



HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

NEEDLES
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

www.needlesusd.org
1900 Erin Drive
Needles, California 92363

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Honors courses: offer more rigorous curricula and are often considered preparatory for college and Advanced Placement courses

Advanced Placement Program Courses and Exams: courses offered in conjunction with the College Board and are collegiate level curriculum. These courses follow guidelines and submissions required by the College Board. In May of each year, the AP courses culminate with an AP Exam in their respective course content. AP Exams are not required to take an AP course but are recommended. If a student passes an AP Exam by scoring a 3, 4 or 5, those exams could exempt a student from taking that specific course at the university level (please see <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/> for more information).

CSU/UC Approved: The course meets both the California State University and University of California requirements for fulfilling the “A-G” subject requirements. Please reference High School and College Admission Requirements in this catalog.

NEEDLES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English 9	10 credits
English 10	10 credits
English 11	10 credits
English 12	10 credits
Math	30 credits
Physical Science	10 credits
Life Science	10 credits
Other Science	10 credits
Physical Education	20 credits
World History	10 credits
United States History	10 credits
US Government	5 credits
Economics	5 credits
Fine Arts/Foreign Language	10 credits
Vocational Education	10 credits
Electives	40 credits
Freshman Studies	5 credits
Health	5 credits
Service Learning Hours (20 per year)	80 hours
Total credits required to graduate	220 credits

The academic program is organized on a seven period day divided into two semesters per year. Each period consists of 50 minutes and students attend each period daily. Each course is worth 5 credits per semester. Students must complete each course with a grade of “D-” or better in order to earn credits.

NUSD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS VS. COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT	NEEDLES HIGH SCHOOL	CSU	UC
"A" - HISTORY	3 years - (30 credits)	2 years (20 credits)	2 years (20 credits)
	World History	World History	World History
	US History	US History	US History
	Government/ Economics		
"B" - ENGLISH	4 years (40 credits)	4 years (40 credits)	4 years (40 credits)
	English 9	English 9	English 9
	English 10	English 10	English 10
	Comp Lit/ AP Eng Lang	AP Eng Lang	AP Eng Lang
	ERWC	ERWC	ERWC
"C" - MATH	3 years - (30 credits)	3 years - (30 credits) (4 years recommended)	3 years - (30 credits) (4 years recommended)
	Integrated Math 1	Integrated Math 1	Integrated Math 1
	Integrated Math 2	Integrated Math 2	Integrated Math 2
	Integrated Math 3	Integrated Math 3	Integrated Math 3
		AP Precalculus	AP Precalculus
		AP Calculus A/B	AP Calculus A/B
"D" - LAB SCIENCE	3 years - (30 credits)	2 years - (20 credits) (3+ years recommended)	2 years - (20 credits) (3+ years recommended)
	Life Science	Biology	Biology
	Physical Science	Chemistry	Chemistry
	Other Science	AP Biology	AP Biology
		AP Env. Science	AP Env. Science
"E" - FOREIGN LANGUAGE	1 year (10 credits)	2 years (20 credits)	2 years (20 credits)
	Foreign language OR	3+ years recommended	3+ years recommended
	Performing Art		
"F" - VISUAL/ PERFORMING ART	1 year (10 credits)	1 yearlong course (10 credits)	1 yearlong course (10 credits)
	Foreign language OR	Advanced Band	Advanced Band
	Performing Art	Choir or Music Appreciation	Choir or Music Appreciation
"G" - COLLEGE PREP ELECTIVE	40 credits	1 year of an additional College Prep course from History, English, Math , Science, Foreign Language, AVID 12	1 year of an additional College Prep course from History, English, Math , Science, Foreign Language, AVID 12

PHYSICAL EDUCATION	2 years (20 credits)	None	None
FRESHMAN STUDIES	1 Semester (5 credits)	None	None
HEALTH	1 Semester (5 credits)		
TOTAL CREDITS	220 CREDITS	GRADE OF C- OR HIGHER IN ALL A-G COURSES	GRADE OF C- OR HIGHER IN ALL A-G COURSES
TEST REQUIREMENTS		SAT REASONING or ACT Suggested	SAT REASONING or ACT+WRITING Suggested

Preparing for College: A Guide by Grade Level

Freshman Year

- Explore interests: Start identifying your passions and potential career paths.
- Build a strong academic foundation: Focus on core subjects like math, science, English, and history.
- Get involved: Join clubs, sports teams, or community service organizations.
- Start planning for college: Research colleges and universities that align with your interests and goals.
- Create a personal resume file to save: report cards, diplomas and certificates presented to you, a list of honors and awards you receive, a list of school and community activities you join, a list of offices you hold in these organizations, a list of jobs you hold (paid and volunteer). Update this file each semester.
- Begin visiting local community colleges, state universities, and an independent college or university.

Sophomore Year

- Take challenging courses: Enroll in rigorous classes to demonstrate your academic abilities.
- Explore extracurricular activities: Continue participating in activities you enjoy and consider taking on leadership roles.
- Begin standardized test preparation: If planning to take the SAT or ACT, start studying early.
- Talk to your school counselor: Discuss your college plans and seek advice on course selection and standardized test preparation.
- Continue visiting local community colleges, state universities, and an independent college or university.

Junior Year

- Create account on www.fastweb.com for national scholarships
- Start the college research process
 - Begin researching application deadlines, requirements, and essays.
- Maintaining good grades is especially important during your junior year.
- In October, register for the PSAT/NMSQT. The results will give you and your school counselor an idea of your strengths and the areas you need to improve as you prepare for college admission.
 - In 11th grade, the PSAT/NMSQT serves as the National Merit Qualifying Test for juniors.

- In the fall, register to take the Advanced Placement (AP) exams if you are taking AP subjects. Scoring well on those exams may enable you to earn credit for college-level courses.
- Do some research. Search for college and university information.
- Create a file on colleges that appeal to you. Ask for literature about admission, financial aid, and your proposed college major if you have one.
- Begin visiting the colleges that interest you and continue to update your resume.
- Start thinking of if, when and how often you may want to take college entrance exams (SAT or ACT). Taking the test in the spring will allow you to meet with your school counselor to determine if you need to test again in the fall. Understand the differences between “test required”, “test optional” and “test blind”.
- Over the summer, prepare for the SAT or ACT by reading books and manuals with testing tips and sample questions. Use Khan Academy to study for future tests.
- Complete NCAA Clearinghouse or NAIA Clearinghouse initial eligibility application (Division 1 and 2 and NAIA athletes)

Senior Year

- Maintain good grades in all subjects, your grades are still very important.
- Check frequently with your school counselor for information about scholarships awarded by your school, local companies, and community groups.
- In late August/early September, register for the SAT and/or ACT (if desired or required).
- In September and October, check if the CSS Profile is required for any schools to which you are applying. Complete the College Scholarship Service/Profile (CSS/Profile) registration form and see your school counselor.
- Keep a file on each school that includes a checklist of all the required admission items, such as transcripts, application fees, recommendations, essays, test scores, etc. Pay special attention to deadlines—mark them on your personal calendar.
- October 1 - the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens on-line. File by March 2nd in CA. www.fafsa.gov
- In October or November, file your CSU applications.
- In November, file your CSU/UC applications. All CSU/UC Apps due by Nov. 30th.
- In the spring, wait for your acceptance letter - you may also hear about financial aid and scholarship eligibility about this same time.
- By May 1, indicate your commitment to your college of attendance through their method of notification and make your deposit to the college or university you plan to attend.
- Participate in any summer orientation programs for incoming freshmen
- IMPORTANT: Order official transcripts by June 30th or any earlier deadline set by your college

LIST OF COURSE OFFERINGS

The Needles High School course catalog includes a brief description of all courses offered in grades 9-12. The NUSD board adopted graduation requirements are outlined with each course category.

History/Social Science “A”

3 years including 10 credits each from World History, US History and US Government/Economics

World History / Geography	Grade Level: 10	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “A”
<p>World History explores significant global events, movements, and transformations from the late 18th century to the present. Students will examine the impact of industrialization, imperialism, wars, and revolutions on shaping contemporary societies. The course emphasizes the interconnectedness of nations and cultures, highlighting the role of globalization and technological advancements. Through primary sources, discussions, and critical analyses, students will develop a nuanced understanding of historical events and their relevance today. By the end of the course, learners will be equipped with the skills to critically assess historical narratives and their implications for the modern world.</p>		

United States History	Grade Level: 11	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “A”
<p>U.S. History provides a comprehensive overview of the key events, figures, and movements that have shaped the United States from its founding to the present day. Students will explore the development of American democracy, the impact of wars, social reforms, and economic changes, as well as the struggles for civil rights and equality. The course emphasizes critical thinking and analysis of primary sources to understand the diverse perspectives that have influenced American history. Students will engage in discussions, projects, and writing assignments to connect historical events to contemporary issues. By the end of the course, learners will have a deeper understanding of America's past and its influence on the present and future.</p>		

United States Government	Grade Level: 12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “A & G”
<p>U.S. Government offers an in-depth study of the principles, structure, and functions of the American political system. Students will examine the Constitution, the roles of the three branches of government, and the processes of federal, state, and local governance. The course emphasizes the importance of civic participation, exploring the rights and responsibilities of citizens, as well as the influence of political parties, interest groups, and the media. Through debates, simulations, and analysis of current events, students will develop a strong understanding of how government policies are made and their impact on society. By the end of the course, learners will be prepared to actively engage in and contribute to the democratic process.</p>		

Economics	Grade Level: 12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “A & G”
<p>Economics introduces students to fundamental economic concepts and the principles of microeconomics and macroeconomics. Students will explore topics such as supply and demand, market structures, economic indicators, and the role of government in the economy. The course emphasizes the analysis of real-world economic issues, such as inflation, unemployment, and global trade, to understand how economic decisions impact individuals, businesses, and nations. Through case studies, simulations, and discussions, students will develop critical thinking skills and learn to apply economic reasoning to everyday life. By the end of the course, learners will be equipped with the knowledge to make informed financial and economic decisions.</p>		

English “B”

4 years including 10 credits each from English 9, English 10, English 11 and English 12

English 9	Grade Level: 9	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “B”
<p>English 9 focuses on developing foundational skills in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. Students will study a variety of literary genres, including novels, poetry, drama, and nonfiction, to enhance their understanding of themes, character development, and literary devices. The course emphasizes the writing process, teaching students to craft clear, coherent essays, and narratives while also strengthening grammar and vocabulary. Through discussions, projects, and presentations, students will improve their communication skills and ability to analyze texts. By the end of the course, learners will be prepared for more advanced English studies and have a deeper appreciation for literature and effective communication.</p>		

English 10	Grade Level: 10	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “B”
<p>English 10 builds on the skills developed in English 9, with a focus on more complex literary analysis and advanced writing techniques. Students will explore diverse literary works, including world literature, to examine themes, cultural perspectives, and rhetorical strategies. The course emphasizes critical reading and analytical writing, requiring students to construct well-supported arguments and interpretations in various essay formats. In addition to enhancing their vocabulary and grammar, students will engage in discussions, presentations, and collaborative projects to refine their communication skills. By the end of the course, learners will be better equipped to analyze literature, articulate ideas effectively, and prepare for upper-level English courses.</p>		

Composition Literature	Grade Level: 11	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "B"
<p>Composition Literature offers an in-depth exploration of literary works from the United States, spanning from the Colonial period to the present. Students will analyze key themes, such as the American Dream, individualism, and social justice, through a diverse range of authors, genres, and historical contexts. The course emphasizes critical thinking and advanced literary analysis, with students engaging in writing assignments that explore the connections between literature and American culture. Through discussions, essays, and creative projects, students will develop a deeper understanding of the complexities of American identity and the evolution of its literature. By the end of the course, learners will be equipped to critically engage with American texts and appreciate their influence on contemporary society.</p>		

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition	Grade Level: 11	Credits: 10
	Weighted: Yes	CSU/UC Approved: "B"
<p>The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on developing students' skills in rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and effective communication. Students will analyze a wide variety of nonfiction texts, including essays, speeches, and journalism, to understand how authors use language to persuade and inform. The course emphasizes the crafting of well-organized, evidence-based essays, with a focus on developing a strong writing style and mastering the conventions of Standard English. Through rigorous practice, students will learn to critically evaluate sources, synthesize information, and construct coherent arguments. By the end of the course, learners will be prepared for the AP exam and equipped with advanced skills in writing, analysis, and critical thinking applicable to a wide range of disciplines.</p>		

Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC)	Grade Level: 12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "B"
<p>The California Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) is designed to prepare high school students for the literacy demands of college and the workplace. Focusing on expository, analytical, and argumentative writing, the course emphasizes critical reading of nonfiction texts, including essays, articles, and reports. Students will engage in a structured process of reading, discussion, and writing, with an emphasis on rhetorical analysis, evidence-based writing, and revision. The course also fosters the development of strong research skills, enabling students to construct well-reasoned arguments and effectively communicate their ideas. By the end of the course, learners will be equipped with the advanced literacy skills necessary for success in college-level courses and beyond.</p>		

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) ELA	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: NO

The **Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) English Language Arts** course is tailored to meet the diverse learning needs of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The course focuses on developing essential literacy skills, including reading comprehension, writing, and communication, through differentiated instruction and targeted support. Students will engage with a variety of texts, from literature to informational materials, while receiving individualized strategies to enhance their understanding and expression. The curriculum emphasizes building confidence in reading and writing, with accommodations and modifications to ensure each student's success. By the end of the course, learners will have made progress in their ELA skills, equipped with strategies to support their continued academic growth.

Mathematics "C"

3 years (30 credits) including 10 credits from Integrated Math 1

Integrated Math 1	Grade Level: 9-10	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "C"

Integrated Math 1 is the first course in a three-course sequence designed to prepare students for college. It integrates various mathematical concepts, such as functions, algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability. The course emphasizes mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, and communication through real-world applications and the use of technology. Students will explore and develop their understanding of mathematical concepts through group activities and hands-on experiences.

Integrated Math 2	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "C"
<p>Integrated Math 2 is the second course in a three-course sequence designed to prepare students for college. It builds upon the concepts learned in Integrated Math 1, focusing on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions. Students will explore the relationships between different types of functions, including linear, exponential, and quadratic, and apply their understanding to real-world problems. The course also emphasizes geometric concepts, such as similarity, congruence, and right triangle trigonometry, and their connections to algebraic expressions.</p>		

Integrated Math 3	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "C"
<p>Integrated Math 3 is the third and final course in a three-course sequence designed to prepare students for college. It builds upon the concepts learned in Integrated Math 1 and 2, focusing on trigonometric functions, polynomials, and rational expressions. Students will explore the relationships between different types of functions, including trigonometric, polynomial, and rational, and apply their understanding to real-world problems. The course also emphasizes geometric concepts, such as circles, conic sections, and three-dimensional geometry, and their connections to algebraic expressions.</p>		

Advanced Placement Pre-Calculus	Grade Level: 11-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: Yes	CSU/UC Approved: "C"
<p>AP Precalculus is a challenging course designed to prepare students for college-level calculus. It builds upon the concepts learned in Integrated Math 3, focusing on advanced topics in algebra, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. Students will explore functions, their graphs, and their properties, as well as logarithmic and exponential functions, trigonometric identities, and polar coordinates. The course emphasizes mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, and communication through rigorous assignments and projects.</p>		

Advanced Placement Calculus A/B	Grade Level: 11-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: Yes	CSU/UC Approved: "C"
<p>AP Calculus A/B is a challenging course designed to prepare students for college-level calculus. It introduces students to the fundamental concepts of differential and integral calculus, including limits, derivatives, integrals, and their applications. Students will explore the relationships between functions, their derivatives, and their integrals, and apply their understanding to real-world problems. The course emphasizes mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, and communication through rigorous assignments and projects.</p>		

Financial Algebra	Grade Level: 11-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Financial Algebra is a course designed to introduce students to basic financial concepts and skills. It covers topics such as budgeting, saving, investing, credit, and taxes. Students will learn how to create and manage personal budgets, understand different types of savings and investment accounts, evaluate credit options, and calculate taxes. The course emphasizes real-world applications and practical skills that students can use in their personal and professional lives.</p>		

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) Math	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) Math is a course designed to meet the unique needs of students with individualized education programs (IEPs). It provides individualized instruction and support to help students develop their mathematical skills and understanding. The course may cover a variety of mathematical concepts, including numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, and data analysis. The curriculum is adapted to each student's individual learning style and goals, with a focus on real-world applications and problem-solving skills.</p>		

Science “D”

3 years (30 credits) including 10 credits Physical Science, 10 credits from Life Science and 10 credits from “Other science”

Integrated Science	Grade Level: 9-10	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “G”
<p>Integrated Science is a course designed to provide students with a broad overview of the natural world. It integrates concepts from biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science, exploring topics such as matter, energy, force, motion, ecosystems, and the Earth's systems. Students will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and scientific inquiry skills through hands-on experiments, observations, and investigations. The course emphasizes the interconnectedness of scientific concepts and their relevance to real-world issues. This course fulfills the physical science requirement for graduation.</p>		

Biology	Grade Level: 9-10	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “C”
<p>Biology is a course that explores the study of life. It covers topics such as cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, and physiology. Students will investigate the structure and function of organisms, the principles of heredity, the process of evolution, the interactions between organisms and their environment, and the systems that maintain life. The course emphasizes scientific inquiry, experimentation, and critical thinking skills. This course fulfills the life science requirement for graduation.</p>		

Chemistry	Grade Level: 10-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: Yes	CSU/UC Approved: “C”
<p>Chemistry is a course that explores the study of matter and its properties. It covers topics such as atoms, elements, compounds, chemical reactions, and the states of matter. Students will investigate the composition and structure of matter, the laws that govern chemical reactions, and the properties of different types of substances. The course emphasizes scientific inquiry, experimentation, and critical thinking skills. This course fulfills the physical science graduation requirement.</p>		

Advanced Placement Biology	Grade Level: 11-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: Yes	CSU/UC Approved: "C"
<p>AP Biology is a challenging course designed to prepare students for college-level biology. It covers a wide range of topics, including biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolution, ecology, and physiology. Students will investigate the structure and function of organisms, the principles of heredity, the process of evolution, the interactions between organisms and their environment, and the systems that maintain life. The course emphasizes scientific inquiry, experimentation, and critical thinking skills, and is designed to prepare students for the AP Biology exam.</p>		

Advanced Placement Environmental Science	Grade Level: 11-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: Yes	CSU/UC Approved: "C"
<p>AP Environmental Science is a challenging course designed to prepare students for college-level environmental science. It covers a wide range of topics, including ecosystems, biodiversity, population dynamics, pollution, resource management, and global change. Students will investigate the interactions between humans and the environment, the impact of human activities on natural systems, and the challenges of achieving sustainable development. The course emphasizes scientific inquiry, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills, and is designed to prepare students for the AP Environmental Science exam.</p>		

Human Anatomy	Grade Level: 11-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Human Anatomy is a course that explores the structure and function of the human body. It covers topics such as cells, tissues, organs, and systems. Students will investigate the different types of tissues that make up the human body, the organs that perform specific functions, and the systems that work together to maintain life. The course emphasizes scientific inquiry, experimentation, and critical thinking skills. Human Anatomy counts as a life science for graduation requirements.</p>		

Language Other than English “E”

1 year (10 credits) of a foreign language OR 1 year (10 credits) of fine arts courses such as music

Spanish 1	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “E”
<p>Spanish 1 is the first course in a Spanish language sequence designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture. It focuses on developing basic communication skills, including speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will learn fundamental grammar structures, vocabulary, and pronunciation. The course emphasizes cultural awareness and understanding through the study of Spanish-speaking countries and their customs.</p>		

Spanish 2	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “E”
<p>Spanish 2 is a second-year course designed to build upon the foundational skills acquired in Spanish 1. Students will deepen their understanding of Spanish grammar, vocabulary, and culture while further developing their ability to communicate effectively in the target language. The course emphasizes all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Through a variety of activities, including discussions, presentations, and projects, students will practice using Spanish in real-world contexts.</p>		

Spanish 3	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: “E”
<p>Spanish 3 is a third-year course that continues to build upon the language skills developed in Spanish 1 and 2. Students will explore more complex grammatical structures, expand their vocabulary, and delve deeper into Hispanic culture and civilization. The course focuses on honing students' ability to communicate effectively in Spanish, both orally and in writing. Through a variety of activities, including debates, research projects, and creative writing assignments, students will apply their knowledge and skills to real-world scenarios.</p>		

Spanish 4	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "E"

Spanish 4 is a fourth-year course that aims to prepare students for advanced Spanish language proficiency. Students will delve into complex linguistic structures, expand their vocabulary, and explore the rich cultural diversity of the Hispanic world. The course emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication skills in Spanish. Through in-depth analysis of literary works, cultural studies, and current events, students will develop a deeper understanding of the Spanish language and its role in global society.

Visual and Performing Arts "F"

1 year (10 credits) of a visual and performing arts course such as music or drama

Advanced Band	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "F"

Advanced Band is a course designed to develop students' musical skills and teamwork abilities through participation in a marching band. Students will learn to play a musical instrument while marching in formations and performing at various events. The course emphasizes discipline, dedication, and the ability to work together as a team. Students will also have opportunities to participate in parades, competitions, and other performances.

Beginning Band	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No

Beginning Band is a foundational course designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of music theory and instrumental playing. Students will learn basic music notation, rhythm patterns, and how to play a chosen instrument. The course emphasizes proper technique, tone development, and ensemble playing. Students will have opportunities to practice individually and in small groups, culminating in performances.

Choir	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "F"

Choir is a course designed to develop students' vocal skills and ensemble singing abilities. Students will learn proper singing techniques, sight-reading, and music theory. The course emphasizes vocal health, diction, and blending with other singers. Students will have opportunities to perform a variety of choral literature, including classical, pop, and contemporary pieces.

Music Appreciation	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "F"

Music Appreciation is a course designed to develop students' understanding and appreciation of music from various cultures and historical periods. Students will explore different musical elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, and form. The course will cover a wide range of musical genres, including classical, jazz, pop, rock, and world music. Students will also learn about the historical and cultural contexts of music and develop critical listening skills.

Physical Education
 2 years (20 credits) of physical education

Physical Education	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No

Physical Education is a course designed to promote physical fitness, healthy living, and personal well-being. Students will engage in a variety of physical activities, including cardiovascular exercises, strength training, flexibility exercises, and team sports. The course emphasizes the importance of regular physical activity. Students will also learn about sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play.

Athletic PE	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No

Athletic PE is a course designed to enhance students' physical fitness and athletic performance. Students will engage in a variety of exercises to improve strength, power, speed, agility, and endurance. The course emphasizes proper technique, progression, and injury prevention. Students will also learn about nutrition, hydration, and recovery strategies to optimize athletic performance. This course is designed for student-athletes.

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI)

SAI Study Skills	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No

SAI Study Skills is a course designed to equip students with an IEP with essential study techniques and strategies for academic success. Students will learn effective time management, note-taking, and organizational skills. This course emphasizes active learning and developing skills to help students succeed in the general education program. Students will also have opportunities to practice skills necessary in transitioning to life after high school.

Non-Departmental and Elective courses

Freshman Studies	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 5
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No

Freshman Studies is a course designed to help incoming freshmen transition smoothly into high school life. Students will explore the school environment, learn about academic expectations, and develop essential study skills. The course emphasizes time management, organization, and effective communication. Students will also have opportunities to connect with classmates and upperclassmen to build a supportive community.

Health	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 5
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No

Health is a course designed to promote students' understanding of health concepts and practices. Students will learn about various aspects of physical, mental, emotional, and social health. The course emphasizes healthy lifestyle choices, disease prevention, and personal well-being. Students will also explore topics such as nutrition, substance abuse, and mental health.

World Geography	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No

World Geography is a course designed to develop students' understanding of the physical and human characteristics of different regions of the world. Students will study maps, analyze data, and investigate cultural, economic, and political patterns. The course emphasizes the interconnectedness of different parts of the world and the impact of human activities on the environment. Students will also learn about global issues such as climate change, population growth, and globalization.

AVID 9/10	Grade Level: 9-10	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>AVID 9/10 is a college preparatory course designed to help students develop the skills and mindset necessary for academic success. Students will learn essential study strategies, time management techniques, and organizational skills. The course emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication. Students will also have opportunities to participate in college visits, workshops, and tutoring sessions.</p>		

AVID 11/12	Grade Level: 11-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: Yes	CSU/UC Approved: "G"
<p>AVID 11/12 is a college preparatory course designed to help students transition to higher education. Students will focus on developing critical thinking, writing, and research skills. The course emphasizes preparation for standardized tests, college applications, and financial aid. Students will also participate in college visits, career exploration activities, and leadership opportunities.</p>		

Current Events	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 5
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Current Events is a course designed to develop students' understanding of the world around them. Students will explore and analyze current news stories from various sources, including newspapers, magazines, and online news outlets. The course emphasizes critical thinking, media literacy, and the ability to evaluate information. Students will also learn about different perspectives on global issues and develop their own informed opinions.</p>		

Communications	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 5
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Communications is a course designed to develop students' effective communication skills. Students will learn about various communication channels, including verbal, nonverbal, and written forms. The course emphasizes effective listening, public speaking, and interpersonal communication skills. Students will also explore the importance of communication in personal and professional relationships.</p>		

Forensic Science	Grade Level: 10-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Forensic Science is a course designed to introduce students to the scientific methods used in criminal investigations. Students will learn about various forensic techniques, including fingerprint analysis, DNA profiling, toxicology, and crime scene investigation. The course emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to analyze evidence. Students will also have opportunities to participate in hands-on laboratory activities and simulations.</p>		

Associated Student Body (ASB) Leadership	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>ASB is a course designed to develop students' leadership skills and civic engagement. Students will learn about the roles and responsibilities of ASB officers, as well as the principles of effective leadership. The course emphasizes teamwork, problem-solving, and event planning. Students will have opportunities to participate in ASB activities and events, such as school dances, fundraisers, and community service projects..</p>		

Psychology	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 5
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Psychology is a course designed to introduce students to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Students will explore various psychological theories, research methods, and applications. The course emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to analyze human behavior. Students will also learn about the role of psychology in various fields, such as education, business, and healthcare.</p>		

Sociology	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits:5
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Sociology is a course designed to introduce students to the scientific study of human society and social behavior. Students will explore various sociological theories, research methods, and applications. The course emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to analyze social phenomena. Students will also learn about the role of sociology in understanding social issues, such as inequality, poverty, and social change.</p>		

Sports Literature	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Sports Literature is a course designed to explore the intersection of sports and literature. Students will analyze various forms of sports writing, including novels, short stories, poetry, and essays. The course emphasizes critical thinking, literary analysis, and the ability to understand the cultural and historical significance of sports. Students will also have opportunities to discuss and debate the role of sports in society and its impact on individuals.</p>		

Zoology Fundamentals	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Zoology Fundamentals is a course designed to introduce students to the study of animals. Students will explore the diversity of animal life, from invertebrates to vertebrates. The course emphasizes basic animal anatomy, physiology, behavior, and ecology. Students will also learn about classification systems, evolutionary relationships, and the role of animals in ecosystems.</p>		

Study Skills	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Study Skills is a supervised time for students to complete their homework or other academic tasks. Students will work independently in a quiet and organized environment. Study Hall provides an opportunity for students to receive assistance from teachers or aides if needed. The course emphasizes self-discipline, time management, and effective study habits. Attendance is mandatory, and students are expected to follow school rules and guidelines.</p>		

Introduction to Automotive Studies	Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>Introduction to Automotive Studies is a course designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of automotive technology. Students will learn about basic automotive systems, including engines, transmissions, brakes, and electrical components. The course emphasizes hands-on experience, as students will work on real vehicles to diagnose and repair problems. Students will also learn about automotive safety, maintenance, and environmental regulations</p>		

Teacher Assistant (TA)	Grade Level: 11-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: No
<p>This course provides students with the opportunity to develop essential skills and knowledge to support teachers in a classroom setting. Students will learn about effective communication techniques, classroom management strategies, and various instructional methods. They will also have the chance to gain hands-on experience by assisting teachers in a variety of classroom activities, including tutoring, grading assignments, and organizing materials. Through this course, students will develop valuable interpersonal skills and a deeper understanding of the teaching profession.</p>		

Ethnic Studies	Grade Level: 11-12	Credits: 10
	Weighted: No	CSU/UC Approved: "G"
<p>Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary course that explores the experiences, histories, and contributions of diverse ethnic groups. Students will examine the social, political, and economic factors that have shaped these communities, including historical injustices, cultural traditions, and ongoing struggles for equality. Through critical thinking, research, and discussion, students will develop a deeper understanding of their own identity and the interconnectedness of different cultures within society.</p>		