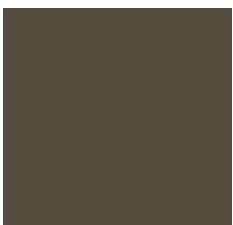
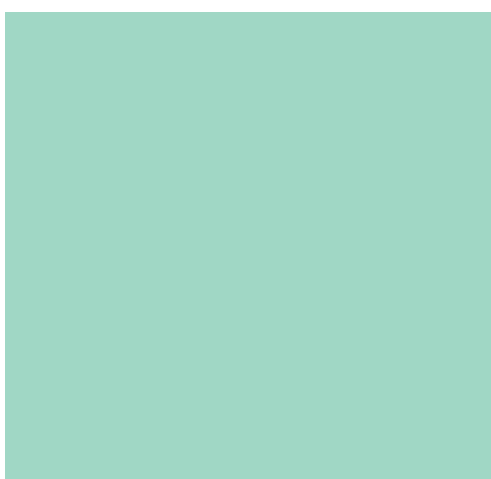
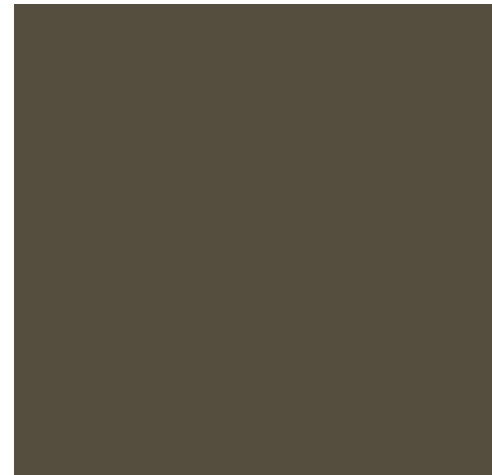
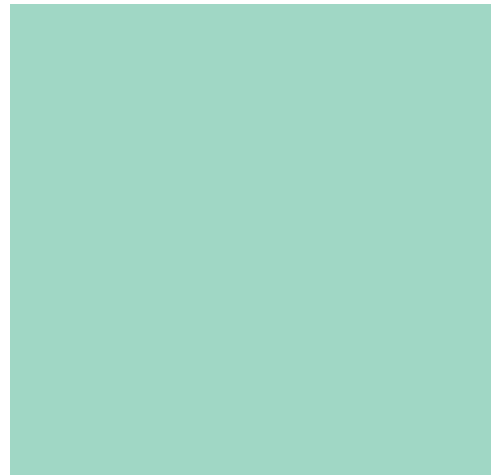




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Course Catalog 2011–2012
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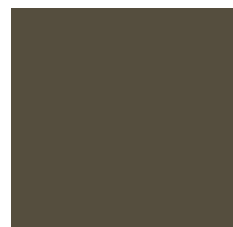
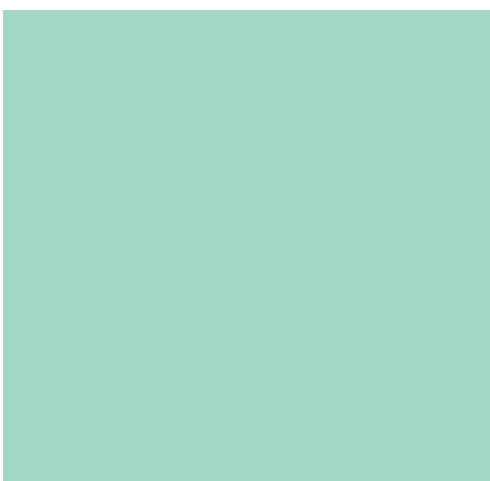
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The Opportunity for an Individualized, Online Education Is Yours

Online learning is a growing trend, due to the recognized need to engage each student as an individual—not just a member of an overcrowded classroom. As Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, recently explained in a speech about the Digital Transformation in Education:

“We’re at an important transition point. We’re getting ready to move from a predominantly print-based classroom to a digital learning environment. We need to leverage technology’s promise to improve learning. The ultimate goal for our investment in technology—and all of our programs—is for students to be prepared to succeed in college and careers.”

Aventa Learning by K¹² has long been a leader in public online education. Now part of the K¹² family, we continue to provide high-quality online schooling options to thousands of families worldwide.





Our Curriculum Is Designed for Success

Our courses are specifically designed to meet the needs of a wide range of students, from those who have had trouble succeeding in a traditional classroom, to those who are on track with their studies, to even the highest-achieving students—as long as students make a disciplined commitment to work hard and stay on task.

We offer more than 140 online courses for middle school and high school students in grades 6–12. The breadth of our curriculum is extensive and includes Advanced Placement (AP) courses, core courses, world languages, and credit recovery courses with English Language Learner (ELL) support. Our courses are in alignment with national and state standards.

The curriculum’s multimedia capabilities—featuring avatars, animation, interactive media, video, audio narration, and games—help make course content come alive to engage students, enable comprehension, and accommodate multiple learning styles.



Parent Involvement Is Key to Student Achievement

Set a daily schedule

Help your child set a daily schedule that works for your family. Encourage your child to regularly discuss his or her work with you.

Follow your student’s progress

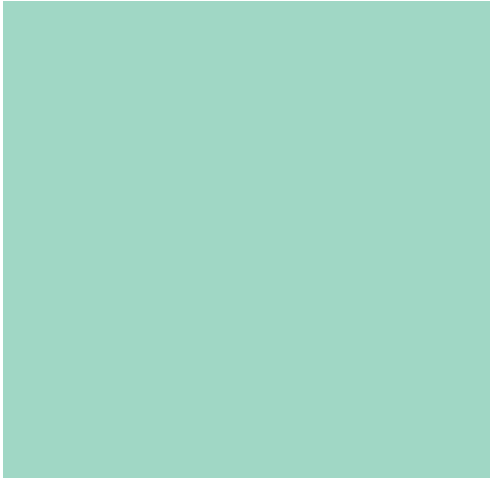
Follow your child’s progress with our online reporting system and weekly progress reports.

Connect with your school

Stay connected by regularly checking e-mail. Important information will be e-mailed to you once your student is enrolled.

Keep an ongoing dialogue

Contact teachers and staff to discuss your child’s progress or voice any concerns or comments.



Highly Qualified Teachers Lead Every Online Classroom

There is no substitute—in any child’s education—for an inspiring teacher. And that’s no different for students who take classes online. Every week, students engage with their teachers in online discussions through Elluminate Live!®, our online classroom in which teachers show presentations, have students work collaboratively, and answer questions. From these sessions, minds and lives are shaped.

Our teachers provide instruction and guidance, answer questions and make suggestions, hand out grades, and monitor attendance. Just like in the classroom, only online.

Aventa Learning by K¹² works in partnership with each of our state school programs to ensure that highly qualified, state-certified teachers are passionate about helping students succeed. In doing so, we offer regular teacher training, instructional supervision, coaching, motivation, and teaching tools to support every student in realizing his or her highest possible academic potential.



How Aventa Learning by K¹² works for students

- Access courses anytime, anywhere.
- Course solutions address multiple learning styles: auditory, visual, and kinesthetic.
- Our on-demand teacher helpline is available toll-free, Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 11 PM ET.
- Families receive weekly activity, progress, and performance reporting.
- All of our courses meet or exceed state and national standards.
- We are fully accredited through the Northwestern Accreditation Commission (NWAC).



High School Course Catalog 2011–2012

Advanced Placement

AP Art History

This course is designed to foster an understanding and knowledge of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within diverse historical and cultural contexts. In addition to visual analysis, this course emphasizes understanding works in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art.

AP Biology

This course is a comprehensive analysis of general biology that includes biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, mechanisms of evolution, evolutionary history of biological diversity, plant and animal form and function, and ecology. The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by first-year biology majors or pre-medical students. The textbook, discussions, labs, and range and depth of topics are equivalent to those offered in a college course.

AP Calculus AB

This is a college-level course that prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam. This course introduces limits, differentiation, and integration of functions. Students find and evaluate finite and infinite limits graphically, numerically, and analytically. They find derivatives using a variety of methods including The Chain Rule and Implicit Differentiation. They use the First Derivative Test and the Second Derivative Test to analyze and sketch functions.

AP Chemistry

Advanced Placement Chemistry is equivalent to a full-year introductory college course in general Chemistry. Students learn fundamental analytical skills to logically assess chemical problems proficiently. Through fascinating and elaborative lessons, students develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions based on informed judgment, and present evidence in clear and persuasive essays.

AP Computer Science A

AP Computer Science A emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with a concentration on problem solving and algorithmic development, and is the equivalent of a first-semester, college-level course in Computer Science. It also includes the study of data structures, design, and abstraction, but these topics are not covered to the extent that they are in AP Computer Science AB.

AP English Language

The academic objectives of this course adhere to those outlined by the College Board in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in Language and Composition. AP English Language explores the relationship between what authors say and how they are trying to say it. The literary component of the course provides a range of genres, including nonfiction, fiction, drama, and poetry. In the analysis of these works, students are exposed to style (the more language-based approach to exploring meaning) and rhetoric (the analysis of author argument and structure).

AP English Literature

This is a college-level class that ultimately prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam. In addition, it provides students with other skills associated with the most advanced classes in high school English, including research skills. When the class is complete, students will have acquired the reading and critical thinking skills necessary for understanding challenging new material, analyzing that material to deduce meaning, and applying what is learned to the world.

AP Environmental Science

This course requires students to think analytically about environmental issues, and the focus of each unit is to provide authentic, constructivist activities to build these thinking skills. AP Environmental Science requires an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the interrelationships of the natural world, identifying and analyzing environmental problems, and evaluating and examining risks and solutions to these problems. The wide variety of topics this course encompasses makes it important for students to learn the methods of science and employ these methods to understanding environmental problems and analyzing potential solutions. Through the use of case studies—and integrated exploratory activities based on the community and world around them—students gain a thorough vocabulary and knowledge base to become active participants in local, regional, and global concerns about their environment.

AP European History

This course is the study of the social, economic, cultural, intellectual, political, and diplomatic history of Modern Europe and its place in the history of the world—from the fall of Constantinople to the fall of the Berlin wall and the Soviet Union. The course is taught at a level and rigor equivalent to that required of students in a college freshman or sophomore Modern European History course.

AP French Language

This course prepares students to demonstrate their level of French proficiency across three communicative modes, and the five goal areas outlined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities). In addition, this course meets the tentative requirements of the new 2012 College Board AP French exam. AP French Language should advance both fluency and accuracy in language use and not overemphasize grammatical accuracy. To achieve this goal, the course is presented and taught in almost 100-percent French. The course will teach language structures in context and focus on the development of fluency to convey meaning. Culture is an important component of the course, so students will explore culture in both contemporary and historical contexts to develop an awareness and appreciation of cultural products, practices, and perspectives.

AP Macroeconomics*

AP Macroeconomics is an emphasis on how the economic system works as a whole. Students study how the economy is measured by using concepts such as gross domestic product (GDP) and other indicators. They examine concepts such as inflation, unemployment, world trade patterns, and the role of the Federal Reserve Bank.

AP Microeconomics*

AP Microeconomics emphasizes how individuals make choices with limited resources. Students will examine concepts such as supply and demand, factors of production, roles of labor and management, the relationship between the environment and the economy, and the impact of the government on individual decision-making processes. Students study the stock market as an investment option and trace various stocks through the semester, using the Wall Street Journal and the Internet as resources.

AP Physics B

AP Physics B is a yearlong introduction to the algebra-based major areas of physics—mechanics, fluids, waves, optics, electricity, magnetism, and modern physics (atomic and nuclear). Students learn to think like scientists: making predictions based on observations, writing hypotheses, designing and completing experiments, and reaching conclusions based on the analysis of data derived from these experiments. Students apply the concepts of physics to their everyday experiences.

AP Psychology*

This course is a survey of psychology that introduces students to the major topics of the field, the terminology and methodology of psychology, and the historical and current understanding of human behavior and thought-processes. Students learn to analyze human experiences like psychologists do, and to apply what they have learned to the world around them. The focus of the course is to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Psychology course administered by the College Board.

AP Spanish Language

This course helps prepare students to demonstrate their level of Spanish proficiency across three communicative modes—Interpersonal (interactive communication), Interpretive (receptive communication), and Presentational (productive communication)—and the five goal areas outlined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities). These standards aim to develop students “who are linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad.” In other words, “Knowing how, when, and why to say what to whom.” In doing so, AP Spanish Language will have at its foundation instructional content and practices that will connect students with the world, and in an authentic context that develops and yields communicative competence.

AP Statistics

AP Statistics data analysis is dependent on the use of technology. Students should have access to computers that include software capable of doing data analysis, and they’ll be required to interpret output generated by statistical software programs.

AP U.S. Government*

This course will survey the complex subjects of U.S. government and politics. Analysis of the processes and institutions through which the political system and policy decisions are made will include the Constitutional structure of government, participatory politics, the formal institutions of power, and the extra-Constitutional influences on those institutions.

AP U.S. History

This course follows a thematic approach as outlined in the new College Board curriculum guidelines. In this course, students must think and act as historians using constructivist approaches to develop their own understanding of key events. The goal of this course is to help students achieve deep conceptual understanding of the content and unifying concepts of U.S. History. The College Board will release a new AP exam, most likely in 2014, so this course will cover both current and anticipated new topics on that exam.

AP World History

AP World History covers the history of the world from 600 CE to the present, with an introduction unit on the period before. Students gain an understanding of the global experiences of humanity, and they’ll be able to apply that knowledge to their growth and development as “world citizens.”

Language Arts

Grammar and Composition

This course is designed for students who need extra help in mastering communication skills and the fundamental principles of grammar and usage. The course focuses on teaching the composition concepts in the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing pioneered by the Northwest Regional Education Laboratories.

English I

This introductory English course combines the study of literary genre with a focus on composition skills. Students will learn effective communication skills by focusing on the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing developed by the Northwest Regional Education Laboratories. Oral communication and research skills are included.

English II

This intermediate English course incorporates the study of world literature along with a continued focus on composition skills. Students will read, reflect, synthesize, and respond to several different types of world literature. A research paper is required.

English III

This course explores American literature and the pursuit of the American dream. Students will go on a pilgrimage of religion and faith, relive a revolution of rebellion and conformity, redefine truth and human potential, and develop a deeper sense of self. Through students’ explorations of classic American themes and ideals, they will deepen their awareness of political and social influences that have shaped American culture as it is known today.

English IV

This class prepares students for the skills needed to be successful in college and in life. When the class is complete, students will have acquired the reading and critical thinking skills necessary for understanding challenging new material, analyzing that material to deduce meaning, and applying what they have learned to the world.

Creative Writing

Creative Writing focuses on the four-step Process Writing model and the reading of professional writings to motivate students to create original essays, poems, and short stories. The writing assignments include narration, definition, process analysis, cause and effect, and comparison/contrast. Students learn self-editing skills by following the instructor’s detailed suggestions for the revision and refinement of their work.

Journalism*

The basics of journalism, including laws and ethics, freedom of the press, and the principles of journalistic writing, are powerful tools. In this course, students will learn how to generate story ideas, conduct an interview, and then put it all together into both news and sports stories. An introduction to feature writing and editorials is included.

Math

Pre-Algebra

This course builds upon the essential skills of arithmetic as they apply to algebra. Real numbers and linear equations, linear inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing, and some elements of geometry are stressed.

Algebra I

Algebra I provides instruction in a modularized, engaging, and interactive format. Students will begin the course with a series of prerequisite activities to test their algebra readiness. Once knowledge and skills are determined, students will access lessons by topic in the form of essential questions. This will allow teachers flexibility as they sequence material for students.

Geometry

The Geometry course is a comprehensive look at the study of geometric concepts, including the basic elements of geometry, proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, the coordinate plane, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, trigonometry, congruence and similarity, surface area, volume, and transformations.

* = .5 credit course

* = .5 credit course

Algebra II

In this course, students will use their prior knowledge from previous courses to learn and apply Algebra II skills. This course will include topics such as functions, radical functions, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, geometry, conic sections, systems of equations, probability, and statistics. Students will apply the skills that they learn in this course to real-world situations.

Trigonometry*

Trigonometry and the related real-world applications of trigonometric topics are examined. After students complete this course, they will have an understanding of how trigonometry is used in day-to-day life, and how it relates to other mathematical topics.

Pre-Calculus*

This course is designed to go through the major topics of Pre-Calculus and to prepare students to move on to Calculus. After completing this course, students will understand polynomial functions, polar coordinates, complex numbers, conic sections, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, sequences, and series.

Calculus

This course introduces limits, differentiation, and integration of functions. Students will find and evaluate finite and infinite limits graphically, numerically, and analytically. They will find derivatives using a variety of methods including The Chain Rule and Implicit Differentiation. They will use the First Derivative Test and The Second Derivative Test to analyze and sketch functions.

Consumer Math

This comprehensive review and study of arithmetic skills applies to both personal and vocational business opportunities. Topics include whole numbers, fractions, percentages, basic statistics, and graphs. Practical applications in finance, taxes, budgeting, banking, and home ownership are provided.

Integrated Math

In this course, students build mathematical skills that allow them to solve problems and reason logically. Students are able to communicate their understanding by organizing, clarifying, and refining mathematical information for a given purpose. Students use everyday mathematical language and notation in appropriate and efficient forms to clearly express or represent complex ideas and information.

Science

Physical Science

Physical Science is the introductory course to high school science courses and beyond. In this class, students expand on their middle school science experiences to prepare them for biology, chemistry, and physics. This course emphasizes scientific thinking as a way of understanding the natural phenomenon that surrounds us.

Earth Science

This course focuses on the development of increased scientific literacy and inquiry-based instruction. Students are given guidance and direction and taught the skills necessary to participate in open-ended activities. Integrated into the content, each lab provides relevance, requires problem solving, and provides opportunities for students to collaborate and generate solutions to questions. Because Earth Science is a visual course by nature, students are given opportunities throughout the course to visualize processes, by manipulating materials and pondering those results, before content is explained.

Biology

This course is an introduction to general biology and to the processes of scientific inquiry and thinking. It includes the fundamental principles of living organisms, such as the physical and chemical properties of life, and cellular organization and function. The transfer of energy through metabolic systems, cellular reproduction, the classification of living things, and the six kingdoms of life are examined. The main emphasis is on biological information presented in an understandable and straightforward way.

Chemistry

This course has been updated to provide increased inquiry-based instruction. Throughout this course, students are actively engaged in activities that enhance their ability to describe, explain, and predict phenomena enhancing their scientific skills. In our science courses, we also implement constructive learning activities that move on a continuum from guided inquiry to open-ended inquiry. In addition, an optional hands-on lab kit is available for purchase with this course.

Physics

The goal of physics is to describe the physical world using a small number of basic assumptions, concepts, and equations. In this course, emphasis is placed on relating physics to the everyday world. Students explore the concepts involved with motion in one- and two-dimensions, forces, work and energy, momentum and collisions, circular motion, and gravitation.

Environmental Science

Environmental science is a multidisciplinary field that draws from all the sciences in addition to other fields. This course helps students better understand the relationship between humans and the world in which we live. Environmental science applies the principles of pure sciences such as biology, chemistry, ecology, geology, and others.

Social Studies

Geography

This Geography course examines a broad range of geographical perspectives covering all the major regions of the world. Each region is under review in a similar structure in order for students to more clearly see the similarities and differences between each. Specifically, the course explores where each region is located, its physical characteristics, climate, and significant geographical features. The exploration will then continue by looking at each region from a cultural, economic, and political perspective, closely examining the human impact on each region.

World History

This course is a survey of world history from prehistoric to contemporary times. Students learn about the socio-economic, political, and ideological conditions of various time periods as historical events and cultural achievements of world regions are studied. Using primary and secondary sources, students utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills and conduct inquiry-based research, participate in interactive discussions, and complete assignments establishing real-world connections.

American History

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of American history. The content focuses on the origins of the nation's democratic principles and continues through present-day domestic and foreign issues that affect American society. There is a particular emphasis on the individuals and groups that have not only been impacted by the nation's development but those who have made contributions as well. Students utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills.

American Government*

American Government is the study of the historical backgrounds, governing principles, and institutions of the government of the United States. Principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded are discussed by structure, function, and power of government. These include the national, state, and local levels. The principles of popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, republicanism, federalism, and individual rights are examined as are the roles of individuals and groups in the American political system. Students compare and assess the American system of government's strengths and challenges with other modern systems.

Civics*

Civics is the study of citizenship and government. This course provides the learner with a basic understanding of civic life, politics, and government. This Civics course introduces the workings of our own and other political systems as well as the relationship of American politics and government to world affairs.

Economics*

Economics is the study of how societies use limited resources to satisfy their unlimited wants and needs. Students learn how fundamental decisions about the four factors of production are made: land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship. Key topics covered include law of supply and demand, saving, borrowing, and spending, the Federal Reserve System and the money supply, and the role of government in an open market economy.

Contemporary World Issues

In this course, students compare governments, economies, cultures, and geography of the world. Emphasis is placed on the civics, politics, economics, structures, processes, and policies of the United States and then compared with those of the international community. Students use what they know and learn about the United States and the world to analyze current events and contemporary issues. Reasoning and research skills are applied to the content throughout the course.

World Languages

French I & II

French I & II have been carefully designed to meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards focus on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams.

French III & IV

These courses help students continue learning the French language by building on the beginning-level French courses. Students listen, speak, read, and write through activities that are based on pedagogically proven methods of world language instruction. Students learn to express themselves using present, past, future, and conditional-tense verbs, articles, adjectives and increasingly complex grammatical structures. The course is aligned to national Foreign Language standards.

German I, II, & III

German courses meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) which focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams.

German IV

This fourth year of German builds upon the first three levels. Students continue to sharpen their reading, writing, and listening skills as well as learn skills to think critically and express themselves on topics relevant to German culture. This fourth level includes authentic texts, current culture, and literature from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

Japanese I & II

Japanese I & II blend different forms of communication and culture via unit activities to ensure that students meet all standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards call for a focus on successful communication through a grounding in the culture as well as speaking, writing, reading, and listening.

Latin I

Latin I is an introduction to the basics of Latin grammar to help develop the skills necessary to translate basic sentences from Latin to English and English to Latin, and for reading simple connected passages of Latin prose and poetry. Students learn about verb conjugations and noun declensions, analyzing the structure of Latin sentences and translating English sentences into well-formed Latin equivalents.

Latin II

Latin II is the continuation of Latin grammar and a deeper study of Roman Mythology and history. The grammar in Latin II reviews topics from Latin I with expanding use of declensions, adjectives, adverbs, and cases. These skills are used to translate longer Latin texts to English that require more knowledge of grammar rather than just vocabulary.

Mandarin (Chinese) I

This beginning-level course introduces students to a variety of areas of Mandarin Chinese. Students learn listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through activities that are based on pedagogically proven methods of world language instruction. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind.

Mandarin (Chinese) II

This course is a continuation of the beginning-level course and introduces students to a variety of areas of language learning. Throughout the five units of material (daily routine, animals, hobbies, the body, and descriptions), students learn to express themselves using an ever increasing vocabulary, present tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind.

Spanish I, II, & III

Spanish unit activities blend different forms of communication and culture to ensure that the courses meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards call for a method of teaching that focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture.

Spanish IV

This fourth year of Spanish is a continuation of the first three years. Students continue to sharpen their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through activities that are based on pedagogically proven methods of world language instruction. Throughout the units of material, students learn to express themselves using an ever increasing vocabulary, present-tense verbs, past-tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Culture is sprinkled throughout the course in an attempt to help the learner focus on the Spanish-speaking world and their culture.

Technology

Computer Fundamentals

In this introductory course, students learn how to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint to create, analyze, edit, share, and publish information for a variety of audiences and purposes. Through step- by-step tutorials and a project-based approach to learning, students become familiar with the key concepts and basic skills of today's information technology sector.

Image Design and Editing*

In the digital photography and graphic design lessons, students begin by learning general photographic concepts. Composition skills are added to photographs and image-editing techniques are practiced. Students learn how to use layers, crop images, implement color and lighting concepts such as hue, saturation, exposures, and special effects. Graphic design, artistic elements, and software skills are taught while producing graphic images.

Flash Animation*

This course is for anyone who wants to create animations and interactive movies like the ones used on the coolest websites. Participants learn how to use Flash to create engaging, interactive movies for an online environment. Beginning with classic animation techniques, participants learn how to move objects around the screen and change their appearance. From there, it's on to creating movies complete with original artwork. By the end of the course, participants have learned how to build interactivity into their movies and publish them to the Web. This course is a great introduction to the world of Web animation.

Game Design*

This course introduces students to the basic skills necessary for game design. They study the various games in the industry and analyze their approach in terms design and development. Students explore the processes and art of making game elements like story, levels, sound, and user interfaces. Finally, students merge all of these elements into a functional prototype showing their understanding of the game design process.

Java Programming*

This introductory-level course presents the understanding of JAVA and how to build a stand-alone application (such as a countdown clock or leap year indicator). This course is designed for first-time learners who have very little programming background except that introduced in Programming I: VB.NET. Students also learn the techniques of JAVA and how JAVA can be used in cross-platform programming. At the end of the course, students are able to write basic programs using JAVA and could pursue further instruction in any programming language.

VB.Net Programming*

This course presents basic programming and teaches the essential concepts of VisualBasic.net (VB.NET). As an introduction to VB.NET, students are taught the basic uses of the programming language, its similarities to the English language (and others), and its flexibility as a programming language. The course helps participants understand the processes involved in software development and object-oriented programming. This is an introductory course that could lead to careers such as software engineer, developer, or game designer.

Web Design*

This one-semester course introduces students to the mechanics and elements of web design. Students learn the key elements of design and HTML, the concepts of planning and organizing websites, and documentation and copyright issues associated with website design. Students progress through the course, engaging in a variety of project-based assessments to evaluate their understanding.

Electives

Accounting

Through this course, students gain a foundation in the skills needed for college accounting courses, office work, and managing their own small businesses. In this introduction to accounting, students who have never had prior accounting training are given an overview of the three forms of accounting: financial, cost, and management accounting.

Art Appreciation*

This one-semester course introduces students to the various forms of the visual arts, such as painting, sculpture, film, and more. Students learn how to look at a work of art, identify and compare key characteristics in artworks, and understand the role art has played throughout history. Through hands-on activities, virtual museum tours, discussion and research, learners develop an overall appreciation for the art they encounter.

Career Planning*

In this half-credit course, students use an informative interactive process to explore career and life options. Students begin with a thorough examination of their own interests, aptitudes, achievements, and personality styles. Potential career matches, job market information, informational interviews, and training and educational paths are examined.

Driver's Education*

Driver's Education is a foundation of theory for responsible driving. Emphasis is placed upon the mechanics of driving, execution of driving operations and the rules of safe driving. This course is the equivalent of a one-semester course.

Health*

This Health course helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions that allow them to stay active, safe, and informed. The lessons and activities are designed to introduce students to important aspects of the main types of health. Students find out about the components of a healthy lifestyle and ways to approach making healthy choices and decisions.

Life Skills*

This course is designed to increase student knowledge and ability in the skills necessary for everyday living. Life Skills emphasizes defining personal values, goal-setting and planning, making decisions and solving problems. Dealing with media and peer pressure, communication and relationships, decision making, wellness and personal safety, and contributing to their community is evaluated.

Music Appreciation*

This one-semester course introduces students to the elements, instrumentation, and historical periods of music. Students learn the significance of surroundings and time periods and how they both influenced the music of the day. Students listen to and evaluate several types of music, and are assessed through projects, presentations, and exams on their knowledge and understanding of music.

Nutrition and Wellness*

This half-credit course is an overview of good nutrition principles that are needed for human physical and mental wellness. Discussion of digestion, basic nutrients, weight management, sports and fitness, and life-span nutrition is included. Application to today's food and eating trends, plus learning to assess for reliable nutrition information is emphasized.

Personal Finance*

Understanding financial management concepts is an important life skill. From credit to insurance to taxes, it is imperative that students understand the consequences of their choices. Wisely managing their money, students become citizens who are more responsible. A thorough understanding of financial concepts, practical application through activities and projects, enable students to leave this course with useful skills for life.

Physical Education

This course focuses on the fundamental components and principles of fitness. The course examines safety guidelines, proper technique, and exercise principles such as the FITT. Students also learn strategies to help them begin, design, and maintain an exercise program to keep them fit for life.

Psychology*

The purpose of this course is to investigate why human beings think and act the way they do. This is an introductory course that broadly covers several areas. Theories and current research are presented for students to critically evaluate and understand. Each unit presents the terminology, theories, and research that are critical to the understanding of psychology. Assignments and assessments are included as well as tutorials and interactive drills.

Sociology

This course offers a study of human relationships in society. Additional emphasis is placed on culture, social structure, the individual in society, societal institutions, and social inequality.

Foundations

Algebra I

In this course, students work with and evaluate mathematical expressions, equations, graphs, and other topics. Topics included are real numbers, simplifying real number expressions with and without variables, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving quadratic equations, graphing linear and quadratic equations, polynomials, factoring, linear patterns, linear systems of equality and inequality, simple matrices, sequences, and radicals.

American History

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of American history. The content focuses on the origins of the nation's democratic principles and continues through present day domestic and foreign issues that affect American society. Students utilize critical thinking and problem solving as they complete assignments establishing real-world connections.

Biology

This course introduces general biology and the processes of scientific inquiry and thinking. It includes the fundamental principles of living organisms including physical and chemical properties of life, cellular organization and function, the transfer of energy through metabolic systems, cellular reproduction, the classification of living things, and the six kingdoms of life.

Earth Science

This introductory Earth Science course incorporates the body of knowledge and facts accumulated from people's observations of the earth around them and the skies above them. This observed information of the earth has evolved over centuries into the branch of science known as earth science. Earth science has several different branches of study: geology, hydrology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy.

English I

This course is designed as an introductory Language Arts course. The emphasis in this course is on the multiple types of mass media our students encounter on a daily basis. Emphasis is made on a variety of "real world" reading and writing skills.

English II

Students learn to read critically with full comprehension across genres and to communicate through effective writing. Students develop critical reading, writing, viewing, listening, and speaking skills as they explore world literature, both classic and modern. The NWREL rubric for the 6 + 1 Traits™ of Writing is used as a basis for writing instruction. Students learn new vocabulary, language, and literature skills in each unit.

English III

As students move toward the end of high school, it is important to look forward and to understand how the skills developed in high school will transfer to college and the work place. In English III, students develop an understanding of the practical applications of strong communication skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. In addition, students develop the skills necessary to communicate their messages effectively to a variety of audiences for both academic and work-related purposes.

English IV

English IV Foundations is a shortened version of the standard English IV course. Its length makes it suitable for use in summer programs and in other contexts in which instructional time and teacher time may be limited. Extensive use of instructional tutorials enables the course to be shorter while maintaining high quality and the same concept load. Audio is provided for every lesson.

Geography

This Geography course examines a broad range of geographical perspectives covering all of the major regions of the world. Each region is reviewed in a similar structure so students can clearly see the similarities and differences between each. The exploration then continues with a look at each region from a cultural, economic, and political perspective, closely examining the human impact on each region from these perspectives and how human activities impact the environments of the region.

Geometry

This comprehensive course features geometric terms and processes, logic, and problem solving. The course includes topics such as parallel line and planes, congruent triangles, inequalities, and quadrilaterals. Various forms of proof are studied. Emphasis is placed upon reasoning and problem-solving skills gained through study of similarity, areas, volume, circles, and coordinate geometry.

Health*

This Health course helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions that allow them to stay active, safe, and informed. The lessons and activities are designed to introduce students to important aspects of the main types of health: emotional and mental, social and consumer, and physical.

Physical Science

Physical Science is the introductory course to high school science courses and beyond. Students expand on their middle science experiences to prepare them for biology, chemistry, and physics. This course emphasizes scientific thinking as a way of understanding the natural phenomenon that surrounds us.

World History

This course is a survey of world history from prehistoric to contemporary times. Students learn about the socioeconomic, political, and ideological conditions of various time periods and study historical events and cultural achievements of world regions. Using primary and secondary sources, critical thinking and problem solving skills are utilized in completing assignments that establish real-world connections.

Middle School Course Catalog 2011–2012

Language Arts

Language Arts 6

The sixth grade Language Arts curriculum integrates literature, vocabulary, writing, and grammar together in a 21st-century setting. Students are given the opportunity to create blogs (online journals) where they can log and reflect upon their independent reading. They are presented with the possibility of creating a multimedia report rather than a traditional research paper. This course empowers life-long learners who are actively engaged in their own learning and take ownership of their scholastic endeavors.

Language Arts 7

Through this exciting course, students engage in an interactive, hands-on array of reading and writing activities designed to enhance and integrate literacy across all content areas—science, social studies, math, art, and more. Teacher-to-students, student-to-self, and peer-to-peer assessments serve as constant benchmarks that facilitate the higher-order, problem-solving, and collaborative skills required to meet academic and career expectations for years to come.

Language Arts 8

In this course, students learn to read critically with full comprehension across genres and to communicate through effective writing. As students develop critical reading and writing skills, important life connections are made through the variety of material studied. As students complete this course, the relevance that this course has on daily life and future academic and career goals are highlighted.

Math

Math 6

Students will learn sixth grade math topics drawing from a variety of sources, including hands-on activities, interactive lessons, and practical math applications. This course will outline whole numbers, number sense, geometry, decimals, fractions, numbers, probability and statistics, measurement, and ratios.

Math 7

Seventh grade math topics that draw from a variety of sources, including hands-on activities, interactive lessons, and practical math applications are learned. These applications include: numbers and operations, measurements, geometry, algebraic concepts, data analysis, and probability.

Math 8

This course for eighth grade math topics includes hands-on activities, interactive lessons, and practical math applications such as algebra concepts like linear functions and graphing, geometry, measurement, applications, trigonometry concepts, and probability and statistics.

Science

Science 6

A variety of science topics, skills, and ideas are introduced to students in this sixth grade science course. Students explore several different scientific fields through research, experimentation, and interactive activities. Throughout the course, students use the scientific method and understand that the scientific method to understand its application to all scientific disciplines and endeavors.

Science 7

Enlightenment and instruction on the nature of science using a discovery process to teach the scientific method are detailed of this course. Also discussed are metric measurements in scientific investigations. The study of the universe, stars, constellations, and objects in the solar system are covered. Movement and pathways of the earth and moon are investigated, with natural paths uncovered as students discover just how large the universe really is.

Science 8

This course provides a rigorous and comprehensive foundation for the eighth grade students about to enter high school science. It covers the relevant topics in all of the major disciplines, building on prior knowledge and expanding on subjects introduced earlier in middle school. Students learn through interactive activities, experimentation, discussion, engaging text, and animations. Graded assignments are stimulating and thought-provoking, paving the way for future interest in the scientific disciplines.

Social Studies

Social Studies 6

Students in grade six expand their understanding of history, civics and government, geography, economics, as well as individuals, society, and culture by studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of the major Western and non-Western ancient civilizations. Students analyze the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their enduring contributions, and the link between our world today and these ancient worlds.

Social Studies 7

Students are taken through the disciplines of world history, landform and geography, and money and economics. The powers and parallels of political science, sociology, and anthropology are investigated through hands-on tutorials and interaction with animation that brings this history to life. Students acquire the skills necessary to study and understand world cultures, while examining unique physical features using state-of-the-art electronic geographic tools.

Social Studies 8

Eighth-grade students build on their concepts of geography, civics, and political societies beginning with the world as it was in the 1500s. Curriculum includes explorations, establishment of the colonies, the colonial era, the French and Indian War, and the Revolutionary War. The course continues with the development of America's government from a confederation to a constitutional model, the launching of the Republic, the War of 1812, the growth and development of our nation through the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark exploration through Manifest Destiny, and the Mexican War.

Electives

Art 6*

Journey through time and place while examining some of the greatest masterpieces created. In this course, students explore world regions and study the unique artifacts and works of architecture that define ancient civilizations. From Mesopotamia, the world's first civilization, to the Roman streets of Pompeii, participants learn the fundamental concepts of art, how to look at and evaluate art, and the intended function of natural history museums. This course is built on hands-on-activities, discussions, written assignments, and objective assessments.

Art 7*

Explore world regions and study the unique art and architecture that define the Medieval and Renaissance periods. From Leonardo da Vinci to the Taj Mahal, participants learn the fundamental concepts of art, how to look at and evaluate art, and the intended function of art museums through hands-on activities, discussions, written assignments, and objective assessments.

Art 8*

Journey through time and place while examining some of the greatest masterpieces ever created. In this course, students explore world regions and study the unique art and architecture that defines modern-day civilizations. From Picasso to Hiroshige, participants learn the fundamental concepts of art, how to look at and evaluate art, and the intended function of art museums through hands-on activities, discussions, written assignments, and objective assessments.

Career Explorations 8*

In this course, students learn about various careers that are available today. Students complete self-evaluations to determine which careers are of most interest to them. Assignments, including research and interviews, help give the students a hands-on approach to creating a plan for the future.

Health 6*

This course is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices throughout life. Students gain valuable health information and learn proactive practices. Students demonstrate their skills in healthy decision-making, problem solving, goal setting, and effective communication and refusal negotiation.

Health 7*

This course is designed to teach lifetime health and wellness knowledge in order to prevent various psychological and physical disorders. Students learn health information and practices and gain experience in implementing these newfound skills. The handling of peer pressure, recognizing and avoiding unhealthy and risky behaviors, and developing strategies for improving personal and community health are recognized.

Health 8*

Students learn health information and practices necessary to understand and manage many aspects of the physical, social, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional health throughout adolescence into adulthood. This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to enable and maintain a healthful lifestyle.

Music 6*

Through this online Music Appreciation course, students are exposed to many diverse activities and learn a wide variety of musical concepts that are useful in everyday life. The impact of these concepts is ongoing.

Music 7*

Diverse activities explore a wide variety of musical concepts. Through this online Music Appreciation course, students learn foundational skills such as performing, listening, analyzing, and responding to music.

Music 8*

Students learn foundational skills such as performing, listening, analyzing, and responding to music. Students develop a sense of self-esteem by accomplishing activities that require higher critical-thinking skills especially developed for their grade level.

Physical Education 6*

The sixth grade physical education course introduces students to health-related fitness components, dance, team sports, healthy choices, and lifetime activities. Through these units, students learn the essential principles of a healthy, active lifestyle. These lessons give students exposure to many of the activities that can be incorporated into their daily lives today and in the future.

Physical Education 7*

Through this online Physical Education course, students are exposed to many diverse activities and learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that are useful in everyday life. Students learn lifelong skills such as rock climbing, orienteering, and ping-pong along with stress management concepts through yoga and Pilates. Students develop a sense of self-esteem and accomplishment through completion of fitness tests, attaining personal goals set, and learning to care for their bodies.

Physical Education 8*

Scientific evidence has shown that regular physical activity is essential to our health and wellness. The American Heart Association has indicated that the primary cause for the number one killer in the United States, heart disease, can be treated with daily participation in physical activity. This course teaches students to make informed decisions to assist them both now and in the future. Students in eighth grade physical education are exposed to a variety of lifetime physical activities such as canoeing, cycling, and kickboxing.

French I

French I has been carefully designed to meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards focus on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams.

German I

German courses meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) which focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams.

Spanish I

Spanish unit activities blend different forms of communication and culture to ensure that the courses meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards call for a method of teaching that focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture.

Credit Recovery Course Catalog 2011–2012

Language Arts

English I (E)

In this course, students learn to use the Internet to communicate. They explore mass media and gain an understanding of journalism and advertising practices. This course has been specifically built with the credit recovery student in mind. The course content has been appropriately grouped into smaller topics to increase retention and expand opportunities for assessment.

English II (E)

In English II Credit Recovery, students read literary works from a variety of genres, cultures, and classical and modern time periods. In order to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate effectively, students are asked to respond to their readings creatively and thoughtfully, to present material orally, and to evaluate material and ideas presented in both literature and media.

English III (E)

As students move toward the end of their high school careers, it is important to look forward and understand how the skills they are developing in high school transfer to college and the work place. In English III Credit Recovery, students are taught the practical applications of strong communication skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This class prepares students for college and beyond.

English IV (E)

English IV Credit Recovery is a shortened version of our English IV Foundations course. Its abbreviated length makes it suitable for use in summer programs and other contexts in which instructional time or teacher time may be limited. Extensive use of instructional tutorials enables the course to maintain high quality and the same concept load. Audio is provided for every lesson, and additional activities make it appropriate for English language learners.

Math

Algebra I (E)

This course enables students to gain mastery in working with and evaluating mathematical expressions, equations, graphs, and other topics in a yearlong algebra course. Assessments within the course include multiple-choice, short-answer, or extended-response questions, and this course incorporates self-check quizzes, audio tutorials, and interactive games.

Algebra II

Algebra II expands on the mathematical content of Algebra I and Geometry. While the topics in Algebra II are interesting and important in their own right, they also serve as a basis for the material presented in subsequent mathematics courses, e.g., Trigonometry and Calculus. Emphasis is on functions and algebraic solutions to various types of problems. Abstract thinking skills (including some proofs, and the notion of 'generality of a statement') are introduced and cultivated.

Geometry (E)

This is a comprehensive course featuring geometric terms and processes, logic, and problem solving. Topics include parallel line and planes, congruent triangles, inequalities and quadrilaterals. Various forms of proof are studied. Emphasis is placed upon reasoning and problem-solving skills gained through study of similarity, areas, volumes, circles, and coordinate geometry.

Science

Biology (E)

This course is an introduction to general biology and to the processes of scientific inquiry and thinking. Biology includes the fundamental principles of living organisms including physical and chemical properties of life, cellular organization and function, the transfer of energy through metabolic systems. Also examined are cellular reproduction, the classification of living things, and the six kingdoms of life.

Earth Science (E)

The introductory Earth Science course incorporates the body of knowledge and facts accumulated from people's observations of the earth around them and the skies above them. This observed information of the earth and skies has evolved over centuries into the branch of science known as Earth Science.

Physical Science (E)

Physical Science is an introductory course to high school science courses and beyond. Students expand on their middle science experiences to prepare them for biology, chemistry, and physics. This course emphasizes scientific thinking as a way of understanding the natural phenomenon that surrounds us. In addition, there are both simulated and real world laboratory experiences offered to further expand your scientific horizons.

Social Studies

American Government*

American Government is the study of the historical backgrounds, governing principles, and institutions of the government of the United States. The focus is on the principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels.

American History (E)

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of American history. The content focuses on the origins of the nation's democratic principles and continues through present day domestic and foreign issues that affect American society. There is a particular emphasis on the individuals and groups that have not only been impacted by the nation's development but those who have made contributions as well.

Economics* (E)

This half-credit course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of economics. It uses real-world economic applications that students are familiar with to increase their understanding of economic concepts and our economic system. The Economics Credit Recovery course offers a range of both macro and microeconomic concepts and includes the American Free Enterprise System. All content is provided in online format; no textbook is required. Students investigate how to think like an economist, as they learn about economic principles and different economic systems. They analyze and interpret data to understand the laws of supply and demand. By examining the world of business, money, banking, and finance, students see how economics is applied both domestically and globally, and what this means to them. Students also study how the government is involved in establishing economic stability within the American Free Enterprise System, and how this system impacts the global economy.

Geography (E)

This Geography course examines a broad range of geographical perspectives covering all of the major regions of the world. Specifically, the course explores where each region is located along with its physical characteristics, including absolute and relative location, climate, and significant geographical features.

World History (E)

This course is a survey of world history from prehistoric to contemporary times. Students learn about the socioeconomic, political, and ideological conditions of various time periods as they study historical events, cultural achievements, and world regions.

Electives

Health* (E)

This course is designed as a survey course in personal health. The course provides students with information that enables a more productive and healthy life today and in the future. Emphasis is on making healthy personal decisions and in retrieving the information necessary to make healthy choices.

Physical Education*

Through this online Physical Education course, students explore many diverse activities and learn a wide variety of fitness concepts useful in everyday life. Students learn about physical fitness and how their bodies work by studying static and dynamic balance, linear and rotary motion, anatomy, and biomechanics.

Spanish I

This course provides students with instruction in the basics of learning the Spanish language. This includes, but is not limited to, the vocabulary topics of greetings, time, dates, colors, clothing, numbers, weather, family, houses, sports, food, and school. The course also introduces basic and stem-changing verbs and their formation and use in the present tense.

(E) = ELL-supported content (English language learners)

* = .5 credit course

(E) = ELL-supported content (English language learners)

* = .5 credit course



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