



*A.G.B.U. ALEX & MARIE MANOOGIAN SCHOOL*

*MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL*

*COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK*

*2016-2017*

## Section 1

### Course descriptions by subjects

#### ARMENIAN

##### **Armenian – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Using poetry and short prose passages, this course focuses on developing the ability to read fluently. Students are expected to answer questions on the material. In addition, students learn to summarize the reading orally and in writing. Spelling and grammar are covered.

##### **Armenian – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course focuses on the reading of both short stories and poetry by Armenian writers. Along with the reading material, there is a workbook containing vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Simple paragraphs will be introduced for translation from Armenian to English.

##### **Armenian – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students discuss the material in Armenian and use the Armenian language to write summaries and answer specific questions about the readings. More advanced rules of spelling and grammar are introduced. Informative text will be translated from Armenian to English.

##### **Armenian – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course focuses on short stories by famous Armenian writers. Along with the readings, there are question and answer sessions. The students also have an opportunity to learn about Armenian culture in general. Texts will be translated from English to Armenian and Armenian to English.

##### **Armenian – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course focuses on the reading, discussion, and written analysis of some major works in Armenian literature translated into English. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary are covered as an extension of the reading. Armenian current events and newspaper articles are often introduced as topics of discussion.

##### **Armenian – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students continue with their study of the Armenian language. Students cover 5 – 18 centuries of Armenian literature translated into English. In addition, they read novels, essays, and poetry of Armenian-American authors. Armenian current events and newspaper articles are often introduced as topics.

##### **Armenian as a Second Language – 6<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course is offered to non-Armenian-speaking students with little or no knowledge of the Armenian language. The prime objective of this introductory course is to prepare students for more advanced Armenian language courses. The emphasis is conversational and introduces the Armenian alphabet and writing.

## **ARMENIAN HISTORY**

### **Armenian History – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course is a survey of Armenia and the Armenian people from prehistoric times until the 1<sup>st</sup> Century B.C.E., when, under “King of Kings” Tigran the Great, the Armenian nation became a powerful force in the Near East. Indo-European etymologies and Armenian folklore are introduced. Students have an opportunity to act like junior archaeologists, bringing objects from home for in-class presentations.

### **Armenian History – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course is a survey of the Armenian people from 1<sup>st</sup> Century B.C.E. to 9<sup>th</sup> Century C.E. It focuses on Armenia as a Christian nation, Byzantine and Arab rule in Armenia, and Armenia’s struggle for independence.

### **Armenian History – 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course focuses on life in the present-day Republic of Armenia, with particular attention to its geography, history, culture, traditions, customs, foods, sports, and recreation. Often, general knowledge of world history serves to expand the horizons of students and heighten their acceptance of diversity and tolerance.

### **Armenian History – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course is a survey of the present-day Republic of Armenia, with particular attention paid to its geography, history, culture, customs, foods, sports, and everyday life.

### **Armenian History – 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course is an overview of the origin and development of the Armenian question – the persecution of Armenians, and its culmination in the widespread massacres and Genocide of the Armenians from the 1890s to the early 1920s. Several videos are shown to enhance the subject matter.

# ART

## **Art – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This introductory 10-week course introduces the students to the elements and principles of design through two- and three-dimensional art experiences. Through art activities, the students are introduced to a variety of media and techniques to allow them to develop their skills, abilities, and creative expression. Art vocabulary, art criticism, and appreciation of art of various times and cultures are introduced.

## **Art – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This 10-week course reviews and builds upon the student's understanding of the elements and principles of design through a variety of one-and two-dimensional art experiences. Students are introduced to an increased variety of media and techniques to extend their knowledge and continue developing their skills, abilities, and creative potential. Art vocabulary, art criticism, and appreciation of art of various times and cultures are developed.

## **Art – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This is a 10-week course designed to develop and expand the student's understanding of art concepts and knowledge. Various one- and two-dimensional art experiences are provided to build upon their previous learning and to explore new art media and/or techniques. Art vocabulary is reviewed and developed, as well as the students' knowledge of art criticism and their appreciation of the art of various times and cultures as it pertains to their art learning and production.

## **Art – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This is a one semester course designed to expose students to a variety of media and techniques. The students will be given projects in various media. They will have the opportunity to do more extensive work in particular media and techniques. Students are also given a background in the history of the visual arts.

## **Art – 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

This one semester course provides students the opportunity to work in a variety of media. The teacher will require certain projects, and students are also allowed to work on projects of their choice with teacher approval. Students may take the course more than once.

## **Art – Yearbook – 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Most students are expected to enroll in this course for two semesters. A number of students are encouraged to enroll for a second year to provide continuity for the project. Students work in all areas involved in designing, publishing, and financing a yearbook.

## **COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Computer & Technology – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students study how computers work, the relationship between hardware and software, and the basics of operating systems. They learn the basics of Microsoft Office and develop their keyboard skills.

### **Computer & Technology – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

With a primary emphasis on word-processing and keyboard skills, students will learn to create reports, letters, and other documents. Students learn the basic parts of computer systems, how they operate, and what to select when purchasing a computer. Students work on the Internet, send, and receive e-mail, and learn appropriate rules of communication and behavior over the Internet. On-line safety is discussed. Students are also introduced to basic computer graphics.

### **Computer & Technology – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course introduces students to the computer applications commonly used in business settings – spreadsheet, presentation, and database software. Students create spreadsheets, statistical charts, effective computer-based presentations, and use databases to track and manipulate information. Students will continue to develop computer graphic skills.

### **Computer & Technology – 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course develops and strengthens students' computer skills using basic computer applications. They learn about file servers, Local Area Networks, (LAN), Peer-to-Peer Networks, and how to set up a web page. Students also get an introduction to computer languages, coding, and web-page development.

### **Correspondence/Distance/Internet Learning – 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students may need courses which do not fit in the schedule. Other students may want elective courses we do not offer. With the approval of the student, the parent, and the administrator, students may select courses from an accredited program offered through correspondence or Internet. The work will be monitored by a certified teacher and will be identified on the transcript as a correspondence or Internet course.

## ENGLISH

### **English – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course focuses on studying and practicing varied forms of writing and on introducing readings from varied genres. Students have classroom and independent reading assignments.

### **English – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The focus is on essay writing and the study of different literary genres. Students have regular vocabulary study. Readings from various genres are used to develop understanding of literary elements. Monthly presentations are used to demonstrate learning and to develop oral presentation skills.

### **English – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course reviews the works of many well-known authors through short stories, essays, poems, folktales, and plays. Students do monthly book reports. Writing focuses on methods of exposition. Students are expected to write several 2-3 page papers and two properly formatted research papers.

### **English and Honors English Literature and Composition – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students cover works of well-known international authors through novels, short stories, essays, poems, folktales, and plays. Monthly book reports are required. Writing focus is on analysis of text, comparison and contrast, and how-to papers. Academic vocabulary and words from weekly readings are the basis for vocabulary study.

### **English and Honors English Literature and Composition – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students read classical and modern material in a variety of genres. Writing focuses on 3-4 page expository essays, classification and definition papers, and synthesis essays. Students are required to use properly cited sources in several of the papers. Students do some oral presentations and have regular book reports. Vocabulary study is built into all work. Honors students use both the text and material from a pre-AP course developed by College Board.

### **English and Honors American Literature and Composition – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

American writings are presented in chronological order. Minority authors are well represented. Writing focuses on analysis, persuasive writing, and research. Book reports continue. Vocabulary is integrated into all units. A test preparation unit prepares students for the state-mandated 11<sup>th</sup> grade test.

## ENGLISH

### **AP English Language and Composition – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Following the guidelines of the College Board, this course presents material and demands work at the college level. Students work mainly with non-fiction materials, analyzing them for their ideas and for the rhetorical structures used to achieve the effects of the essays. All writing is evaluated to a college-ready standard. In addition, students are prepared for the state-mandated 11<sup>th</sup> grade test. Some students will take the AP English Language and Composition exam.

### **English and Honors British Literature and Composition – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The main text features British literature and essays from *Beowulf* to modern times. Composition focuses on the skills needed for college and job writing. Book reports and vocabulary study continue. Students spend one quarter producing a senior project which involves learning something new and then presenting the results of their learning through a written research paper, a presentation using audio-visual equipment, and an oral report.

### **English as a Second Language – 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course provides support for students who need to develop their understanding of written and spoken English so they can work up to level in their classes. Emphasis is on the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the English language. Vocabulary development, pronunciation, learning strategies, and cultural development are important components of the course.

### **Humanities – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In this one semester, elective course students examine major themes and methods of development, mainly through the medium of film. Students identify cinematic effects and evaluate their effectiveness. Students write papers and/or present their own film efforts to demonstrate what they have learned.

### **Speech – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This one semester elective strengthens students' ability to speak in public. Students study effective speeches and analyze what makes them work both in terms of content and delivery. Students will present a variety of speeches, starting with short, impromptu presentations and progressing to longer, researched and rehearsed speeches.

# MATH

## **Math – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The first of a two-course program, this course strengthens the student's understanding of the order of operations with whole numbers both algebraically and mentally, followed by ordering and solving decimal equations. Algebra is introduced with one-step equations and work on determining if values are solutions to basic equations. Operations on fractions with unlike denominators are reviewed in depth, which leads into proportional relationships. Data collection and analysis are taught as well as analyzing and solving data graphically. Geometry is introduced, including surface area, volume of prisms, pyramids, and cylinders, as well as more comprehensive study of perimeter and area. The coordinate plane is analyzed through locating and graphing ordered pairs from real life situations. Rate of change, and variables within functions are introduced.

## **Math – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course presents all skills needed for success in Algebra 1. It begins with a mastery of order of operations. Proportional relationships are then discussed with real world applications, using scale models and drawings. Graphing of ordered pairs and analyzing the relationships between coordinates is reviewed. Modeling, ordering, and converting percents are addressed. Experimental and theoretical probability are introduced, leading into collection, displaying, and analyzing of data. Geometry is elaborated on, expanding into perimeter, circumference, area, and volume of regular and irregular shapes. The course concludes with solving two- and multi- step equations and inequalities.

## **Math 8<sup>th</sup> Grade -- Algebra**

This course is the bridge from the concrete to the abstract study of mathematics. The course covers solving single and multi-step equations, inequalities, and absolute values. Students study graphing, slopes, line of best fit, multiple systems of equations, exponent rules, polynomial equations. The course ends with a look at data analysis and probability study.

## **Algebra – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

For students who were not able to cover all the topics in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, this course provides the opportunity to review basic concepts and gain a firm grounding in the concepts of algebra before moving on to more advanced mathematics.

## **Geometry – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Geometry involves the study of properties and relationships of points, lines, and planes. Other topics include angles, triangles, polygons, circles, area, volume proportions, similarity, right triangles, and trigonometry. Algebraic concepts and technology are integrated throughout the course.

## MATH

### **Algebra II – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Algebra II involves the study of equations, inequalities, matrices, and radicals, along with linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Graphing technology is integrated throughout the course. Students will be prepared for the study of pre-calculus.

### **Pre-Calculus - 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course prepares students for future college-level mathematics and science courses. Emphasis is on algebraic manipulation, interpreting graphs, data analysis, and solving application problems. Graphing technology is integrated throughout the course.

### **Calculus – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students will deepen their understanding of the concepts taught in pre-calculus. These students may be able to test out of some of the first math courses in college.

### **Statistics – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This one-semester course provides students with a basic understanding of statistics which will allow them to understand statistical measures used in other classes. It also gives students knowledge of basic statistical computations and prepares them for the courses they will need in college.

### **Consumer Mathematics – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In a one-semester course, students learn about practical money matters. They work out actual costs of borrowing money, prepare budgets, discuss investing, break down all the categories on a pay stub, and in develop money management skills which they will need throughout their adult lives.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Physical Education – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This mini-course offers basic instruction in skills and rules for various sports and fitness activities. Beginning game strategies and safety are stressed.

### **Physical Education – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This 10-week mini-course builds on last year's skills to develop intermediate skills in basketball, volleyball, indoor/outdoor soccer, kickball, flag football and fitness training. Sportsmanship is stressed.

### **Physical Education – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In this third 10-week mini-course, students continue to develop more advanced skills. Coaching techniques and officiating skills are also discussed.

### **Physical Education/Health – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students work on units designed to enhance total body fitness as well as athletic skill. The health education component provides information about the need for physical activity in a healthy lifestyle.

### **Physical Education – 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In this one semester elective, students receive instruction in and participate in a variety of physical fitness activities and athletic skills. Health education is included. Sportsmanlike behavior and the rules of the more popular games are stressed.

# SCIENCE

## **Science – Grade 6**

In this course, students explore physical, life, and earth science. Study begins with “Energy in Action” with a focus on motion, force, and energy. Next, “Ecosystems” are covered, which includes a look into populations, communities, and biomes. Coursework concludes with a shift to earth science, exploring earth materials and plate tectonics.

## **Science – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students are exposed to the same branches of science as the previous year with a different concentration. In “Waves and Energy,” students cover characteristics through light. In “Physical//Chemical Properties-Change in Matter,” students study elements and the periodic table. Focus then shifts to “The Structure and Function of Living Things” with a study of the cell as preparation for high school biology. Coursework finishes with a look into “The Hydrosphere and Global Change” with a concentration on weather.

## **Science – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Coursework is focused on the various components which comprise earth science. Students explore “Big Ideas of Earth Systems Science,” “Earth’s Place in the Universe”, “Structure and Dynamic of Solid Earth, “Responding to Geohazards,” “Sustaining Water Resources,” with emphasis to the human impact of demands made for energy and resources.

## **Life Science – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students learn about the seven characteristics of life, levels of organization of living things, and major systems of the body.. They also cover the theories of evolution of Lamarck and Darwin, and how life is believed to have originated on earth. They also study classification of animals, animal behaviors, symbiotic interactions, and ecology. The class is highly project based.

## **Honors Biology – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade & 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Biology**

This course begins with the study of cells, their structure, and the function of their organelles. Students then study the kingdoms of life, the mechanisms for homeostasis, and the body’s feedback mechanisms. Students compare sexual and asexual reproduction, heredity, and genetic disorders. The topic of DNA is introduced. A final unit looks at human impact on the environment

## **SCIENCE**

### **Microbiology – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students study forms of microscopic life. The second semester deals with the microscopic structures in the human body. The course culminates with a large unit on the use of bacteria in genetic engineering, in cloning, and in the production of insulin.

### **AP Biology – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This rigorous course, following a syllabus approved by the College Board, is organized around four Big Ideas. In their mastery of these topics, students are expected to demonstrate understanding and use of seven scientific practices listed by College Board. Some students will take the College Board AP Biology exam.

### **Chemistry and Honors Chemistry – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course requires knowledge of basic algebra and a good understanding of physical science. It covers matter and energy, atomic structure, ionic and covalent compounds, chemical equations, reactions and equilibrium, electrochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Students who are in honors chemistry will be required to do additional labs, projects, and research, and will be graded on a more rigorous scale.

### **AP Chemistry – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Some students may elect to enroll in AP Chemistry, following a syllabus approved by the College Board. Students will study the same topics as in chemistry, but the work is at the level of a first-year college course, requiring much more insight into the reactions and forces involved. There are very detailed labs with highly involved lab reports required. Some students may take the AP Chemistry final exam.

### **Forensics – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students who choose not to study physics or AP Chemistry in their fourth year may elect the forensics class. Here they will apply major ideas from all their previous years of science study as they identify information, analyze it, and attempt to “solve” or explain a situation. Research, meticulous lab work, and high-quality lab reports and write-ups are required.

### **Physics – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (American School of Correspondence)**

This year-long course is based on units of study developed by the American School, a fully accredited correspondence program. Students work from textbooks and study materials provided by the American School. The eleven units which make up the course cover all the areas covered by a traditional college-prep physics course. A certified teacher is available to help students and to provide enrichment.

**Project Lead the Way – Human Body Systems** Grades 10-12

This is a two consecutive semester elective course offered to students in grades 10-12. The online curriculum is provided by PLTW.org and is designed around project-based learning. Students examine the interactions of human body systems as they explore identity, power, movement, protection, and homeostasis. Students use data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle movement, reflex, and voluntary action and respiration, and take on the roles of biomedical professionals to solve real-world medical cases.

**Automotive Engineering** – Grades 10-12

In this two-semester elective , students design and build a car. They research aerodynamics, strength vs. weight, safety, etc., and then find ways to build their design balancing cost vs. effectiveness. The entire process provides countless opportunities for creative thinking and practical hands-on activities. The culminating activity is a competition held in May between several schools throughout the area.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Social Studies – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This geography-based course introduces students to the physical and human geography of the world. Students explore different ways in which the earth has been represented, how geographers use specific tools and technologies in geographic inquiry, and the limitations imposed by the tools used. Students study the different regions of the world to see how geographic, historical, political, socio-cultural, and/or economic factors affect and are affected by global phenomena.

### **Social Studies – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This class focuses on early world history and geography. Students examine issues from the perspective of historical thinking, learning how many disciplines, and how many possibilities must be considered when trying to account for historical occurrences. The course provides a survey from the earliest known times to 1500 CE. Students are encouraged to begin to examine the story of the United States in a more global context.

### **Social Studies – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students focus on American history from pre-Columbian times to the end of Reconstruction. Particular attention is paid to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and the development of the nation. Students study how history, geography, and economics have interacted to shape America.

### **American History – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This is a survey course of American history after 1877. Students study major events with special emphasis on how these events have contributed to the rise of modern America. Students are encouraged to note the shaping forces of history, geography, and economics.

### **World History – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This is a survey course of world history with emphasis on the people and events most significant in the development of Western Europe and the United States. Focus is on the cultures and religions of the world, giving students a view of the diversity and richness of the world's cultures.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Economics – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This one semester course provides an examination of the free-enterprise system in America and how the government, individuals, and businesses interact. Focus is on the individual's place in a capitalist economy and on the role of entrepreneurs. Students form a corporation and operate a class store.

### **Government – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This one semester course focuses on the American system of government at the national, state, and local levels, with special emphasis on the Founding Documents. It examines the individual's rights and responsibilities in a democratic society and discusses Supreme Court cases that have influenced the development of government in this country. A comparison of other governmental systems is included.

### **Colonialism – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course looks at the political, sociological, and economic reasons for colonialism. An historical overview examines the effects of colonialism on the ruling countries as well as the ruled countries and reviews the role colonialism has played in shaping today's world.

### **Sociology – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This introductory course looks at how people interact in groups. The course discusses the major theories of sociology and looks at how culture and environment shape interactions and people's understanding of what is acceptable.

### **World War II – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The course provides an examination of the historic events which led up to WWII, the roles various countries played during the war and how the war affected the countries involved. Emphasis is placed on how the war and its resolution shaped the geographic and political world of today.

### **World History II- 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

The one-semester elective provides an in-depth look at some of the more recent events which often get glossed over in a survey course. Students are encouraged to connect history with today's world events.

## **Section Two**

### **Courses by Grade Level**

#### **GRADE 6**

##### **Armenian – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Using poetry and short prose passages, this course focuses on developing the ability to read fluently. Students are expected to answer questions on the material. In addition, students learn to summarize the reading orally and in writing. Spelling and grammar are covered.

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##### **Art – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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##### **Computer & Technology – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students study how computers work, the relationship between hardware and software, and the basics of operating systems. They learn the basics of Microsoft Office and develop their keyboard skills.

## **GRADE 6**

### **English – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course focuses on studying and practicing varied forms of writing and on introducing readings from varied genres. Students have classroom and independent reading assignments.

### **English as a Second Language**

This course provides support for students who need to develop their understanding of written and spoken English so they can work up to level in their classes. Emphasis is on the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the English language. Vocabulary development, pronunciation, learning strategies, and cultural development are important components of the course

### **Math – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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### **Study Skills**

The focus of this 10-week course is on basic skills to ease the transition from elementary school to middle school. Subjects include time management skills, effectively using a planner, studying and preparing for tests, reading and comprehension skills, mapping and organizing information, taking notes, and meeting the new responsibilities of a middle school student. Time is also spent on value clarification to help students make good decisions in regards to the school and its social setting.

## **GRADE 7**

### **Armenian – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course focuses on the reading of both short stories and poetry by Armenian writers. Along with the reading material, there is a workbook containing vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Simple paragraphs will be introduced for translation from Armenian to English.

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### **Art – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This 10-week course reviews and builds upon the student's understanding of the elements and principles of design through a variety of one-and two-dimensional art experiences. Students are introduced to an increased variety of media and techniques to extend their knowledge and continue developing their skills, abilities, and creative potential. Art vocabulary, art criticism, and appreciation of art of various times and cultures are developed

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### **Physical Education – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This 10-week mini-course builds on last year's skills to develop intermediate skills in basketball, volleyball, indoor/outdoor soccer, kickball, flag football and fitness training. Sportsmanship is stressed

### **Science – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students are exposed to the same branches of science as the previous year with a different concentration. In "Waves and Energy," students cover characteristics through light. In "Physical//Chemical Properties-Change in Matter," students study elements and the periodic table. Focus then shifts to "The Structure and Function of Living Things" with a study of the cell as preparation for high school biology. Coursework finishes with a look into "The Hydrosphere and Global Change" with a concentration on weather.

### **Social Studies – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This class focuses on early world history and geography. Students examine issues from the perspective of historical thinking, learning how many disciplines, and how many possibilities must be considered when trying to account for historical occurrences. The course provides a survey from the earliest known times to 1500 CE. Students are encouraged to begin to examine the story of the United States in a more global context.

### **Life Skills**

This 10-week course is designed to help students learn how to prepare for their future. Nutrition, banking, and decision-making skills are the focus of the course.

## **GRADE 8**

### **Armenian – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students discuss the material in Armenian and use the Armenian language to write summaries and answer specific questions about the readings. More advanced rules of spelling and grammar are introduced. Informative text will be translated from Armenian to English

### **Armenian as a Second Language – 6<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course is offered to non-Armenian-speaking students with little or no knowledge of the Armenian language. The prime objective of this introductory course is to prepare students for more advanced Armenian language courses. The emphasis is conversational and introduces the Armenian alphabet and writing.

### **Armenian History**

This course focuses on life in the present-day Republic of Armenia, with particular attention to its geography, history, culture, traditions, customs, foods, sports, and recreation. Often, general knowledge of world history serves to expand the horizons of students and heighten their acceptance of diversity and tolerance.

### **Art – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This is a 10-week course designed to develop and expand the student's understanding of art concepts and knowledge. Various one- and two-dimensional art experiences are provided to build upon their previous learning and to explore new art media and/or techniques. Art vocabulary is reviewed and developed, as well as the student's knowledge of art criticism and their appreciation of the art of various times and cultures as it pertains to their art learning and production.

### **Computer & Technology – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course introduces students to the computer applications commonly used in business settings – spreadsheet, presentation, and database software. Students create spreadsheets, statistical charts, effective computer-based presentations, and use databases to track and manipulate information. Students will continue to develop computer graphic skills.

### **English – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course reviews the works of many well-known authors through short stories, essays, poems, folktales, and plays. Students do monthly book reports. Writing focuses on methods of exposition. Students are expected to write several 2-3 page papers and two properly formatted research papers.

## **GRADE 8**

### **English as a Second Language – 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course provides support for students who need to develop their understanding of written and spoken English so they can work up to level in their classes. Emphasis is on the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the English language. Vocabulary development, pronunciation, learning strategies, and cultural development are important components of the course.

### **Math 8<sup>th</sup> Grade -- Algebra**

This course is the bridge from the concrete to the abstract study of mathematics. The course covers solving single and multi-step equations, inequalities, and absolute values. Students study graphing, slopes, line of best fit, multiple systems of equations, exponent rules, polynomial equations. The course ends with a look at data analysis and probability study

### **Physical Education – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In this third 10-week mini-course, students continue to develop more advanced skills. Coaching techniques and officiating skills are also discussed

### **Science – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Coursework is focused on the various components which comprise earth science. Students explore “Big Ideas of Earth Systems Science,” “Earth’s Place in the Universe”, “Structure and Dynamic of Solid Earth, “Responding to Geohazards,” “Sustaining Water Resources,” with emphasis to the human impact of demands made for energy and resources.

### **Social Studies – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students focus on American history from pre-Columbian times to the end of Reconstruction. Particular attention is paid to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and the development of the nation. Students study how history, geography, and economics have interacted to shape America.

### **Life Skills II**

The 10-week course focuses on public speaking, life skills, nutrition, and decision making skills. Students are expected to make three speeches on different topics and prepare for a debate. Students create a nutritionally sound meal for the class. We discuss sound decision making in every day life. Students demonstrate creativity and ingenuity by creating Rube Goldberg devices.

## **GRADE 9**

### **Armenian**

This course focuses on short stories by famous Armenian writers. Along with the readings, there are question and answer sessions. The students also have an opportunity to learn about Armenian culture in general. Texts will be translated from English to Armenian and Armenian to English.

### **Armenian as a Second Language**

This course is offered to non-Armenian-speaking students with little or no knowledge of the Armenian language. The prime objective of this introductory course is to prepare students for more advanced Armenian language courses. The emphasis is conversational and introduces the Armenian alphabet and writing.

### **Armenian History**

This course focuses on life in the present-day Republic of Armenia, with particular attention to its geography, history, culture, traditions, customs, foods, sports, and recreation. Often, general knowledge of world history serves to expand the horizons of students and heighten their acceptance of diversity and tolerance.

### **Art – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This is a one semester course designed to expose students to a variety of media and techniques. The students will be given projects in various media. They will have the opportunity to do more extensive work in particular media and techniques. Students are also given a background in the history of the visual arts.

### **English and Honors English Literature and Composition – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students cover works of well-known international authors through novels, short stories, essays, poems, folktales, and plays. Monthly book reports are required. Writing focus is on analysis of text, comparison and contrast, and how-to papers. Academic vocabulary and words from weekly readings are the basis for vocabulary study.

### **English as a Second Language**

This course provides support for students who need to develop their understanding of written and spoken English so they can work up to level in their classes. Emphasis is on the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the English language. Vocabulary development, pronunciation, learning strategies, and cultural development are important components of the course

## **GRADE 9**

### **Algebra – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

For students who were not able to cover all the topics in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, this course provides the opportunity to review basic concepts and gain a firm grounding in the concepts of algebra before moving on to more advanced mathematics.

### **Geometry – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Geometry involves the study of properties and relationships of points, lines, and planes. Other topics include angles, triangles, polygons, circles, area, volume proportions, similarity, right triangles, and trigonometry. Algebraic concepts and technology are integrated throughout the course.

### **Physical Education/Health – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students work on units designed to enhance total body fitness as well as athletic skill. The health education component provides information about the need for physical activity in a healthy lifestyle.

### **Life Science – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students learn about the seven characteristics of life, levels of organization of living things, and major systems of the body.. They also cover the theories of evolution of Lamarck and Darwin, and how life is believed to have originated on earth. They also study classification of animals, animal behaviors, symbiotic interactions, and ecology. The class is highly project based.

### **Honors Biology – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course begins with the study of cells, their structure, and the function of their organelles. Students then study the kingdoms of life, the mechanisms for homeostasis, and the body's feedback mechanisms. Students compare sexual and asexual reproduction, heredity, and genetic disorders. The topic of DNA is introduced. A final unit looks at human impact on the environment

### **American History – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This is a survey course of American history after 1877. Students study major events with special emphasis on how these events have contributed to the rise of modern America. Students are encouraged to note the shaping forces of history, geography, and economics

## **GRADE 10**

### **Armenian**

This course focuses on short stories by famous Armenian writers. Along with the readings, there are question and answer sessions. The students also have an opportunity to learn about Armenian culture in general. Texts will be translated from English to Armenian and Armenian to English.

### **Armenian as a Second Language**

This course is offered to non-Armenian-speaking students with little or no knowledge of the Armenian language. The prime objective of this introductory course is to prepare students for more advanced Armenian language courses. The emphasis is conversational and introduces the Armenian alphabet and writing.

### **Armenian History**

This course is a survey of the present-day Republic of Armenia, with particular attention paid to its geography, history, culture, customs, foods, sports, and everyday life

### **Electives**

#### **English and Honors English Literature and Composition – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students read classical and modern material in a variety of genres. Writing focuses on 3-4 page expository essays, classification and definition papers, and synthesis essays. Students are required to use properly cited sources in several of the papers. Students do some oral presentations and have regular book reports. Vocabulary study is built into all work. Honors students use both the text and material from a pre-AP course developed by College Board.

#### **English as a Second Language**

This course provides support for students who need to develop their understanding of written and spoken English so they can work up to level in their classes. Emphasis is on the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the English language. Vocabulary development, pronunciation, learning strategies, and cultural development are important components of the course

## **GRADE 10**

### **Geometry – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Geometry involves the study of properties and relationships of points, lines, and planes. Other topics include angles, triangles, polygons, circles, area, volume proportions, similarity, right triangles, and trigonometry. Algebraic concepts and technology are integrated throughout the course.

### **Algebra II – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Algebra II involves the study of equations, inequalities, matrices, and radicals, along with linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Graphing technology is integrated throughout the course. Students will be prepared for the study of pre-calculus.

### **Pre-Calculus - 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course prepares students for future college-level mathematics and science courses. Emphasis is on algebraic manipulation, interpreting graphs, data analysis, and solving application problems. Graphing technology is integrated throughout the course.

### **Calculus – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students will deepen their understanding of the concepts taught in pre-calculus. These students may be able to test out of some of the first math courses in college.

### **World History – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This is a survey course of world history with emphasis on the people and events most significant in the development of Western Europe and the United States. Focus is on the cultures and religions of the world, giving students a view of the diversity and richness of the world's cultures.

## **GRADE 11**

### **Armenian – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course focuses on the reading, discussion, and written analysis of some major works in Armenian literature translated into English. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary are covered as an extension of the reading. Armenian current events and newspaper articles are often introduced as topics of discussion.

### **Armenian as a Second Language**

This course is offered to non-Armenian-speaking students with little or no knowledge of the Armenian language. The prime objective of this introductory course is to prepare students for more advanced Armenian language courses. The emphasis is conversational and introduces the Armenian alphabet and writing.

### **Armenian History**

This course is an overview of the origin and development of the Armenian question – the persecution of Armenians, and its culmination in the widespread massacres and Genocide of the Armenians from the 1890s to the early 1920s. Several videos are shown to enhance the subject matter.

### **Electives**

#### **English and Honors American Literature and Composition – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

American writings are presented in chronological order. Minority authors are well represented. Writing focuses on analysis, persuasive writing, and research. Book reports continue. Vocabulary is integrated into all units. A test preparation unit prepares students for the state-mandated 11<sup>th</sup> grade test.

#### **AP English Language and Composition – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Following the guidelines of the College Board, this course presents material and demands work at the college level. Students work mainly with non-fiction materials, analyzing them for their ideas and for the rhetorical structures used to achieve the effects of the essays. All writing is evaluated to a college-ready standard. In addition, students are prepared for the state-mandated 11<sup>th</sup> grade test. Some students will take the AP English Language and Composition exam.

#### **English as a Second Language**

This course provides support for students who need to develop their understanding of written and spoken English so they can work up to level in their classes. Emphasis is on the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the English language. Vocabulary development, pronunciation, learning strategies, and cultural development are important components of the course.

## GRADE 11

### **Geometry – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Geometry involves the study of properties and relationships of points, lines, and planes. Other topics include angles, triangles, polygons, circles, area, volume proportions, similarity, right triangles, and trigonometry. Algebraic concepts and technology are integrated throughout the course.

### **Algebra II – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Algebra II involves the study of equations, inequalities, matrices, and radicals, along with linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Graphing technology is integrated throughout the course. Students will be prepared for the study of pre-calculus.

### **Pre-Calculus - 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course prepares students for future college-level mathematics and science courses. Emphasis is on algebraic manipulation, interpreting graphs, data analysis, and solving application problems. Graphing technology is integrated throughout the course.

### **Calculus – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students will deepen their understanding of the concepts taught in pre-calculus. These students may be able to test out of some of the first math courses in college.

### **Chemistry and Honors Chemistry – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course requires knowledge of basic algebra and a good understanding of physical science. It covers matter and energy, atomic structure, ionic and covalent compounds, chemical equations, reactions and equilibrium, electrochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Students who are in honors chemistry will be required to do additional labs, projects, and research, and will be graded on a more rigorous scale.

### **AP Chemistry – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Some students may elect to enroll in AP Chemistry, following a syllabus approved by the College Board. Students will study the same topics as in chemistry, but the work is at the level of a first-year college course, requiring much more insight into the reactions and forces involved. There are very detailed labs with highly involved lab reports required. Some students may take the AP Chemistry final exam.

## **GRADE 11**

### **Economics – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This one semester course provides an examination of the free-enterprise system in America and how the government, individuals, and businesses interact. Focus is on the individual's place in a capitalist economy and on the role of entrepreneurs. Students form a corporation and operate a class store.

### **Government – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This one semester course focuses on the American system of government at the national, state, and local levels, with special emphasis on the Founding Documents. It examines the individual's rights and responsibilities in a democratic society and discusses Supreme Court cases that have influenced the development of government in this country. A comparison of other governmental systems is included

## GRADE 12

### **Armenian – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students continue with their study of the Armenian language. Students cover 5 – 18 centuries of Armenian literature translated into English. In addition, they read novels, essays, and poetry of Armenian-American authors. Armenian current events and newspaper articles are often introduced as topics.

### **Armenian as a Second Language**

This course is offered to non-Armenian-speaking students with little or no knowledge of the Armenian language. The prime objective of this introductory course is to prepare students for more advanced Armenian language courses. The emphasis is conversational and introduces the Armenian alphabet and writing.

### **Armenian History**

This course is an overview of the origin and development of the Armenian question – the persecution of Armenians, and its culmination in the widespread massacres and Genocide of the Armenians from the 1890s to the early 1920s. Several videos are shown to enhance the subject matter.

### **Electives**

#### **English and Honors British Literature and Composition – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The main text features British literature and essays from *Beowulf* to modern times. Composition focuses on the skills needed for college and job writing. Book reports and vocabulary study continue. Students spend one quarter producing a senior project which involves learning something new and then presenting the results of their learning through a written research paper, a presentation using audio-visual equipment, and an oral report.

#### **English as a Second Language**

This course provides support for students who need to develop their understanding of written and spoken English so they can work up to level in their classes. Emphasis is on the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the English language. Vocabulary development, pronunciation, learning strategies, and cultural development are important components of the course

#### **Consumer Mathematics – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In a one-semester course, students learn about practical money matters. They work out actual costs of borrowing money, prepare budgets, discuss investing, break down all the categories on a pay stub, and in develop money management skills which they will need throughout their adult lives.

## GRADE 12

### **Geometry – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Geometry involves the study of properties and relationships of points, lines, and planes. Other topics include angles, triangles, polygons, circles, area, volume proportions, similarity, right triangles, and trigonometry. Algebraic concepts and technology are integrated throughout the course.

### **Algebra II – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Algebra II involves the study of equations, inequalities, matrices, and radicals, along with linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Graphing technology is integrated throughout the course. Students will be prepared for the study of pre-calculus.

### **Pre-Calculus - 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course prepares students for future college-level mathematics and science courses. Emphasis is on algebraic manipulation, interpreting graphs, data analysis, and solving application problems. Graphing technology is integrated throughout the course.

### **Calculus – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students will deepen their understanding of the concepts taught in pre-calculus. These students may be able to test out of some of the first math courses in college.

### **Statistics – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course provides students with a basic understanding of statistics which will allow them to understand statistical measures used in other classes. It also gives students knowledge of basic statistical computations and prepares them for the courses they will need in college.

### **Forensics – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students who choose not to study physics in their fourth year may elect the forensics class. Here they will apply major ideas from all their previous years of science study as they identify information, analyze it, and attempt to “solve” or explain a situation. Research, meticulous lab work, and high-quality lab reports and write-ups are required.

### **AP Chemistry – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Some students may elect to enroll in AP Chemistry, following a syllabus approved by the College Board. Students will study the same topics as in chemistry, but the work is at the level of a first-year college course, requiring much more insight into the reactions and forces involved. There are very detailed labs with highly involved lab reports required. Some students may take the AP Chemistry final exam.

## **GRADE 12**

### **Physics – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (American School of Correspondence)**

This year-long course is based on units of study developed by the American School, a fully accredited correspondence program. Students work from textbooks and study materials provided by the American School. The eleven units which make up the course cover all the areas covered by a traditional college-prep physics course. A certified teacher is available to help students and to provide enrichment.

### **Sociology – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This introductory course looks at how people interact in groups. The course discusses the major theories of sociology and looks at how culture and environment shape interactions and people's understanding of what is acceptable.

### **World War II – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The course provides an examination of the historic events which led up to WWII, the roles various countries played during the war and looks at how the war affected the countries involved. Emphasis is placed on how the war and its resolution shaped the geographic and political world of today

### **World History II- 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

The one-semester elective provides an in-depth look at some of the more recent events which often get glossed over in a survey course. Students are encouraged to connect history with today's world events

## **ELECTIVES FOR GRADES 10-12**

### **Art – 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

This one semester course provides students the opportunity to work in a variety of media. The teacher will require certain projects, and students are also allowed to work on projects of their choice with teacher approval. Students may take the course more than once.

### **Art – Yearbook – 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Most students are expected to enroll in this course for two semesters. A number of students are encouraged to enroll for a second year to provide continuity for the project. Students work in all areas involved in designing, publishing, and financing a yearbook

### **Computer & Technology – 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This course develops and strengthens students' computer skills using basic computer applications. They learn about file servers, Local Area Networks, (LAN), Peer-to-Peer Networks, and how to set up a web page. Students also get an introduction to computer languages, coding, and web-page development.

### **Correspondence/Distance/Internet Learning – 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students may need courses which do not fit in the schedule. Other students may want elective courses we do not offer. With the approval of the student, the parent, and the administrator, students may select courses from an accredited program offered through correspondence or Internet. The work will be monitored by a certified teacher and will be identified on the transcript as a correspondence or Internet course

### **Automotive Engineering – Grades 10-12**

In this two-semester elective, students design and build a car. They research aerodynamics, strength vs. weight, safety, etc., and then find ways to build their design balancing cost vs. effectiveness. The entire process provides countless opportunities for creative thinking and practical hands-on activities. The culminating activity is a competition held in May between several schools throughout the area.

## **ELECTIVES**

### **Humanities – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In this one semester, elective course students examine major themes and methods of development, mainly through the medium of film. Students identify cinematic effects and evaluate their effectiveness. Students write papers and/or present their own film efforts to demonstrate what they have learned.

### **Project Lead the Way – Human Body Systems Grades 10-12**

This is a two consecutive semester elective course offered to students in grades 10-12. The online curriculum is provided by PLTW.org and is designed around project-based learning. Students examine the interactions of human body systems as they explore identity, power, movement, protection, and homeostasis. Students use data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle movement, reflex, and voluntary action and respiration, and take on the roles of biomedical professionals to solve real-world medical cases.

### **Speech – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This one semester elective strengthens students' ability to speak in public. Students study effective speeches and analyze what makes them work both in terms of content and delivery. Students will present a variety of speeches, starting with short, impromptu presentations and progressing to longer, researched and rehearsed speeches