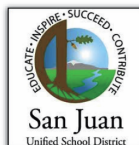




# Course Catalog 2020-2021



A **FREE**  
Personalized  
Learning Public  
Charter School



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## San Juan Choices Charter School High School Graduation Requirements

<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English	40
Mathematics	
Integrated Math 1	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 Graduation Outcomes (“GO”s)**

At Choices, while meeting academic content standards, students learn, with the guidance of staff and curriculum, to define and pursue college and career goals. Choices students:

**Define Goals** that align with interests and areas of strength.

**Implement a Plan** that is both realistic and flexible.

**Make Adjustments** to the plan, each year, as perspectives evolve.

**Persevere**, committing to the completion of each task in the plan, ultimately resulting in success!



## 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 annual state testing. 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 Integrated Math 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 with parent overview. Students will log their daily fitness activities and develop their own fitness regimen. The course requirements are for five hours of fitness activity each 5-day week. Student are expected to participate in a variety of at least 3 activities to 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 with parent overview. Students will log their daily fitness activities and develop their own fitness regimen. The course requirements are for five hours of fitness activity each 5-day week. Student are expected to participate in a variety of at least 3 activities to develop cardiovascular strength and endurance, as well as muscular strength, endurance and flexibility.

## **Electives**

Most electives at Choices are open to all students, grades 6 – 12, including piano, art (there is a specific middle school class), guitar, and world languages (French and Spanish).

However, there is one course offered specifically to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## **Success @ Choices (Pass/Fail)**

Students learn the secrets of how to be successful in an independent study program, and specifically at Choices Charter School! Students will learn: how to navigate your online learning tools; how to manage your time and keep organized; about different communication practices and strategies; how to read information efficiently; how to take notes and study more effectively; test-taking strategies; how to utilize the writing process to create a quality product; about the value of good sleep and nutrition; how your mindset plays a crucial role in your life success; and to consider your long-term plans for a career, service, and/or college.





## **High School Courses**

### **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **ENGLISH 9 (English 1): 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.

#### **HONORS ENGLISH 9 (English 1): 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

This course is a more intensive English 9 course with added emphasis on the study of literary topics. Geared toward the highly motivated student, the course includes a greater number of reading and writing projects highlighted by the necessity to construct more advanced essays. Added vocabulary and spelling assignments are required. Honors English 9 is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.

#### **ENGLISH 10 (English 2): 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.

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

This course is appropriate for the more advanced student with a serious interest in English. Particular emphasis is placed upon the investigation of symbolism, alternative writing styles, and the development of the modern novel. In addition to the fundamental examples, special types of speeches are included. Students in this course can expect a significantly greater number of reading and writing assignments. Honors English 10 is delivered online and in weekly seminar classes.



**ENGLISH 11 (English 3): 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.

**ENGLISH 12 (English 4): 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.

**AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

Students will become skilled readers of prose written in various periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. They will gain understanding of the interactions between writers' purposes, audience expectations, and subjects. 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.

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Honors English with a grade of C or better; and/or CAASPP scores at or above grade level; and/or teacher recommendation.*

**AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

*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.

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

This course provides students with the necessary skills to perform well on the California High School Proficiency Exam. To build student’s confidence and test taking strategies sample CHSPE questions and writing prompts for practice will be used. CHSPE Test Prep is delivered online with weekly site-based support.

**CREATE! (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.

**GOTHIC LITERATURE – MONSTER STORIES: 5 Elective Credits (1 semester)**

Vampires, ghosts, and werewolves have lived in our collective imagination since the 18th century, and they continue to influence the world of fiction even today. Gothic Literature: Monster Stories focuses on the major themes found in Gothic literature and demonstrates the techniques writers use to produce a thrilling psychological experience for the reader. The themes of terror versus horror, the power of the supernatural, and the struggle between good and evil are just a few of the classic Gothic subjects explored in this course. Are you brave enough to go beyond the fear and find an appreciation for the dark beauty of Gothic stories?

**MYTHOLOGY AND FOLKLORE: 5 Elective Credits (1 semester)**

Since the beginning of time, people have gathered around fires to tell stories of angry gods, harrowing journeys, cunning animals, horrible beasts, and the mighty heroes who vanquished them. Mythology and folklore have provided a way for these colorful stories to spring to life for thousands of years. Mythology and Folklore: Legendary Tales will illustrate how these famous anecdotes have helped humans make sense of the world. Beginning with an overview of mythology and different types of folklore, you will journey with age-old heroes as they slay dragons, outwit gods, defy fate, fight endless battles, and outwit clever monsters with strength and courage. You’ll explore the universality and social significance of myths and folklore and see how these powerful tales continue to shape society even today.



## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

### **FRENCH and 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.

### **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.



**ADVANCED PLACEMENT FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)** AP French Language and Culture is equivalent to an intermediate level college course in French. Students cultivate their understanding of French language and culture by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations as they explore concepts related to family and community, personal and public identity, beauty and aesthetics, science and technology, contemporary life, and global challenges. Pre-requisite: French 3 completion with grade C or higher.

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

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**

**Pre-Integrated Math: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters)**

Students explore concepts such as integers, expressions, equations, and fractions. This course provides students with a solid foundation for Integrated Math I and emphasizes the use of technology, problem solving, critical thinking, and reasoning.

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

The fundamental purpose of Integrated Math 1 is to formalize and extend students' understanding of linear functions and their applications. The critical topics of study deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students build on their prior experiences with data, developing more formal means of assessing how a model fits data. Students use regression techniques to describe approximately linear relationships between quantities. They use graphical representations and knowledge of the context to make judgments about the appropriateness of linear models. With linear models, they look at residuals to analyze the goodness of fit.



Mathematics 1 uses properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. Integrated pathways are supported by the Board of Admissions for the UC system, and will therefore still meet college entrance requirements. There are no prerequisites for this course.

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

This course is the second course in a series of three that uses an integrated approach to cover the following domains: Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. This course focuses on extending the laws of exponents to rational exponents, and solving and comparing the characteristics of functions, including their associated inequalities. This is a University of California (UC) approved A-G course for Mathematics. The prerequisite for this course is completion of Integrated Math 1 with a passing grade of "D" or better or teacher recommendation.

*(This course will become available for the 2017-2018 school year)*

**Integrated Math 3: 5 Credits each semester (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

In the Integrated Mathematics 3 course, students integrate and apply the mathematics they have learned from their earlier courses. This course includes standards from the conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Some standards are repeated in multiple higher mathematics courses; therefore instructional notes, which appear in brackets, indicate what is appropriate for study in this particular course. Standards that were limited in Integrated Mathematics 1 and Integrated Mathematics 2 no longer have those restrictions in Integrated Mathematics 3.

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

*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.





### **CHSPE 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 Proficiency Exam. Students will be provided sample questions for practice and also learn valuable test taking strategies. CHSPE Test Prep is delivered online with site-based support.

### **Consumer Math A: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

*Prerequisite: D or higher in Algebra 1 or Integrated Math 1.*

This course meets graduation requirement in math. In this course, the student will learn that money is lost or gained depending upon the information a consumer has to help him or her make informed decisions. By the end of this course, the student will understand the history of money, define fixed costs and discretionary spending, understand the importance of savings, and recognize the dangers of debt. This course will ask the student to look at financial choices including spending patterns, purchasing motivations, and how to make difficult decisions.

### **Consumer Math B: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

*Prerequisite: D or higher in Consumer Math A.*

This course meets graduation requirement in math. In this course, students will continue to learn how to make good financial decisions. By the end of this course, the student will differentiate between secured and unsecured debt, learn how to create a budget, examine a credit report, and discover the best way to increase income and decrease expenses. This course will provide the student with the skills to make good financial decisions.

## **SCIENCE**

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

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 1 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.

**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) (meets a-g requirements)**

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.

**AP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: (2 semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

Students investigate key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study the structure of the Constitution throughout the course, as well as its implications for the functioning of government today. Other foundational



documents, landmark Supreme Court cases, and opportunities for research and civic action are key elements in this rich course that prepares students to be informed and active participants in U.S. society.

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Honors English with a grade of C or better; and/or CAASPP scores at or above grade level; and/or teacher recommendation.*

**ECONOMICS: 5 Credits (1 semester) (meets a-g requirements)**

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.

**INTRODUCTION TO LAW: 5 Credits (1 semester) (meets a-g requirements)**

Students receive an overview of substantive and procedural areas of law and legal practice. They explore the legal profession, courts, ethics, sources of law, and alternative dispute resolution systems, and they analyze an application of law to factual circumstances. Introduction to Law is delivered online.

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

*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.

**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.

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

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

Woven into the chronology of this course are the key themes of American History. Issues of American identity, diversity, religion, and culture are examined. Economic transformations, the development of political institutions, and reform movements are evaluated. War, slavery, and demographic changes are assessed. Globalization and environmental issues are analyzed.

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Honors English with a grade of C or better; and/or CAASPP scores at or above grade level; and/or teacher recommendation.*

**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.

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

In addition to the topics and concepts taught in WORLD HISTORY, the purpose of this course is to enable students to understand their connections to the development of civilizations by examining the past to prepare for their future as participating members of a global community.

**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

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **P.E. 1: 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade 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)**

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.

## **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) (meets a-g requirements)**

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) (meets a-g requirements)**

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) (meets a-g requirements)**

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) (meets a-g requirements)**

Art History examines the world of western art, moving chronologically from the Italian Renaissance through Modern American Painters, examining a selection of outstanding artists of their era, including Botticelli, da Vinci, Rembrandt, Monet, Cezanne, Picasso, etc.



Students learn about works of art, the artists who created them, and the times they lived in, helping students to see the context of art in its time, 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 20th century.

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

Early Art History takes a global look at man and the art he has created from the beginning - Prehistoric art through to current time, including Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Pre-Columbian, Native American, African, to name a few. Students learn to make comparisons, consider influences, and see the context and breadth of human expression through the ages, the time period from prehistoric cave paintings to the 21st century.

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

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.

**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.

**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) (meets a-g requirements)**

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, 3, & 4) 5 Credits each semester (meets a-g requirements)**

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 outside of school. Piano 1, 2, and 3 students are required to practice for 3 hours per week and will complete a practice form which parents must sign. Piano 4A and 4B are required to practice 4 hours per week. 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. Piano 1, 2, 3, & 4 are delivered in weekly seminar classes.

**MUSIC APPRECIATION: THE ENJOYMENT OF LISTENING: 5 Credits (1 semester, meets a-g requirements)**

Have you ever heard a music piece that made you want to get up and dance, sing, or even cry? Regardless of the genre, music moves us. Explore the elements and pieces of music. And learn through the historical context, musicians and composers, and influence of music from the Middle Ages to the 21st century, on how to listen and really hear the different music that makes up our world.

**Computers**

**INTRODUCTION TO TYPING: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

This course focuses 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 a keyboard including numeric, keypad and alphabetic functions. Students use a basic downloadable program. Another option to this program is also offered, using an online site where students can practice typing HTML, CWSS and JavaScript.

**INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

An interactive introductory course for students brand new to programming that teaches the foundations of computer science using the Python language. Not only will this semester- or year-long course prepare students for AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles, but it will teach students how to think computationally and solve complex problems, skills that are important for every student. Introduction to Computer Science is a great starting point for schools starting up a new computer science program, or seeking to enrich an existing CS program or course.

**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE: 5 Credits (1 semester, meets a-g requirements)**

The course introduces students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity, and how computing impacts our world. Students will develop the computational thinking skills needed to fully exploit the power of digital technology and help build a strong foundation in core programming and problem-solving.

**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A (JAVA): 5 Credits (1 semester, meets a-g requirements)**





Students will learn to design and implement computer programs that solve problems relevant to today's society, including art, media, and engineering. AP Computer Science A teaches object-oriented programming using the Java language and is meant to be the equivalent of a first semester, college-level course in computer science. It will emphasize problem solving and algorithm development, and use hands-on experiences and examples so that students can apply programming tools and solve complex problems.

## **CTE BUSINESS AND FINANCE PATHWAY**

### **INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS: 5 Credits (1 semester, meets a-g requirements)**

Students explore business in global society, learning terminology, concepts, systems, strategies, and current issues. Topics include the business environment, ethics, entrepreneurship and global business, management, marketing, production, information systems, and financial elements.

### **PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING: 5 Credits (1 semester, meets a-g requirements)**

Students explore factors influencing how marketing decisions are made, including the impact of marketing decisions on an organization and its customers. They gain a working knowledge of practical marketing and business vocabulary. They also evaluate how the actions of competitors influence marketing decisions in the global marketplace.

### **MANUFACTURING: PRODUCT DESIGN AND MFG.: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Think about the last time you visited your favorite store. Now picture the infinite number of products you saw. Have you ever wondered how those things made it to the shelves? Whether it's video games, clothing, or sports equipment, the goods we purchase must go through a manufacturing process before they can be marketed and sold. In Introduction to Manufacturing: Product Design and Innovation, you will learn about different types of manufacturing systems as well as career opportunities, including engineers, technicians, and supervisors. As a culminating project, you will plan your own manufacturing process and create an entirely original product! If you thought manufacturing meant mundane assembly lines, this course will show you how exciting, creative, and practical this industry can be.

### **INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS: GLOBAL COMMERCE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY 5 Credits (1 Semester)**

Imagine meeting with suppliers at an office in Europe while calling your salesroom that's back in Asia. Imagine investing in foreign markets and visiting partners in exotic locales. With the evolution of current technology, our world is more connected than ever before,



and the business community today is larger than ever. International Business: Global Commerce in the 21st Century will demonstrate just how you can gain the knowledge, skills, and appreciation to live and work in the global marketplace. You will begin to understand how both domestic and international businesses are affected by economic, social, cultural, political, and legal factors and what it takes to become a true manager of a global business in the 21st century.

## **ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES**

### **PATIENT CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Students will learn about healthcare systems, legal responsibilities and patient rights, as well as health care workers' responsibilities in the workplace. Students will examine such topics as wellness, workplace safety, emergency care, getting a job in the healthcare industry, as well as technology in healthcare.

### **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.

### **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.

**INTRODUCTION TO CULINARY ARTS: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

This introductory course will provide you with basic cooking and knife skills while preparing you for entry into the culinary world. Discover the history of food culture, food service, and global cuisines while learning about food science principles and preservation. Finally, prepare for your future by building the professional, communication, leadership, and teamwork skills that are crucial to a career in the culinary arts.

**CULINARY ARTS: THE BUSINESS OF FOOD: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Students interested in a job or career in the food industry will cover a general overview of nutrition, culinary safety, some fundamental skills and cooking included, while also learning about the history and development of the food service industry, including laws and regulations, entrepreneurship, and the business side of food. This includes how to become employable, find a job, and map out your career, even learning what it takes to open and manage your own restaurant!

**DEVELOPING YOUR CULINARY ARTS: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Students will delve into the making of cakes, cookies, pies, desserts, etc. as well as cooking with dairy, eggs and prepping fruits and vegetables. Savvy shopping and meal planning built on nutrition principles as well as farm to table and global perspectives as well as sustainability issues will be covered, including catering and running your own kitchen.

**DRONE AVIATION: 5 Credits (1 semester)**



Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, otherwise known as drones, are a dynamic, emerging technology that will literally transform how industries function. This 8-hour course is a comprehensive overview of the information your organization needs to start using drones safely and legally. In this course, we cover the types of flight systems available, their capabilities, and how to pick the one that would be best for your organization. We discuss how drones can be used in specific business applications, and how to apply drone technology to bring efficiencies to your business.

Topics covered in the course include multi-rotor and fixed-wing drone flight systems, maintenance, registration, certification requirements, safety, insurance, industry applications, featured systems (DJI, Yuneec, etc.), emerging technologies, and the latest FAA policies.

**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.

**LIFE SKILLS: 5 Credits (1 semester)**

Life Skills provides students with important information that will help them to lead independent and successful lives as adults. In this course, students focus on topics including personal finance, nutrition, and personal development. The useful skills students gain in this course will help them to become responsible and proactive young adults. Course Topics include: Personal Development; Relationships; Cultures; Communication; Career, Education, & Work; and Personal Finance.

**ROBOTICS I & II: 5 Credits each semester (2 Semesters) (meets a-g requirements)**

Robotics is a combination of Mechanics, Electronics, and Problem Solving. The goal of this course is to get students interested in and excited about the fields of engineering, mechanics, and software development as they design, construct, and program an autonomous robot. This series of hands-on activities and projects will introduce students to basic robotic concepts using the Parallax Boe-Bot robot, called the "Boe-Bot." Its name comes from the Board of Education carrier board that is mounted on its wheeled chassis. Students will work in cooperative teams each session. Classroom attendance is mandatory.

**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.

**SUCCESS @ CHOICES: 5 Credits (1 Semester, Pass/Fail)**

Students learn the secrets of how to be successful in an independent study program, and specifically at Choices Charter School! Students will learn: how to navigate your online learning tools; how to manage your time and keep organized; about different communication practices and strategies; how to read information efficiently; how to take notes and study more effectively; test-taking strategies; how to utilize the writing process to create a quality product; about the value of good sleep and nutrition; how your mindset plays a crucial role in your life success; and to consider your long-term plans for a career, service, and/or college.