Custer County High School course catalog 2026-27

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Transcript Evaluation

Once a student meets the CCHS graduation requirements in a subject area, courses completed in that subject area are considered electives. Some electives may be repeated for multiple credits.

KEY
* = Required for Graduation
** = Foreign Language courses are offered online at no cost to the student
$ = Concurrent Enrollment (college and high school)
@ = AP course (can test for college credit)

Advisory/Academic Success

All CCSD secondary students have an Advisory period of half an hour each day. Students are placed in a grade-level Advisory for the year. The Student Handbook has a more expansive explanation, but in short, this time allows for students and teachers to foster positive connections with advisory teachers/class sponsors serving as student advocates. Time is used for homework, making up work and tests, team building, goal setting, career development, and building community. Students get a grade for Advisory using a common grade level rubric. The school counselor and grade level staff determine to which Advisory teacher a student is assigned if there are multiple classes.

Students who struggle to maintain their grades, including eligibility, will be assigned Academic Success during Advisory by the principal in order to get their work and grades caught up.

COURSE LISTINGS (Course Descriptions begin on p. 7)

English/Language Arts (ELA)

- 4 Credits Required for High School Graduation
- 4 Credits Required for Higher Education Admission Requirements
- English Literature & English Composition may substitute for English 11 and 12 as graduation requirements
- Students may be assigned English Credit Recovery if they did not pass English/Language Arts the previous year or semester, giving them a double block of ELA for that time.
- Students not performing at grade level may also be assigned an ELA Intervention class.

___Eng 9* **___Eng 10*** **___Eng 11*** **___Eng 12***
___College Eng Lit.(11)$** **___College Eng Comp(12)$ **___Reading Workshop (1 sem)**
___Creative Writing (1 sem) **___Public Speaking/Communications (1 sem)$** **___Yearbook**

Math

- 3 Credits Required for High School Graduation
- 4 Credits Required for Higher Education Admission Requirements

___Algebra 1A **___Algebra 1** **___Algebra 2** **___College Alg$**
___Business Math **___Geometry/Statistics** **___College Trig$** **___ AP PreCalc@**
___AP Calc@

Science

- 3 Credits Required for High School Graduation
- 3 Credits for Higher Education Admission Requirements

___Physical Science (9th) **___Biology (10th)** **___AP Biology (2 hours/2 Credits)@**
___Chemistry **___Anatomy** **___Geology (offered 2026-27, alternates with Space Science)** **___Animal Science** **___Flight & Space**
___Biomedical Engineering-Human Body Systems (with lab) **___Space Science (not offered 2026-27)**

Social Studies

- 3 Credits Required for High School Graduation
- 3 Credits for Higher Education Admission Requirements

___American History*(9th) **___World History(10th)** **___Government(.5)***
___Economics(.5) **___Introduction to Psychology** ___History of Pop Culture (sem.)

Physical Education/Health

- 1 Credit Required for High School Graduation
- All classes open to all students, 9th-12th grades.
- Dressing out and participation are required. We can only achieve goals when we are dedicated to the hard work and commitment it takes to become true elite athletes.

___Physical Ed 9(.5)* **___Health(.5)*** **___Sports & Games**
___Yoga, Toning, and Stretching **___Strength & Conditioning/ Weights**

Art

Elective Credit

___High School Art **___Art Appreciation $**

Music and Theatre

Elective Credit

___Choir **___Music Appreciation** **___Music Theory**
___Musical Theatre **___Arts, Media & Broadcasting**

Career-Technical Education (CTE)

Elective Credit

___Culinary 100 **___Culinary 200** **___Culinary 300** **___Ag 9**
___Ag 10 **___Building Trades** **___Principles of AI** **___Ground Flight School**
___STEM and Engineering

Foreign Language**

- Not required for CCHS Graduation

- Verify with your institution of Higher Education for their admission requirement; 1 credit is typical.
- Refer to CDLS Catalog with the counselor
- Typical options are Spanish, French, American Sign Language, and German, but you are not limited to these. Instructor is online.
- Language complexity may determine recommended courses.

Other Courses: Required

___Personal Finance/Careers* - for Seniors
___ICAP (Individual and Career Academic Plan)* - all years

Other Courses: Electives

___Work Study(juniors/seniors, multiple credits)
___StuCo Leadership (approval by Ms. Parrish)
___Teacher's Assistant (juniors/seniors, application required)

Schedule Change Guidelines

Students may sign up with the counselor if they would like to make a change to their schedule within the first 2 weeks of the semester. Changes are made on a first-come, first-served basis and are not guaranteed. After 2 weeks, changes are made under special circumstances with written permission from the counselor, all teachers involved, and an administrator.

Colorado Department of Education Graduation Guidelines

Since 2021, seniors must meet graduation guidelines set by the Colorado Department of Education. Students may meet the requirements in a number of ways. At CCHS, students can meet the guidelines for graduation through the SAT, the ASVAB, Concurrent Enrollment (college) courses, Industry Certificates, or a Capstone Project.

Graduation requirements reinforce the importance of learning while completing high school courses. Students will not be allowed to graduate unless they complete one of the graduation requirements set by the Colorado Department of Education.

Colorado Guidelines for Graduating (CCHS Offerings)

Reading, Writing, Communicating	Math
SAT- 470 in English	SAT- 500 in Math
ASVAB- 31	ASVAB- 31
College Course- C or higher	College Course- C or higher
Industry Certificate-Individualized	Industry Certificate-Individualized
Capstone-Individualized	Capstone-Individualized

Colorado Higher Education Admission Requirements

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS (HEAR)

Institutions consider multiple factors in making admissions decisions, often described as a "holistic" approach. Specifically, admission for first-time freshmen mainly includes the following factors: high school Grade Point Average (GPA), test scores (SAT or ACT), academic course mix and rigor, and additional considerations such as internships, leadership, volunteering, etc. To help guide a student's college selection, colleges and universities provide an average range of GPA and SAT/ACT scores for students they admit.

Four-year colleges in Colorado know that academic preparation, especially in English and Math, makes students more likely to be successful in college. HEAR details the recommended number and subject area mix of high school courses students should complete to make them more competitive for admission. Students who challenge themselves with additional rigor strengthen their application even more.

HEAR standards do not guarantee admission. It is recommended that students contact the admissions office at institutions they are considering attending for more information. HEAR does not apply to community colleges. For more information, visit highered.colorado.gov/academics/admissions.

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS (HEAR)

High School Academic Area	*Number of Credits*
Language Arts	4
Math (Must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Alg 2 or equivalents)	4
Natural/Physical Science (two credits must be lab-based)	3
Social Studies (at least one credit of US or World History)	3
Foreign Language	1
Academic Electives	2

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Art

Art Appreciation: A concurrent enrollment class with PCC. It is an introduction to the visual arts, focusing on cultural significance, media, processes, techniques, and terminology. This statewide guaranteed transfer course explores artistic traditions, helping students develop a basis for evaluating and appreciating art across various historical periods and cultures.

High School Art:
This course offers students comprehensive art experiences, with detailed explorations of the classics, including painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, graphic design, and crafts. In addition to gaining confidence and proficiency working with a variety of media, students will learn about the history, analysis, and interpretation of art.

Career/Technical Education (CTE)

Building Trades: Provides a basic introduction to construction work for all crafts, safety concerns and procedures, and the safety and use of hand and power tools. In addition, students will explore the expanding array of career construction industries. Students will be exposed to the construction industry through job site tours, hands-on experience, and classroom activities. Math and science applications will be established throughout the academic integration of job-site technical skills and classroom theory.

Culinary Fundamentals CUA 100: This class on Culinary Fundamentals is designed to develop basic skills in culinary arts for personal interest. The program provides instruction in basic culinary terminology, knife usage, kitchen safety and sanitation, equipment usage, scaling, methods of preparation, and practice in the production of culinary products. The course will emphasize fundamental cooking techniques through multiple cooking methods, including preparation of savory foods, breakfast items, sandwiches, salad dressings, dinner entrees, breads, and pastries. Through this course, you will be participating in both lectures and labs.

Culinary Fundamentals II CUA 200: This class on Culinary Fundamentals is designed to further enhance and develop your culinary knowledge for your own personal interest and advancement into a possible culinary career. The program provides instruction in further enhancing your culinary terminology, advanced knife skills into standard butcher cuts of meat and fish fabrication, production kitchen safety and sanitation through ServSafe, equipment usage, scaling, methods of preparation, and practice in the production of larger-scale culinary products. The course emphasizes cooking techniques and preparation of sweet and savory foods, breakfast entrees, classic salads with dressings, restaurant-quality entrees, breads, and pastries. This course requires students to have previously taken CUA 100 and have a strong knowledge of the Culinary Lab setup.

Flight and Space: A Project Lead the Way class emphasizing project-based learning. The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the Flight and Space (FS). Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to

travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars.

Fundamentals of Agriculture (Ag 10): (Prerequisite: Ag 9)
Continuation of the Ag program, including, but not limited to, units on soil types and management, range evaluation, livestock evaluation, and salesmanship. The course will also include continuation of FFA activities and basic leadership.

Ground Flight School: This course is for 11th and 12th grade students (possibly allowing 10th grade, depending on birthdate), covering the initial flight instruction for a private pilot's licence. This class will include regular flight simulator time, weather systems, principles of flight, flight health, and all aspects of a small aircraft. Instructors: NASA Astronaut, Don McMonagle & Shelley Green.

Intro to Agriculture (Ag 9):
This course covers FFA History, Organization, and Activities, along with shop safety, welding, tool use and identification, farm safety, animal breeds, and meat quality assurance. It is the entry-level course in the Ag program.

Mechanics and Welding (Sophomores - Seniors): (Prerequisite: Ag 9)
The course will be a combination of Mechanics and Welding. Mechanics will cover basic welding and cutting processes, emphasizing safe tool and equipment operation. The Mechanics course will include shop safety, welding fundamentals, small engines, tool use, basic construction, project planning, group projects, and individual projects. Other units covered as opportunity arises: engine overhaul, building construction, and hydraulics.

Principles of AI:
This full year course is designed for students in grades 9–12. Principles of AI immerses students in key elements of AI. Through interdisciplinary learning experiences, students build practical AI literacy skills and lay the foundation to move from consumer to creator. By the end of the course, students will have portfolio-ready dashboards, classifiers, and projects that demonstrate their ability to use AI responsibly and purposefully.

English/Language Arts (ELA)

English 9: In Grade 9 English Language Arts, students strengthen foundational literacy skills through close reading of literary and informational texts, evidence-based writing, and purposeful speaking and listening. Aligned with the 9th-grade-level Colorado Academic Standards, the course emphasizes analytical thinking and effective communication while being differentiated and accessible to all learners. Students engage in structured writing in narrative, informational, argumentative, and literary analysis genres. Students learn to support ideas with textual evidence, participate in collaborative discussions, conduct research, and apply grammar and vocabulary in context, laying the groundwork for academic success and responsible communication.

English 10: English 10 is a course aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, and Communicating. Students will read a variety of texts, including fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Students will learn to understand themes, analyze characters and ideas, and examine how authors use language and structure to create their craft. They will practice using evidence from texts to support their thinking and evaluate different viewpoints. Writing

instruction focuses on clear and organized essays in argumentative, informative, and narrative forms, along with research skills and the writing process. Students will also develop speaking and listening skills through discussions and presentations. Overall, this course prepares students to communicate effectively and think critically in school and beyond the classroom.

English 11: English 11 is a course aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards that helps students strengthen their reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. Students read more challenging texts—often focused on American literature—and learn to analyze ideas, use evidence, and understand different perspectives. They will write clear and organized essays, including argumentative and informative pieces, and practice research skills using reliable sources. Students will also build their speaking and listening skills through discussions and presentations. Overall, this course prepares students for college, careers, and effective communication.

English 12: English 12 is a course aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards that prepares students for life after high school by strengthening their reading, writing, speaking, and thinking skills. Students read a variety of challenging texts, often including British and world literature, and analyze ideas, themes, and different perspectives. They continue to develop their ability to use evidence to support their thinking and communicate clearly. Writing focuses on well-organized argumentative and informative pieces, as well as real-world writing tasks such as research and personal or career-related writing. Students will also build their speaking and listening skills through discussions and presentations. Overall, the course supports students in becoming confident, thoughtful communicators ready for life after high school.

***College English Composition 1021 (Fall) and College Introduction to Literature 1015 (Spring) (Juniors & Seniors):**
These are college-level courses offered through Pueblo Community College. ENG1021 focuses on the planning, writing, and revising of compositions, including the development of critical and logical thinking skills. This course includes a minimum of five compositions that stress analytic, argumentative, and evaluative writing. ENG 1021 is a Statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-CO1 category. LIT1015 introduces fiction, poetry, and drama. This course emphasizes active and responsive reading. This is a statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-AH2 category. Students earn six college credits (three in the first semester, three in the second semester) for completing this class.

***College English Composition 1022 (Fall) and College American Literature After Civil War 2012 (Spring) (Seniors only):**
These are college-level courses offered through Pueblo Community College. Students must have completed ENG1021 and LIT1015 before enrolling in these courses, respectively. ENG1022 expands and refines the objectives of English Composition I and emphasizes critical/logical thinking and reading, problem definition, research strategies, and writing analytical, evaluative, and/or argumentative compositions. This is a statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-CO2 category. LIT2011 examines American literary works from pre-European arrival on the continent up to the Civil War, including works from diverse people who contributed to American literature. This course also explores historical and social contexts within various genres. This is a statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-AH2 category. Students earn six college credits (three in the first semester, three in the second semester) for completing this class.

Creative Writing:
This class is designed for students to craft original writing pieces. Creative writing pieces will include, but are not limited to: poetry, descriptive writing, online blogs, narratives, dramas, and other works of fiction. Various writing techniques, skills, and formats will be explored.

Public Speaking & Communications: This course combines the basic theories of communication with public speech performance skills. Emphasis is on speech preparation, organization, support, audience analysis, and delivery. Introduces students to the principles of effective communication, focusing on building confidence in public speaking, organizing ideas, and analyzing audiences. Students earn one college credit in communications for completing this class.

Reading Workshop:

Students will enjoy both independent reading and whole-group class novels. Students participate in an authentic, engaging, book-club setting while exploring new genres of literature and expanding vocabulary. This course is suited for students who enjoy reading and are enthusiastic about engaging in group discussions.

Yearbook/Journalism:

Yearbook/Journalism is a year-long elective focusing on photography and journalistic writing. You need not be an expert writer to sign up for the class, but you must be willing to work hard in class and meet deadlines. Homework is generally kept to a minimum. Students will create our school Yearbook. Students work as a team, taking active roles as editors and contributing members, capturing the memories and the essence of the school year, including major activities. Students take photos, choose layouts, and create copy for assigned pages. This course may require attendance at extra-curricular school functions outside of school hours.

Foreign Language

Instructor: Online

- Refer to CDLS Catalog with the counselor.
- Typical options are Spanish, French, American Sign Language, and German, but you are not limited to these.
- Language complexity may determine recommended courses.

Math

Algebra 1A

Algebra 1A is the first half of an Algebra 1 course. It is designed to prepare students for success in Algebra by lengthening the time students spend learning the content and practicing skills needed for success. The course introduces students to variables, algebraic expressions, equations, inequalities, functions, and all their multiple representations. They will practice becoming complex/logical thinkers, problem solvers, and communicating mathematical ideas clearly. This course lays the foundation for mathematical literacy, helping students succeed in Algebra 1B and beyond. Data and teacher recommendations determine placement in this course. (This course will be assigned by the instructor based on student needs.)

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 focuses on four critical areas: (1) using units and relationships between quantities; (2) reasoning with equations and expressions; (3) analyzing and using linear, exponential, and quadratic functions; and (4) interpreting and displaying data using descriptive statistics. These concepts and associated skills are aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards for mathematics, incorporating 21st-century skills and postsecondary and workforce readiness competencies.

Algebra 2: (prerequisite or concurrent with Geometry)
Algebra 2 focuses on three critical areas: (1) analyzing and using polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; (2) modeling sequences and series with recursive and explicit functions; and (3) making statistical inferences from data. These concepts and associated skills are aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards for mathematics, incorporating 21st-century skills and postsecondary and workforce readiness competencies.

AP Pre-Calculus: (prerequisites Geometry and Algebra II)
AP® PreCalculus is a college-level course culminating with the Advanced Placement® Exam in May. A satisfactory score on the AP® Exam will, in most cases, result in college credit. AP Precalculus provides students with an understanding of the concepts of college algebra, trigonometry, and additional topics that prepare students for further college-level mathematics courses. This course explores a variety of function types and their applications—polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, polar, parametric, vector-valued, implicitly defined, and linear transformation functions using matrices. Throughout the course, the mathematical practices of procedural and symbolic fluency, multiple representations, and communication and reasoning are developed. Students experience the concepts and skills related to each function type through the lenses of modeling and covariation and engage each function type through their graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal representations. (Due to our 4-day school week, this class will have a significant homework load to cover all of the material for the AP exam. To receive college credit, the student will have to pass the Advanced Placement® Exam in May.)

AP Calculus AB: (prerequisites AP PreCalculus or College Trigonometry)
AP® Calculus AB is a college-level course culminating with the Advanced Placement® Exam in May. A satisfactory score on the AP® Exam will, in most cases, result in college credit. This course features a multirepresentational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Students will explore connections among these representations and build an understanding of how calculus applies limits to develop important ideas, definitions, formulas, and theorems. Students will regularly use technology to reinforce relationships among functions, to confirm written work, to implement experimentation, and to assist in interpreting results. (Due to our 4-day school week, this class will have a significant homework load to cover all of the material for the AP exam. To receive college credit, the student will have to pass the Advanced Placement® Exam in May.)

Career Math (students should have completed Algebra and Geometry):
This course is structured for students who desire to learn real-world mathematical problems. This course focuses on solutions that are faced every day in the business world, including basic math skills like statistics, percentages, fractions, decimals, ratios, and the use of functions and graphs, which are essential for everyday business operations. Students can take career math in their Junior or Senior year if they are not planning to attend a four-year college.

College Algebra: (prerequisites Geometry and Algebra II)
This is a concurrent enrollment class through Pueblo Community College. It focuses on a variety of functions and the exploration of their graphs. Topics include: equations and inequalities, operations on functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, linear and non-linear systems, and an introduction to conic sections. This course provides essential skills for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) pathways. This is a statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-MA1 category. (This class will have attendance requirements.)

College Trigonometry: (prerequisites College Algebra)

This is a concurrent enrollment class through Pueblo Community College. It explores trigonometric functions, their graphs, inverse functions, and identities. Topics include: trigonometric equations, solutions of triangles, trigonometric form of complex numbers, and polar coordinates. This is a statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-MA1 category. (This class will have attendance requirements.)

Geometry: (prerequisite Algebra I)
This is a one-semester course. Geometry focuses on three critical areas: (1) exploring congruence, similarity, and right-triangle relationships; (2) using area and volume to model and solve problems; and (4) applying probability to explore events of chance. These concepts and associated skills are aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards for mathematics, incorporating 21st-century skills and postsecondary and workforce readiness competencies.

Introductory Statistics: (prerequisite Algebra I)
This is a one-semester course. Introductory Statistics is a course covering statistics topics at an understandable level. This introductory course assumes no prior knowledge of statistics but does assume some knowledge of high school algebra. Topics covered will include, but not be limited to, the following: analyzing and modeling one-variable data, analyzing two-variable data, collecting data, and basic probability. These concepts and associated skills are aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards for mathematics, incorporating 21st-century skills and postsecondary and workforce readiness competencies.

Music

Arts, Media, & Broadcasting: Designed for grades 9-12 interested in arts, media, and music. It leverages a partnership with the local radio station to provide hands-on experience in music broadcasting, production, and content creation (podcasts). It integrates elements of music theory, journalism, digital media, and performance arts to foster creativity, technical skills, and real-world application.

Choir: emphasizes the basics of vocal technique, sight-reading, and ensemble singing to foster musical growth. As a member of the Choir program, students will have the opportunity for performances in a variety of settings and will take part in various festivals (choral and Solo & Ensemble) throughout the year.

Music Appreciation: (PCC dual credit course) Students will grow in their understanding of music as they listen to classics from the historical periods of music. Students will develop their ear to identify instruments, musical pieces, and musical periods by their sound. Students will also learn music terminology and rhythm, melody, and harmony to express accurate descriptions of music.

Music Theory: closely adheres to state standards in the knowledge of reading, writing, and understanding the theory behind how music is written and performed. The study of not only written forms, but musical periods throughout history is part of a sound curriculum in which students will become more fluent in the language of music.

Musical Theatre: Students will learn about vocal production, anatomy, and breath technique by exploring a diverse range of solo and ensemble repertoire. Students will also gain experience in movement and have opportunities to perform scenes from musical theater repertoire.

Physical Education/Health

9th Grade Healthy Living:

Required course for graduation offered to freshmen. Course curriculum will involve Botvin Life Skills, alcohol/drug prevention education, nutrition, fitness training, social-emotional education, and physical/health education(sex-ed & babies units).

Strength & Conditioning/Weights:
Physical education course with an emphasis on using proper form/techniques. Training will focus on developing speed, verticals, and power with the use of body weight/weights. This aids in injury prevention and overall bodily movements involving sports. Students will focus on becoming stronger physically and mentally, as well as working on the cardiovascular system (endurance). The course is open to boys and girls, 9^{th}-12^{th} grade, who are 100% committed to training even when it's tough.

Sports & Games:
This course is aimed at students being active for the whole class time. Also, for those wanting to further develop healthy life habits with activities they can use their entire lives. The focus will be to have them enjoy exercise while having great sportsmanship. Every activity requires participation regardless of skill.

Yoga, Toning & Stretching:
This class is designed to help students maintain flexibility while toning throughout the year. We are looking for those who want to maintain or gain strength without lifting heavy weights. Also, learning how to build healthy habits for life.

Science

Anatomy: (Prerequisite: Biology)
This class focuses on an integrated study of human anatomy and physiology. Anatomy is the study of the parts of the body, while physiology is the study of how the body works. Anatomy is considered an upper-level elective.

Animal Science: (Juniors and Seniors only)
The course is an intro to Animal Science covering a variety of topics, including Cell Structure and Function, Anatomy and Physiology, Reproduction and Genetics, and Animal Health and Disease. Students will: 1) learn basic animal science terminology, 2) acquire an appreciation for the objectives of various animal enterprises, and 3) gain an understanding of contemporary trends, challenges, and opportunities within animal agriculture.

AP Biology: (Prerequisite: Requires Ms. Nameth's signature, Successful completion of one year of the following courses: Biology with a B or better **and** Chemistry with a C or better)
AP Biology is a year-long course that is designed to be taken by students after the successful completion of both high school Biology and Chemistry. It is a 2-credit course that meets for 2 hours per day. AP Biology includes those topics regularly covered in a college introductory biology course and differs significantly from the standards-based, high school biology course with respect to the kind of textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, the kind of laboratory work performed by students, and the time and effort required of the students. The textbook used by AP Biology is also used by college biology majors, and the kinds of labs done by AP students are equivalent to those done by college students. AP Biology is a course that aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. This course is designed to prepare students for the Biology College Board Advanced Placement Exam.

Biology: (Prerequisites: none, but taken after Physical Science)

Biology is the "Study of Life." It is a laboratory-based science emphasizing the process of scientific investigation through the study of living things. Biology is a required course for graduation. It is usually a 10th-grade class.

Biomedical Engineering- Human Body Systems: a Project Lead the Way curriculum that provides foundational knowledge and skills in anatomy and physiology, clinical medicine, and laboratory research. The course engages students in how this content can be applied to to real world situations, cases, and problems. The HBS course includes interviews, challenges, and testimonials from biomedical professionals in a variety of settings- clinical, research, and public health. This class is required for the Student Athletic Trainer program.

Chemistry: (Prerequisites: Physical Science and Biology)
Chemistry is the study of matter and the changes it undergoes. A basic understanding of chemistry is central to all sciences. It is a laboratory-based class that focuses mostly on inorganic chemistry and scientific practice. Chemistry is considered an upper-level elective.

Geology: (Prerequisites: Physical Science) (offered 2026-27, but not 2027-28, as it switches out with Astronomy/Space Science every other year)
This course is offered as a dual credit course. This is an introductory course that covers Earth materials and the processes that develop and modify the composition, structure, and topography of the Earth. Included is an overview of minerals, rocks, volcanoes, earthquakes, plate tectonics, geologic time, water resources, glaciation, structural geology, and energy and mineral resources.

Physical Science: (Prerequisite: 8th-grade Science)
Physical Science is the division of science that deals with nonliving materials. It provides for the development and understanding of basic concepts in chemistry and physics. Laboratory work is introduced in this course and is used extensively to develop the principles of physical science. Topics studied include the scientific method, motion, forces, energy, work, heat, electricity, magnetism, waves, sound, light, matter, atoms, the periodic table, and chemical reactions.

Veterinary Science: (prerequisite Animal Science, Seniors only)
This course is a follow-up to Animal Science and will go into detail on animal reproduction, nutrition, diseases, genetics, animal welfare, vaccines, and antibiotics. The course is designed for students focusing on furthering their AG education.

Social Studies

Economics (**2nd semester, paired with Government)** is for students to master fundamental economic concepts, appreciate how principal concepts of economics relate to each other, and understand the structure of economic systems. Students will use economic concepts in a reasoned, careful manner in dealing with personal, community, national, and global economic issues. They will use measurement concepts and methods such as tables, charts, graphs, ratios, percentages, and index numbers to understand and interpret relevant data. They should learn to make reasoned decisions on economic issues as citizens, workers, consumers, business owners, managers, and members of civic groups.

History of Pop Culture (Elective)

We will examine each decade, looking at emerging and evolving trends through the lens of pop culture. We will examine areas such as fashion, music, and television, along with other areas of focus that tell the rest of America's story.

Introduction to Psychology:
This is a year-long elective course exploring the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students investigate major perspectives in psychology (biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural), basic research methods, and key domains such as learning, memory, development, motivation, emotion, personality, psychological disorders, and treatment. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, evidence-based reasoning, ethical considerations, and real-world application through class discussions, case studies, and reflective writing. Students learn to interpret psychological findings, evaluate claims about human behavior, and apply psychological concepts to personal, social, and academic contexts. Coursework includes readings, lectures, structured labs and experiments (observational studies, surveys, basic correlational analyses), group projects, service-learning connections, quizzes, summative exams (one per semester), and a final project that applies behavioral studies to the real world. Course objectives: students will (1) explain major psychological theories and vocabulary accurately, (2) design and critique simple research procedures and interpret basic data, (3) analyze factors that influence development and behavior across the lifespan, (4) identify common psychological disorders and evidence-based interventions, and (5) demonstrate ethical reasoning and clear communication in written and oral formats. Assessment will combine formative checks, performance tasks, and standards-aligned summative evaluations to measure mastery and growth.

U.S. Government (1st semester)
The general objective of the U.S. Government course is for students to master the Principles of government, the U.S. Constitution, Federalism, political parties, the electoral process, mass media and public opinion, interest groups, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government in action; comparative political and economic systems; and participating in state and local government.

U.S. History:
This is a 9th Grade Survey course of study covering American History between the Civil War and current events involving the United States. The development of the United States domestically (politically and economically) and our role as an international power will be covered. Specific focus will be on social changes throughout the 20th century. Foreign policy and economic relations (internationally) will be areas of focus, as well as social changes in the U.S. Also, several historical readings reflecting issues and events in American history will be incorporated throughout the year.

World History:
This is a 10th Grade Survey course beginning with the ancient world and continuing to the present day. Emphasis will be placed on the development of both technological and social aspects of various human societies over time. During the course, special attention will be placed on displaced people throughout our world's history. Current events will be included as relevant to the historical topics the class is covering.

Other Courses: Required and Elective

Careers & Personal Finance

This is a senior-level course required for graduation at Custer County School. The Personal Finance course will cover the fundamentals of personal finance, the role of consumers in the economic system in the United States, financial planning in personal life, ways to manage finances, and different investment strategies. It also covers various career options in the field of personal finance. The Career Explorations course will cover all of the career clusters in the National Career Clusters framework. Students will explore the career pathways within each cluster, determine the academic and skill requirements for each career pathway, learn about the jobs available in each pathway, and learn about the work these professionals do. The course will also guide students through the process of creating an academic and career plan based on interests, abilities, and life goals.

ICAP (Individual and Career Academic Plan)
All high school students keep an ICAP document during their high school career as required by the Colorado Department of Education. The purpose of the ICAP is to help students develop a PLAN for after high school. The ICAP is kept in Google Classroom and culminates in a presentation during Senior Night. This work occurs during Advisory. The information and research completed during the ICAP helps students make choices for their courses in high school. Courses that help prepare students for their career path should be given priority in their course selection.

STUCO Leadership (Must be approved by Ms. Parrish)
This course is designed to provide a basic introduction to leadership by focusing on what it means to be a good leader. Emphasis in the course is on the practice of leadership. The course will examine topics such as: understanding leadership; recognizing leadership traits; engaging people's strengths; understanding philosophy and styles; attending to tasks and relationships; developing leadership skills; creating a vision; establishing a constructive climate; listening to out-group members; handling conflict; addressing ethics in leadership and overcoming obstacles; and learning parliamentary procedures. Students will develop their leadership skills further by learning skills such as time and stress management, peer pressure, self-confidence, assertiveness, and a positive attitude. Students will assess their leadership traits and skills to improve their own leadership performance. During this course, a student will develop their own personal leadership portfolio, learn to develop their speaking skills, develop team-building skills, and plan school and community activities.

Teacher's Assistant: (Jr-Sr level Elective)
The Teacher's Assistant(TA) will assist a classroom teacher with various activities during the year. Students will be expected to remain under teacher supervision during the hour assigned. This course requires completion of the Teacher's Assistant Application and is graded on a rubric. An application form is available from the HS Counselor. TAs are assigned to teachers who request one.

Work Study/Internship: (Jr-Sr level Elective): Work Study/Internship is available to juniors and seniors for 1-4 class periods. Students must complete an application form and be accepted into the program. Please see the HS Counselor for an application.