. Students develop their own fitness regimens and must log five hours of fitness activity each week. Students are expected to do a variety of activities which develop cardiovascular strength and endurance as well as muscular strength, endurance and flexibility.

### **P.E. 7/8**

This course is done independently by the student. Students will log their daily fitness activity. Students develop their own fitness regime and must log five hours of fitness activity each week. Students are expected to do a variety of activities cardiovascular strength and endurance as well as muscular strength, endurance and flexibility. ALL students must attend a mandatory P.E. clinic each semester in order to receive full credit for the course.



## High School Courses

### ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

**ENGLISH 9 (English I): 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

This course is a literature-based program that develops reading comprehension, grammar/vocabulary, written composition and critical-thinking skills. Students will learn how to use literary elements to analyze fiction, poetry, non-fiction and drama. Basic composition and research skills are stressed. English 9 is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**ENGLISH 10 (English II): 5 each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

This course further develops students' ability to evaluate and identify literary devices in novels, short stories, poems, essays and plays. Additional emphasis is on increasing grammatical skills and expressing individual points of view. Composition is directed at the multi-level paragraph essay and various essay styles, such as narrative, evaluative and compare/contrast. English 10 is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**ENGLISH 11 (English III): 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

This course concentrates on American literature, focusing on themes characteristic of American culture and American authors. Students are required to develop interpretive and analytical levels of comprehension. As well, students are expected to further enhance the multi-level paragraph composition with an emphasis on style and developing complex sentence structure for more effective communication. English 11 is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**HONORS ENGLISH 3: AMERICAN LITERATURE: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

*Prerequisites: Junior standing, completion of English 10 with an A and teacher recommendation. (meets a-g requirements)*

American Literature Honors is an advanced college-level survey course. Students study fiction, essays, poetry, and drama. In addition to the extensive required readings, students write eight analytical essays responding to the literature over the year-long course. Research strategies, vocabulary development and grammar skills will also be addressed. Honors English is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**ENGLISH 12 (English IV): BRITISH LITERATURE: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

This course prepares students for the college-level English 1A (composition) course by incorporating research techniques, critical analysis and advanced writing skills. Through a sophisticated study of world literature, students will identify and critique authors' values and unique uses of literary devices in fiction, poetry, nonfiction and drama. Paragraph composition should reflect the students' advanced use of grammar, critical interpretation and analysis, and stylistic maturity. English 12 is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.





**ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION AP: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**  
*Prerequisites: Senior standing, completion of American or British Literature with an A or B and teacher recommendation. Students who lack these prerequisites may petition for special consideration.*

This course demands rigorous thinking, extensive reading, and quality analytical writing. The goal of the course is two-fold: (1) students will analyze, comprehend, and appreciate works of recognized literary merit to prepare them for college study, and (2) students will have the opportunity to acquire techniques, strategies, and skills necessary to pass the AP English examination in Literature and Composition. AP English is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**CAHSEE Test Prep – English: 5 Elective Credits (1 semester)**

This course provides students with the necessary skills to raise their score on the English portion of the California High School Exit Exam. Students must pass the CHASEE to earn a high school diploma. The ELA CAHSEE consists of 72 multiple choice questions covering five strands of English, plus a writing prompt. A score of 350 or higher is considered passing. To build student’s confidence and test taking strategies samples CAHSEE questions and writing prompts for practice will be used. CAHSEE Test Prep is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**CREATIVE WRITING: 5 Elective Credits (1 semester)**

Creative Writing will provide students with the opportunity to communicate their experiences in writing. Students will write descriptive and narrative essays, poems and short stories that demonstrate an understanding of the writing process. Students will also learn the correct way to provide peer analysis and constructive criticism. This is an academic elective and does not give students credit toward the English graduation requirement. Creative Writing is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**FRENCH 1: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirement)**

French 1 introduces students to the language, customs, history and culture of France and other French-speaking countries. Students will learn very basic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in the present tense. The cultural portion of the course focuses on lifestyle, customs, and attitudes, as well as the geography and history of French-speaking countries. French 1 is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**FRENCH 2: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirement)**

This course continues students’ associations with the languages, customs, history, and culture of France and other French-speaking countries. Students will build on their vocabulary and grammatical skills, as well as improve their ability to speak, write, and understand the French language. French 2 is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**FRENCH 3: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirement)**



French 3 further develops and refines the four language areas of reading, writing, speaking and culture. A variety of materials are used to teach the art, music, literature, and history of foreign culture with greater emphasis on reading and writing skills. Conversational skills are further refined by the use of the target language. French 3 is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**FRENCH 4: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

French 4 students further develop, refine, and review the four language skills and vocabulary in preparation for college language courses. The target language is used extensively by the teacher and students in all level 4 classes. Language is used in context along with reading literary selections and writing compositions. French 4 is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**SPANISH a-g Courses**

The California State University and the University of California systems' a-g requirements state that each student must have at least two years of a foreign language to graduate. Three years is recommended to be competitive for college eligibility. In addition, as communication becomes easier for people all over the world, learning more than one language becomes not only important, but also necessary. In order for our students to be prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century and be competitive in the global market, they must be able to read, write, and speak more than one language.

**SPANISH 1: (meets a-g requirement)**

Spanish 1 is a comprehensive standards-based college preparatory course that balances grammar and communication. Students learn simple, basic vocabulary and grammar, including sentence formation, the present tense of regular and irregular verbs. Students become familiar with traditions and customs of the Hispanic culture. They will gain additional practice by using online technology designed to integrate reading, listening, writing, and conversational Spanish.

Pre-requisite: none.

**SPANISH 2: (meets a-g requirement)**

Spanish 2 includes a thorough review of the material learned in Spanish 1. The course is comprehensive, standards-based, and college preparatory. The course also combines learning the Spanish language with an appreciation for various aspects of Hispanic cultures around the world. Students will improve their fluency in speaking Spanish, while they learn how to conjugate irregular & reflexive verbs, possessive adjectives & pronouns, and will be able to use both the preterit and imperfect tenses while describing action in the past. They will gain additional practice by using online technology designed to integrate reading, listening, writing, and conversational Spanish.

Pre-requisite: Spanish 1 passing grade C or better.

**SPANISH 3: (meets a-g requirement)**

Students in Spanish 3 will continue to expand their oral and written skills in the target language by using authentic materials, audio and video texts, writing letters, short compositions and simple paragraphs, and participating in a variety of oral and auditory exercises. The three modes of



communication (Interpretative, Interpersonal, and Presentational) defined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century are foundational to this course.

Students also learn about cultural and historical figures, places and events, and symbols to broaden their cultural horizons. They will learn how to conjugate verbs in the future, conditional, present perfect and the subjunctive tenses. They will gain additional practice by using online technology designed to integrate reading, listening, writing, and conversational Spanish. Completing and presenting both group and independent projects are integral parts of the course.

Pre-requisite: Spanish 2 passing grade C or better.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

AP Spanish Language is an intensive and rigorous course conducted in Spanish. Students are expected to use the target language consistently with the teacher and peers in class. This course requires discipline, commitment and dedication.

Students in AP Spanish Language will demonstrate a high level of proficiency in understanding formal and informal conversations, lectures of different themes, oral presentations, newspapers, letters, informal e-mails, instructions, Internet articles and stories. They are able to express themselves orally by convincing, arguing, inquiring, and describing situations. Students are able to address environmental, social and political issues affecting Spanish speaking countries, considering the linguistic and cultural differences. They will use online technology designed to integrate reading, listening, writing, and conversational Spanish.

Pre-requisite: Spanish 3 passing grade C or better.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **ALGEBRA 1: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

*Pre-requisites: completion of pre-algebra with C or better or placement test.*

This course covers the fundamental concepts and operations of algebra with problem-solving skills. Topics include properties of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities (graphing and solving), systems of linear equations and inequalities (graphing and solving), solving simple absolute value equations, basic properties of integer and rational exponents, rational/radical expressions, operations with polynomials, different techniques to factor polynomials, and quadratic equations (graphing and solving). Algebra 1 is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

### **ALGEBRA 1B: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

*Pre-requisites: completion of Algebra 1A with C or better or placement test.*

This course covers the material from the second semester of Algebra 1 class. Review topics include operations with real numbers, linear equations and inequalities (graphing and solving). New topics include operations with polynomials, different techniques to factor polynomials, and quadratic equations (graphing and solving). Algebra 1B is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.



**ALGEBRA II: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

*Pre-requisites: completion of Algebra I with a C or better.*

This course reviews and extends the concepts of Algebra I with emphasis on problem solving. Reviewed and extended topics include linear equations and inequalities (graphing and solving), systems of linear equations and inequalities (graphing and solving), absolute value equations (graphing and solving), factoring polynomials, exponents, and radicals. New topics include graphs of conic section (parabola, circle, ellipse, and hyperbola), operations with complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, discrete mathematics topics such as sequences and series, and combinations and probabilities. Algebra II is delivered online and in bi-weekly seminar classes.

**GEOMETRY: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

*Pre-requisites: completion of Algebra I with C or better.*

This course covers aspects of elementary geometry. Topics include basic tools of geometry, properties and construction of parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, similar triangles, special right triangles, right triangles, and trigonometric ratios, properties of polygons and quadrilaterals (parallelograms, trapezoids, and kites) properties of circles, surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes (pyramids, cones, prisms, cylinders, and spheres). The course puts emphasis on problem solving strategies, elementary logic (inductive and deductive reasoning), and writing proofs. Geometry is delivered bi-weekly in seminar classes.

**TRIGONOMETRY: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II with a C or better.*

This course covers fundamentals of trigonometry. Topics include definitions of trigonometric and circular functions, radian measure of circular functions, solving right triangles using trigonometric functions, graphing circular functions, proving and verifying trigonometric identities, solving trigonometric equations, and solving triangles using the Laws of Sines and Cosines. Trigonometry is delivered bi-weekly in seminar classes.

**PRE-CALCULUS: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

*Prerequisite: Completions of Trigonometry with a C or better.*

This course continues with trigonometric concepts that include polar coordinates, graphing and converting from polar to rectangular coordinate system, trigonometric form of complex numbers, De Moivre's Theorem, operations with vectors (including unit vectors and projections). New topics that prepare students for calculus and linear algebra include operations with matrices (determinants, inverses, row-echelon forms), solving systems of linear equations using matrices, partial fractions decomposition, Remainder and Factor theorems, Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, limits of sequences and series, proofs by mathematical induction, and introduction to the concepts of limits, derivatives, and integrals (area under a curve approach). Pre-Calculus is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**CAHSEE Test Prep – Math: 5 Elective Credits (1 semester)**

This course provides students with the necessary skills to be successful on the math portion of the California High School Exit Exam, which students must pass to earn a high school diploma.



Students will be provided sample questions for practice and also learn valuable test taking strategies. CAHSEE Test Prep is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**REAL LIFE MATH: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

*Prerequisite: D or higher in Algebra I.*

This course meets graduation requirement in math. Students will learn how to use math concepts they have learned in algebra 1 in real life situations including creating a budget, understanding a loan, calculating gas mileage, buying a car, buying a house, landscaping, parking, money conversion, discounts, caloric intake, creating objects to specific criteria in Google Sketch-Up application, and many other topics. Math concepts in this course include unit conversion, operations with fractions, and statistics with basic data analysis, basic geometry, and operations with exponents, number comparison, percent change, linear graphs, and solving multi-step equations. Real Life Math is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**TRANSITION TO ALGEBRA II: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

This course is designed for the students who are done with algebra I, but not yet ready to move on to algebra II. Transition between these two algebra courses reviews topics from algebra I that include: writing and graphing linear equations, writing and graphing quadratic equations, factoring polynomials, adding/subtracting/multiplying/dividing polynomials, solving rational equations. It also prepares students for more difficult topics from algebra II such as sequences and series, permutations and combinations, and linear algebra. Transition to Algebra is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

## SCIENCE

**LIFE SCIENCE: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

This course introduces students to the branch of science that deals with living organisms. Students will examine what comprises “life,” from the structure and processes of cells to heredity and evolution; diversity of simple organisms, plants, reptiles, and complex animals; general ecology; ecosystems; and the human body, including anatomy, functions, systems, reproduction and growth, and immunity. Life Science is delivered online or with a one-on-one teacher.

**BIOLOGY: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

This is a lab science course which offers an in-depth look at the human body and its functions. Furthermore, students will study living organisms, including cellular and molecular biology, genetics, evolution, ecosystems and taxonomic organization. An **additional hour** of lab attendance each week is **mandatory** for this course. Lab work is done onsite. Biology is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**CHEMISTRY: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I with a “B” or better.*

This lab science course will study the structure and behavior of matter. The course includes scientific measurement and calculation, kinetic theory, the states of matter, problem solving, atomic and molecular structure, chemical names and formulas, the periodic table and chemical



properties, chemical bonding and reactions. An **additional hour** of lab attendance each week is **mandatory** for this course. Chemistry is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

This course is designed to give students a comprehensive view of physical science concepts and principles. The primary focus of this course is on physical laws and properties, as well as a basic introduction to chemistry. Students will also learn a variety of science and math skills related to the material covered. Physical Science is delivered with a one-on-one teacher.

**EARTH SCIENCE: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

This course covers the composition and function of Earth and its relationship to the rest of the solar system and universe. Students will study the planet's composition, surface processes, atmosphere and oceans, geologic time, resources, the environment, as well as the roles of the solar system, galaxy and universe. Earth Science is delivered in weekly seminar classes and/or with a one-on-one teacher.

**PHYSIOLOGY: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

*Pre-requisite is the completion of Biology and recommendation of the teacher.*

This course is a yearlong study of human anatomy and physiology. The topics covered will include, medical terminology, basic chemistry, cell and tissue structure, and the 11 systems of the human body - integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, circulatory, lymphatic, digestive, respiratory, urinary and reproductive.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

In this course, students will apply knowledge gained in previous years of study to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. In addition, they will draw on their studies of American history and of other societies to compare different systems of government in the world today. An exploration of the American Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the principles underlying the system of checks and balances between the branches of government and the relationship between state and local government will be emphasized. Students will reflect on the responsibilities of citizenship and will be encouraged to participate in community activities. This course should be viewed as the culmination of the civic literacy strand that prepares students to be responsible citizens in a constitutional republic. American Government is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**ECONOMICS: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

This course is a study of how individuals and societies organize to meet their needs and wants. Students will take a serious look at microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics and consumer economics, and study specific topics like the business firm, money and financing, decision-making, supply and demand, GDP, business cycles and economic growth. In this course, students will deepen their understanding of the economic problems and institutions of the nation and the world and learn to make reasoned decisions on economic issues as citizens, workers,



consumers, business owners and managers, and members of civic groups. Economics is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**YOU AND THE LAW: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

This course is a study of criminal and civil law. It meets senior social studies elective graduation requirements. Students will study all of the civil and criminal matters that affect them. Students will learn the law as it affects them and their rights, while gaining a better understanding of how the system works. You and the Law is delivered online.

**PSYCHOLOGY: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

*Pre-requisites: Students need basic technology skills to complete various projects.*

Psychology is the study of interpreting human behavior. This course will explore the topics of personality and its development, abnormal behavior, intelligence, learning theories, memory and perception. Psychology is delivered online.

**SOCIOLOGY: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Sociology explores human social relationships, traditions, and social issues. Students will be exposed to various sociological theories and become familiarized with sociological terms including culture, status and role, deviance, norms, values, institutions, socialization processes. Social issues investigated will include crime, race, community, poverty, aging, and population growth. Sociology is delivered with a one-on-one teacher and in packets only.

**UNITED STATES HISTORY: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

In this course, students will examine major turning points in American history in the 20th century. Key concepts from 18th and 19th century history will be reviewed. During the year the following 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. United States History is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**UNITED STATES HISTORY (HONORS): 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

*Pre-requisite: A recommendation from the master teacher is required for placement in this class.*

U.S. History Honors is an advanced level survey course in U.S. history for the serious, college-bound student. In addition to a faster-paced, more in-depth examination of the major personalities and events that have shaped the history of this nation, the course is based on regular critical reading and writing assignments. The course will emphasize understanding cause-effect relationships in history and studying the past by examining conflicting interpretations of events. United States Honors History is delivered in weekly seminar classes.



**WORLD HISTORY: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

In this course, students examine major turning points in the shaping of the modern world, with emphasis on historical events from the late 18th century to the present. Students will examine the relationships that exist between current issues and their historical, geographic, political, economics, and cultural background. The course will cover the history of democratic principles and the role revolutions played in the development of Western political thought, the effect of the Industrial Revolution, the patterns of imperialism, the causes and course of World War I, the rise of totalitarian governments, the causes and consequences of World War II, the international developments post-World War II and the development of nationalism in the contemporary world. World History is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

**WORLD GEOGRAPHY: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Geography presents the planet as a navigable entity. Students will study the Earth and its relationship to the universe and acquire an understanding of natural and physical systems that have shaped and continue to shape planet Earth. The ability to use geographic tools and skills will be presented. Students will gain understanding of human systems and movement and political divisions of Earth. Relationships between the Earth's physical environment, society and culture will be explored. Students will apply geography to interpret the past and present, and to plan for the future. World Geography is paired with Freshman Seminar for 9<sup>th</sup> graders and delivered 2<sup>nd</sup> semester online and in weekly seminar classes.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**P.E. 1 (Fitness for Life): 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

This course will teach and assess the components of physical fitness, exercise techniques and training principles. Students will log daily fitness information and develop personalized fitness programs that will promote a healthy lifestyle. A variety of activities will be presented. PE 1 includes a textbook component that focuses on the various components of fitness and nutrition important for a healthy lifestyle. ALL students must attend a mandatory P.E. clinic each semester in order to receive full credit for the course.

**P.E. 2-4: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

For this course students will log their daily fitness activity. Students develop their own fitness regime and must log five hours of fitness activity each week. Students are expected to do a variety of activities cardiovascular strength and endurance as well as muscular strength, endurance and flexibility. ALL students must attend a mandatory P.E. clinic each semester in order to receive full credit for the course.





## **DRIVER'S EDUCATION/HEALTH**

### **DRIVER'S EDUCATION: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

*Pre-requisite: Students must be 14 years of age to take Driver's Education.*

This textbook driving course covers the ground rules of road and vehicle safety, with an emphasis on capable and efficient driving. Students will learn the basics of driving a vehicle, interacting with traffic, driving in various environments and climate conditions, road rules, and driver responsibility. At the end of the course, students will be issued a certificate of completion of driver's education. The student must take the certificate, which is valid for a maximum of 1 year, to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and pass the learner's permit test in order to drive. They must also show proof of being enrolled in a state-approved driving school before taking the test to get their permit. Driver's Education is delivered online.

### **HEALTH: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

This course features a holistic approach to a lifetime of healthy, safe living. Students will study the cardiovascular system and nutrition, first aid and safety techniques, stress, and family life, including sex education. Further emphasis will be placed on the avoidance of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Health is delivered online.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **ART: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

In this course, students will learn to create various types of art projects, such as: landscape, still life, sculpture and collage. The basic elements and principles of art will be emphasized including composition, value, line quality, perspective, depth, and proportion. This course will help develop the student's pencil, paint and brush skills, as well as exposing students to a variety of other artistic mediums and materials. Art is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

### **ADVANCED DRAWING & PAINTING: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

This studio class is designed to develop further skills in drawing and painting, composition and design. Intensive training in drawing with various materials leading to individual work in painting (water color) is stressed. Work outside class will be required, including portfolio preparation, gallery reports and/or critical viewing. Advanced Drawing and Painting is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

### **ART STUDIO: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Art studio is a class that focuses on using a wide variety of mediums for student self-expression. Students will have the opportunity to create more elaborate work by exploring more complex elements of art using paints, participating in group projects, and a more in-depth exposure to Art History. The course may include drawing, painting and printmaking. Students explore the elements and principles of art throughout the course. Art Studio is delivered in weekly seminar classes.



**ART HISTORY: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Art History examines the world of western art in different periods of time to learn about various artists and their lives. Students learn about works of art, the artists who created them, and the times in which the artists lived which helps students understand and draw their own conclusions as to why we value art for its own sake. Art History covers the time periods from the Italian Renaissance through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Art History is delivered online.

**CHOIR: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Choir gives students the opportunity to develop vocal and musicianship skills individually and as a group. Students will learn music theory and how to read music. Particular emphasis will be on contemporary vocal technique, and harmony. This class meets once per week and can be repeated.

**DRAMA: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Drama class explores different styles of acting and emoting. Students learn stage production including blocking, projection, and terminology. Performing at the Fall and Spring recital is not required, but strongly recommended. This class can be repeated.

**GUITAR 1: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Guitar 1 is an introduction to playing guitar. Students learn basic open chords and common strumming patterns. Beginning music theory is introduced as it applies specifically to guitar chord patterns. Students learn to read tablature, which is a guitar notation system. Semester 2 students expand their chord knowledge to include bar chords and moveable chord theory. Students apply chords and strum patterns to learn simple contemporary songs. A guitar is required to participate in class. This class can be repeated and is delivered in a weekly seminar format.

**GUITAR 2: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Guitar 2 meets the a-g course requirements. Students must have taken Guitar 1 or have a minimum of 1 year playing experience. This class expands a student's understanding of moveable chord theory and applies it to chord fragments and transposing song keys. Students learn to read traditional music notation on the musical staff and apply it to guitar, gain an overview of music history from the Middle Ages to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, learn to identify differences in musical genres, and continue to develop playing technique. Students will learn songs from different genres with an emphasis on 20th century contemporary music. Performing at the Fall and Spring recital is required. This class can be repeated and is delivered in a weekly seminar format.

**GUITAR 3: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Guitar 3 is an intermediate to advanced guitar course. Completion of guitar 1 and 2 is required, or a minimum of 2 years playing experience, or permission by the instructor. Students learn to perform songs of their choice, with an emphasis on ensemble playing. Students learn theory including major scale and minor scale patterns, building chords (majors, minors, diminished,



augmented, 7ths, suspended, etc.), will study the fret board root shapes and relative positions. This class can be repeated and is delivered in a weekly seminar format.

**PERCUSSION 1: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Percussion 1 is an introduction to playing drum set and hand drums. Students will learn 14 basic beats, simple fills, sticking technique, and beginning rudiments. Students will learn to read drum charts and fill notation. Drum sets and hand drums are provided in class. A drum set at home to practice on is not required, but strongly recommended. Performance at the Fall and Spring recitals is not required, but is an option for those who desire to perform. This class can be repeated and is delivered in a weekly seminar format.

**PERCUSSION 2: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Percussion 2 is for the beginner/intermediate drum set player. Completion of Percussion 1, or a minimum of 1 year drumming experience is required. Students will learn more complex beats that include intermediate syncopation and limb independence. Rudiments are continued and students will begin to incorporate rudiments into their playing.

**PIANO: (Piano 1 & 2) 5 Credits each semester**

Piano gives students the opportunity to develop basic keyboard and musicianship skills. At the conclusion of the course, students will:

1. Play beginning/intermediate level pieces in a variety of styles
2. Read, write and interpret basic music notation
3. Describe basic music theory and history concepts
4. Listen to and interpret musical performances

School keyboards are used during class, but students must own or have regular access to a piano or keyboard with touch-sensitive keys and a foot pedal. Students are required to practice for 2 ½ hours per week and will complete a practice form which parents must sign. Students will be evaluated through class attendance, participation, written tests and quizzes, in-class performances, and one class recital at the end of the semester. This is a year-long class worth 10 credits. A \$20 lab fee is required for the text. Piano 1 & 2 is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**Computers**

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

This course covers computer applications and how they influence our daily life. Students will work on the three primary applications of computers in today's business world, including word processing, power point and Excel, as well Web evaluation, conducting Searches, Netiquette, how to use and write emails properly, Keyboarding shortcuts, MLA format, Making a resume, Goal setting, etc. Computer Applications is delivered online.

**KEYBOARDING: 5 Credits (1 semester)**



This course will focus on the basic concepts and applications of word processing. Emphasis will be on proper keyboarding technique, with the main goal of increasing speed and accuracy in using the keyboard. Students work independently with a micro type CD.

## **ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES**

### **CAREER EXPLORATION: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

This class is designed to assist students in awareness of their own interests and aptitudes and to help students to identify the importance of these areas when examining post-secondary education and career choices. Assignments will include interest surveys, aptitude surveys, how to utilize the CHOICES software in the computer lab, the development of a professional resume and cover letter, and practicing interviewing skills. Students will also learn how to utilize the Internet when conducting a job search. The course will discuss the differences between jobs and careers and will provide a systematic approach on how to obtain both. Career Exploration is delivered online.

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Child Development is a specialized course that prepares students to understand the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth and development of children. The course is designed to help young people acquire knowledge and skills essential to the care and guidance of children as a parent or caregiver. Emphasis is on helping students create an environment for children that will promote optimum development. Students are encouraged to volunteer at the onsite pre-school after completing the course. Child Development is delivered online.

### **COLLEGE SUCCESS: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

This course is designed to help students make a successful transition for high school to college by providing instruction on the skills necessary to be a successful student. Topics covered will include time management, reading, writing, note taking, and test taking strategies, memory devices and critical thinking skills. College Success is delivered online.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

*Pre-requisite: Prior Approval by Credentialed Teacher Required*

This course allows students to accrue credits while volunteering service work at any non-profit community organization of their choice. Students will be expected to choose a challenging volunteer job and develop an understanding of how and why that organization operates. A creative and informative portfolio documenting their experience also will be expected at the end of the course. Log sheets that document community service must be signed by the designated community service supervisor for student to receive credit. This course may be repeated. This course meets elective high school graduation requirements.

### **CRAFTS (Scrapbooking): 5 Credits (1 semester)**

This class is designed to be a fun class that introduces students to memory preservation. The class content encourages better and more frequent photo taking and photo safety as well as learning



many techniques for photo layouts. Some of the techniques covered are: stamping, matting, embossing, chalking, embellishments, and utilizing complimentary colors. There is a **\$40.00 lab fee** which includes a scrapbook and all the supplies needed to create a great scrapbook. **Student must supply the photos.** Scrapbooking is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**CREATIVE WRITING: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Creative Writing will provide students with the opportunity to communicate their experiences in writing. Students will write descriptive and narrative essays, poems and short stories that demonstrate an understanding of the writing process. Students will also learn the correct way to provide peer analysis and constructive criticism. This is an academic elective and does not give students credit toward the English graduation requirement. Creative Writing is delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**FILMMAKING (VIDEO PRODUCTION) 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Video production class will learn all the elements of producing movie shorts. Students will learn script writing, storyboarding, camera techniques, lighting, audio recording and editing. Students will work in groups and individually to produce complete video productions. Class meets weekly for 90 minutes. Time outside of class is required to ensure project completion. This class can be repeated.

**EXPLORING VISUAL ART: 5-10 Credits (1-2 semesters)**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of art and basic elements of art such as perspective, composition, shading and color. This beginning art course focuses on drawing techniques, with the primary mediums being pencil and colored pencil. This class is delivered by Master Teachers and is in packets only.

**FRESHMAN SEMINAR: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Freshman Seminar is a one semester elective course that is taught weekly as the first half of a two hour block with Freshman English. The course is designed to help ninth graders become successful students in an independent study program. Time management and organizational skills are emphasized throughout the course. The class also covers note-taking and test-taking skills, summarizing while avoiding plagiarism, proper internet research techniques, and the correct citing of references. Freshman Seminar is delivered online and in weekly class seminars.

**LEADERSHIP: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

The Student Leadership class is taught weekly. Students will earn five elective credits per semester. The class is designed to help students understand what it takes to become successful in school and in life. An emphasis will be placed on the value of possessing strong character traits. Having strong character traits including perseverance, respect, integrity, tolerance, and compassion has always been necessary for success and highly valued in our society. Once these traits are integrated into daily life, all facets of one's life improve including school, employment, and personal relationships.

**PEACE IN ACTION: A JOURNEY: 5 Credits**



Peace is defined as a stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there is no war and everything is coexisting in perfect harmony and freedom. Join us in an interactive, relevant and expressive project-based journey of developing personal peace and empowerment within yourself, your community and your world. Use creative tools such as writing, art, film-making, debate and service to make a positive difference in your community. We will explore themes and strategies that individuals and movements present and past have used to sustain peace and create healthy environments. Instructional strategies including collaboration, team-building readings, guest speakers and one field trip will be included to research peace within your own community. The class will meet once a week.

**SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEENS (You, Yourself & Others): 5 Credits (1 semester)**

The purpose of this course is to teach students to make positive choices and provide the necessary life skills to become effective members of the community. Topics covered include self-analysis, time management, goal setting and interpersonal relationships. Seven Habits is delivered online.

**WORKABILITY: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

*Pre-requisite: Students who participate in Workability must have an IEP.*

The workability program enables select students to earn credits for working in the job force, while also gaining valuable work experience. Assistance is given to help students acquire and maintain a position within the workforce. Workability is delivered with a one-on-one teacher.

**YEARBOOK: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Yearbook is a two semester elective class where students will work in a professional environment both individually and on a team to create the Choices Charter School yearbook. Students will gain experience in time management, design layout, photography, as well as interviewing techniques, proofreading and marketing. Students will learn strong work habits and are responsible for all phases of the school yearbook production. A yearbook student must be able to take directions and have strong writing skills.