Falk SCHOOL

2026-2027

COURSE CATALOG

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GRADUATION PATHWAYS

Credit Requirements

All students that are on track to receive a local diploma, Regents Diploma, or a Regents with Advanced Designation Diploma will need to complete the following credits prior to graduation. See Graduation Requirements.

	Minimum Number of Credits
English	**4**
Social Studies Distributed as follows: *U.S. History (1)* *Global History and Geography (2)* *Participation in Government (1/2)* *Economics (1/2)*	**4**
Science Distributed as follows: *Life Science (1)* *Physical Science (1)* *Life Science or Physical Science (1)*	**3**
Mathematics	**3**
Language other than English	**1**
Visual Art, Music, Dance and/or Theater	**1**
Physical Education (participation each semester)	**2**
Health	**1/2**
Electives	**3 1/2**

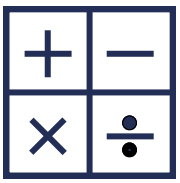
Graduation Pathways

As students complete course work and NYS Assessments, Falk School counselors and teachers will work closely with each student to determine the most appropriate graduation pathway. These pathways are outlined below.

Assessment Requirements: Multiple (+1) Pathways



1
English



1
Math



1
Science



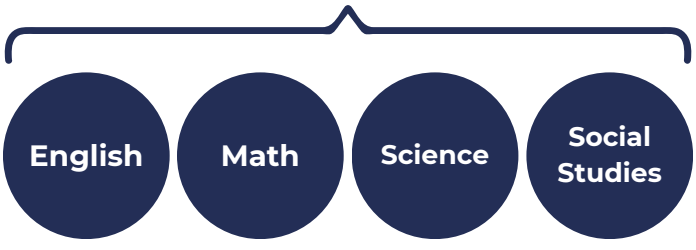
1
Social Studies



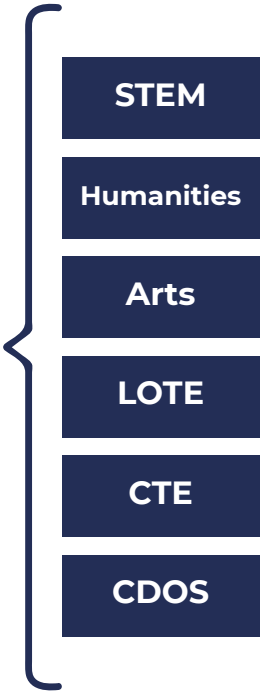
1
Pathway
(Student Choice)

4

All students must pass 4 required assessments
(1 in each discipline)



+1



If students are not able to earn a passing score of 65 on Regents exams, they may be eligible for:

- Appeals
- Safety Nets
- Superintendent Determination

Learn more here

Diploma Types

Regents

22 units of credit

Earned passing scores (65+ for Regents exams) on all required assessments (4 + 1)

Regents Diploma



Technical Endorsement



Seal of Biliteracy



Honors Endorsement

*A student can appeal one Regents exam score within 5 points of passing and still receive a Regents Diploma.

Learn more here

Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Credential

The CDOS Commencement Credential is unique as it can serve three purposes:

- A pathway to a diploma (as the +1 assessment option)
- An addition to a diploma; or
- An exiting credential

- Available to all students
- Students attempt, but do not successfully complete all the New York State diploma requirements
- Students must complete all CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential

- Available to students with disabilities assessed using the NYS Alternative Assessment.
- Must be accompanied by documentation of the students' skills, strengths and levels of independence in academic, career development and foundation skills needed for post-school living, learning and working.
- The credential may be issued at any time after such student has attended school for at least 12 years, excluding kindergarten, or has received a substanially equivalent education elsewhere, or at the end of the school year in which a student attains the age of 21.

Learn more here

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Business Course Descriptions

Overview

The Technology program provides students with opportunities to explore the tools, systems and innovations that shape today's digital and technical world. Courses are designed to develop skills in problem-solving, critical thinking and digital literacy through hands-on, project-based learning. Students engage with topics such as computer applications, engineering design, digital media and emerging technologies, while gaining experience with industry-relevant tools and software. Emphasis is placed on creativity, collaboration and real-world application, preparing students for college, careers and lifelong learning in an increasingly technology-driven society.



Computer Applications



Graphic Design



Introduction to Technology



Multimedia I



Multimedia II



Principles of Marketing

Computer Applications

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Computer Applications introduces students to essential computer skills used in academic, personal and professional settings. Students will develop proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets, presentations and digital communication tools. The course emphasizes organization, productivity and responsible use of technology while preparing students for success in school and the workplace.

Graphic Design

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Graphic Design introduces students to the fundamentals of visual communication and digital design. Students explore concepts such as color, typography, composition, illustration, branding, and layout while using digital tools and design software to create original projects. Through hands-on activities, students develop creativity, problem-solving, and technical skills while learning how designers communicate ideas to specific audiences. The course also introduces students to career opportunities in graphic design, advertising, digital media, and related creative fields.

Introduction to Technology

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Introduction to Technology provides students with a broad overview of technological systems and their impact on everyday life. Students explore topics such as engineering design, problem-solving, digital tools and emerging technologies through hands-on projects and collaborative activities. The course emphasizes creativity, innovation and the responsible use of technology while building foundational skills for further study in technical and engineering fields.

Multimedia I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Multimedia I introduces students to the fundamentals of digital media creation, including graphic design, audio, video and basic animation. Students will learn to use industry-standard software to create and edit digital content while exploring principles of design and visual communication. Emphasis is placed on creativity, technical skill development and project-based learning.

Multimedia II

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Multimedia II builds on the skills developed in Multimedia I, focusing on advanced techniques in digital design, video production and interactive media. Students will create more complex projects that integrate multiple forms of media while refining their technical and creative abilities. Emphasis is placed on project planning, collaboration and producing polished, professional-quality work. Prior completion of Multimedia I or equivalent experience is recommended.

Principles of Marketing

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of marketing and its vital role in business and the global economy. Students will explore core concepts such as market research, branding, consumer behavior, advertising, digital marketing and product development. Through hands-on projects, case studies and simulations, students will apply marketing strategies to real-world scenarios and develop communication, creativity and problem-solving skills. Aligned with New York State Career and Technical Education (CTE) standards, this course provides a strong foundation for students interested in business, entrepreneurship and marketing-related careers.

Career and Technical Education Course Descriptions

Overview

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) program provides students with opportunities to explore pathways that prepare them for college, careers and lifelong success. Courses emphasize hands-on learning, problem-solving and the development of practical skills that align with industry standards. Students gain experience in areas such as business, technology, trades and applied sciences, while also building critical thinking, collaboration and communication abilities. These courses encourage students to connect classroom knowledge with real-world applications, preparing them for post-secondary education, entry-level employment and future career advancement.



Career Development



Career Exploration



Culinary Arts



Industrial Arts



Principles of Engineering



Tool Time Manufacturing

Career Development

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit

Career Development builds on career exploration by focusing on employability skills, workplace expectations and goal setting. Students practice résumé writing, interviewing and professional communication while learning about the responsibilities and ethics of the workplace. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Career Exploration.

Career Exploration

Grades 9, 10 1 Credit

Career Exploration introduces students to a wide range of career fields through research, guest speakers and hands-on projects. Students identify personal interests, strengths and goals while investigating post-secondary education and training options. The course helps students make informed decisions about their future pathways.

Culinary Arts

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Culinary Arts introduces students to the fundamentals of food preparation, nutrition and kitchen safety. Students gain hands-on experience in meal planning, cooking techniques and food presentation while learning about culinary careers and hospitality. Emphasis is placed on teamwork, creativity and practical skills that promote healthy living and workplace readiness.

Industrial Arts

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Industrial Arts provides students with opportunities to explore design, construction and manufacturing processes. Students work with tools, machines and materials to complete practical projects while developing problem-solving, safety awareness and technical skills. The course fosters creativity and prepares students for careers in trades, engineering and technical fields.

Principles of Engineering

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Principles of Engineering introduces students to the foundations of engineering and applied sciences. Topics include mechanics, electronics, materials science and problem-solving using the engineering design process. Through hands-on projects, students develop critical thinking, teamwork and innovation skills that prepare them for STEM-related college and career pathways.

Tool Time Manufacturing

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Tool Time Manufacturing provides hands-on experience with manufacturing processes, tools and safety procedures. Students explore careers in the manufacturing industry while practicing problem-solving, precision and teamwork. Projects highlight practical applications of technology and craftsmanship.

English Course Descriptions

Overview

The English program aims, in its four-year sequence, to cultivate interest and competence in language, literature, and oral and written communication. The program is intended to assure steady growth in the student's ability to write and speak with clarity; to read with understanding, appreciation and insight; and to think critically. English 9, 10, 11 include frequent practice in writing and speaking, attentive study of selected books and close attention to problems in the nature and use of language. Increased command of vocabulary, spelling, usage and punctuation are a continuing concern in all English classes.



Applied Communications



Creative Writing



English 9



English 10



English 11



English 12



English Composition



Public Speaking



Strategic Reading



World Literature

Applied Communications

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Applied Communications emphasizes practical communication skills for academic, workplace and personal success. Students learn to adapt written, oral and digital communication to real-world situations, including professional emails, reports, presentations and collaborative projects. The course highlights audience awareness, clear expression and active listening. By integrating workplace scenarios and problem-solving activities, students gain confidence and competence in everyday communication.

Creative Writing

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Creative Writing offers students an opportunity to express themselves through original works of fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction. Emphasis is placed on crafting compelling characters, vivid imagery and engaging dialogue. Students will explore a variety of literary techniques, participate in writing workshops and compile a portfolio of their work. This course nurtures creativity while helping students understand and apply the elements of style and structure.

English 9

Grade 9 1 Credit

In the 9th grade ELA curriculum, students will read, discuss and analyze contemporary, as well as classic texts, focusing on how complex characters develop through interactions with one another and how authors structure text, to accomplish that development. There will be a strong emphasis on reading closely and responding to text dependent questions, annotating text and developing academic vocabulary in context. We will also focus on the ability to make evidence-based claims, which will empower students with critical reading and writing skills. Finally, we will be focusing on research skills and use of proper MLA citations to provide strong and thorough textual evidence to support student claims. Writing assignments are frequent and varied, relying on original thought and analysis. Students will be expected to engage in class discussions and participate in group activities throughout the year.

English 10

Grade 10 1 Credit

English 10 expands students' understanding of global perspectives through the study of contemporary literature. Students analyze works from diverse cultures and time periods, fostering an appreciation for varied voices and experiences. This course emphasizes refining skills in literary analysis, critical thinking and evidence-based writing. Students engage in research projects, collaborative discussions and presentations, with a continued focus on grammar, vocabulary and the writing process. Creative and analytical writing opportunities allow students to develop their personal voice and perspective.

English 11

Grade 11 1 Credit

English 11 explores the rich tradition of American literature, examining works from the colonial era to contemporary times. Students analyze how literature reflects and shapes cultural, historical and social contexts. The course emphasizes critical reading and advanced writing skills, including literary analysis and research-based argumentative essays. Students prepare for standardized assessments, such as the Regents Examination in English Language Arts, by practicing close reading, rhetorical analysis and effective communication strategies. This course also fosters skills for future academic and professional success.

English 12

Grade 12 1 Credit

English 12 prepares students for post-secondary education and career pathways by emphasizing advanced reading, writing and critical thinking skills. Students explore complex texts, including classic and contemporary literature, nonfiction and media. Writing assignments include persuasive essays, research papers and personal narratives, with a focus on honing clarity, organization and style. The course encourages independent thought, reflective analysis and intellectual engagement. Optional specialized units or electives, such as creative writing or film studies, may be offered to align with students' interests and goals.

English Composition

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

This course focuses on the principles of effective writing, emphasizing clarity, organization and style. Students will explore various forms of writing, including expository, persuasive and narrative essays, with an emphasis on research and citation techniques. Through peer review and revision, students will refine their grammar and mechanics while developing a personal writing voice. This course prepares students for college-level writing and real-world communication.

Public Speaking

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Public Speaking equips students with the skills needed to communicate effectively in formal and informal settings. The course covers speech organization, delivery techniques, audience engagement and the use of visual aids. Students will gain confidence and poise as they deliver informative, persuasive and impromptu speeches. A focus on active listening and constructive feedback will enhance students' abilities to present and respond thoughtfully in diverse settings.

Strategic Reading

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/4 Credit

Strategic Reading is designed to strengthen students' reading comprehension, vocabulary, critical-thinking and text analysis skills. Students engage with a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts while learning strategies for identifying main ideas, evaluating important information, making inferences and increasing reading fluency and comprehension. The course also emphasizes practical academic skills such as effective note-taking, time management and strategies for approaching complex texts and textbooks. Through targeted instruction and practice, students develop greater confidence, independence and efficiency as readers across academic subjects.

World Literature

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

This course offers a journey through global cultures and perspectives by examining literary works from around the world. Students will explore themes, genres and historical contexts of texts from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. Through analysis and discussion, students will gain insight into universal human experiences and the diversity of literary traditions. This course encourages critical thinking, empathy and a deeper understanding of global interconnectedness.

Fine Arts Course Descriptions

Overview

Courses in the Fine Arts expose students to complex learning skills that they cannot receive in any other area of study. They present students with the opportunity to critically think, examine and process information. These valuable skills develop and foster students' problem-solving abilities in a capacity that employers seek out. Falk School offers art courses that will prepare students for career choices in the arts after high school such as architect, graphic designer, advertising designer, medical illustrator, fashion illustrator, web designer, art conservator, jeweler, ceramic artist, professional photographer and many others. Use this wonderful opportunity, when selecting your course schedule, to take advantage of our exceptional program.



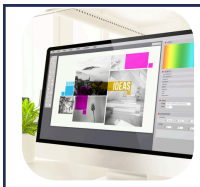
Architecture



Art History



Ceramics I



Digital Art



Digital Photography



Portfolio Development



Studio in Art



Studio in Drawing and Painting

Architecture

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Architecture introduces students to the principles of design, engineering, and construction through the study of the built environment. Students explore architectural styles, drafting techniques, and spatial design while learning how structures are planned and constructed. The course emphasizes creativity, problem-solving, and technical skills through hands-on projects, model building, and the use of design software. Students will also examine sustainability, urban planning, and the impact of architecture on communities. This course provides a foundation for students interested in careers in architecture, engineering, construction, and design.

Art History

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/4 Credit

Art History introduces students to the study of visual art across cultures and time periods, from ancient civilizations to contemporary movements. Students will analyze paintings, sculptures, architecture and other art forms, exploring how artistic expression reflects cultural values, historical events and technological innovations. The course emphasizes visual analysis, critical thinking and appreciation for diverse artistic traditions. Through projects, discussions and research, students will gain insight into the role of art in shaping human experience and its lasting influence on society.

Ceramics

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Are you the kind of person who loves to work with their hands? Are you the person who loves craft projects? Then Ceramics I is for you! Clay is one of the oldest and most fun craft materials around. That may explain why people have been choosing careers in clay for centuries. In this class, you will be using the potter's wheel, creating functional as well as sculptural art out of clay and experimenting with all types of hand-building. As the finishing touch you will use a variety of glazing techniques.

Digital Art

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Digital Illustration and Drawing introduces students to the fundamentals of creating artwork using digital tools and software. Students explore techniques in drawing, shading, color theory and composition while learning to use design programs. Emphasis is placed on creativity, visual storytelling and developing technical skills in digital art. This course is ideal for students interested in graphic design, animation and digital media careers.

Digital Photography

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Photography introduces students to the art and technique of capturing images using digital cameras and editing software. Students learn about composition, lighting, camera functions and photo editing while exploring photography as a form of visual storytelling. Emphasis is placed on creativity, technical skill development and critical evaluation of images. Students may create a portfolio of work throughout the course.

Portfolio Development

Grades 11, 12 1/2 Credit

This course ties together the student's previous art education experiences. It is designed for the highly motivated student, who is serious about the study of art. It allows students to further explore areas of interest and to critically look at their own work and works of others. Students develop a journal/sketchbook that becomes a personal resource for new work. Preparation and presentation is ongoing as students assess works to be included in a final portfolio.

Studio in Art

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

This foundation course covers the fundamentals of the visual arts and is a recommended preparation for most art electives. These fundamentals provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to further explore the linkage between art production, art history and aesthetics and art criticism. Students participating in this course will explore eight main units: The Language of Art, How Artists See the World, Creativity and Imagination, living with Art/Art as Design, Art as Self Expression, Art Tells a Story, Art and Religion/Meditation and Art and Social Change. The course is aligned with the New York State Standards for the Visual Arts. Students have an opportunity to explore a variety of media as they learn to develop skills, techniques and understanding, which are essential in the visual arts. Hands on studio experiences parallel course content and provides practical application of key concepts.

Studio in Drawing and Painting

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

This in-depth course continues where Studio in Art left off, concentrating primarily on drawing and painting. Exploration of media and techniques is emphasized. Students are encouraged to find personal answers to art problems using skills and techniques acquired in the course. The course is designed to foster a deeper understanding of art practices. Art criticism and art assessment help the student to appreciate their own and others' achievements.

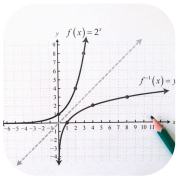
Mathematics Course Descriptions

Overview

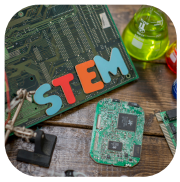
The high school mathematics program will prepare students with varying needs and abilities to think and reason logically. The program will provide opportunities for students to continue their study of mathematics through all four years of high school. Students should develop an understanding of the real number system, improve and sharpen quantitative reasoning and computational skills, gain an understanding of the nature of mathematical proofs and techniques of critical thinking, and attain an appreciation of the role of mathematics in today's world.



Algebra I



Algebra II



Applied Math



Fundamentals of Algebra



Geometry



Math Connections

Algebra I

Grade 10 1 Credit

Algebra I builds students' understanding of algebraic concepts and their applications. Students explore linear and exponential growth, statistics, and quadratic functions using equations, graphs, tables, and real-world examples. Topics include exponential growth and decay, data distributions, scatter plots, quadratic equations, and methods for solving quadratics. The course emphasizes problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, and applying algebraic concepts to real-world situations. Students in this course will take the Algebra I Regents exam in June.

Algebra II

Grades 11,12 1 Credit

Students taking this course should have a strong background in previous mathematics courses to be successful. This course will continue to build upon topics studied in Algebra I in order to prepare students for the Algebra II Regents exam. Topics in this course include logarithms, trigonometry, exponents, complex and real numbers, rational expressions and functions.

Applied Math

1 Credit

Grades 11,12

Applied Math emphasizes the use of mathematical concepts to solve structured, real-world problems related to careers, technology and daily life. Students build skills in algebraic reasoning, data analysis, financial mathematics and measurement through project-based learning and applied scenarios. The course focuses on interpreting data, using formulas and applying mathematical models in contexts such as business, construction and technology. Greater emphasis is placed on multi-step problem solving and analytical thinking than in general consumer math courses. Applied Math prepares students for workplace demands, technical training programs and continued study in career-focused or STEM pathways.

Fundamentals of Algebra

Grade 9 1 Credit

Fundamentals of Algebra builds the foundational math skills students need for success in Algebra I. Students explore patterns, relationships, and functions using tables, graphs, equations, and real-world examples. Topics include linear functions, slope, equations, inequalities, and systems of equations. The course emphasizes problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, and applying algebraic concepts to everyday situations.

Geometry

Grades 11,12 1 Credit

This course includes extensions of strands from Algebra I such as graphing linear functions and three dimensional geometric shapes. New topics include circles, three dimensional geometry, transformational geometry, geometric constructions and proofs of coordinate (Euclidean) or analytical (deductive) nature. This is a comprehensive Regents course based on the Common Core Learning Standards designed to teach the essential concepts of Geometry required to complete the Regents Geometry exam. Students in this course will take the Geometry Regents exam in June.

Math Connections
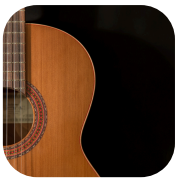
Grade 11, 12 1 Credit

The Math Connections course is an intense study of mathematics in our day-to-day lives. It stresses the roles of mathematics in today's society and teaches students to communicate mathematically within their society by speaking, writing and demonstrating mathematics as it applies to their own world. This class shows how math topics apply to real-life situations. In this class, the topics covered include percentages, measurements, metric, fractions, unit conversions, checking accounts, bank fees, loans, taxes, work forms, problem solving, consumer purchases, credit, probability, odds, commissions, work related math skills and much more.

Music Course Descriptions

Overview

The Music program provides students with opportunities to explore, create and appreciate music through performance, theory and cultural study. Courses are designed to develop fundamental skills in rhythm, melody, harmony and musical expression while fostering creativity, discipline and collaboration. Students may engage in vocal and instrumental performance, music technology and music appreciation, gaining both technical proficiency and artistic confidence. Emphasis is placed on active participation, practice and performance, as well as an understanding of music's role in diverse cultures and historical contexts. The program supports students of all experience levels and encourages lifelong engagement with music as both an art form and a means of personal expression.



Guitar I



Guitar II
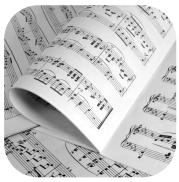


Modern Band I



Modern Band II



Modern Band III



Music Exploration



Music in Our Lives



Piano



Recording Techniques



Theatre Arts

Guitar I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Guitar I introduces students to the fundamentals of guitar performance, including basic chords, strumming patterns, note reading and rhythm. Students will develop foundational technique and musical understanding while learning a variety of musical styles. Emphasis is placed on proper playing habits, practice skills and basic performance. No prior experience is required.

Guitar II

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Guitar II builds on the foundational skills developed in Guitar I, with a focus on more complex chord progressions, scales, and fingerpicking techniques. Students will expand their repertoire and deepen their understanding of music theory and musical styles. Emphasis is placed on improving technique, accuracy and ensemble playing. Successful completion of Guitar I or equivalent experience is recommended.

Modern Band I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Explore contemporary music through hands-on instruction with guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, percussion, and vocals. Students will learn basic performance techniques, collaborate in a band setting, and develop skills in rhythm, songwriting, improvisation, and live performance. No prior musical experience is required—just a willingness to learn, create, and perform.

Modern Band II

Grades 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Modern Band II expands on the skills developed in Modern Band, with a greater focus on ensemble performance, arrangement and musical interpretation. Students refine their instrumental or vocal abilities while collaborating on more complex pieces. Emphasis is placed on leadership, creativity and performance quality.

Modern Band III

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit

Modern Band III is an advanced performance-based course for students with prior ensemble experience. Students take on leadership roles in rehearsals and performances while developing advanced techniques, composition and arrangement skills. The course emphasizes artistic expression, collaboration and professional-level performance preparation.

Music Exploration

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/4 Credit

Music Exploration introduces students to a wide range of musical styles, cultures and concepts. Students will listen to, analyze and discuss music from different genres and historical periods while engaging in creative activities such as basic composition and performance. The course fosters appreciation for music as a universal form of expression.

Music in Our Lives

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Music in Our Lives examines the role of music in everyday experiences, culture and society. Students explore how music influences identity, media and social movements while analyzing a variety of genres. The course encourages critical listening, discussion and connections between music and real-world contexts.

Piano

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Piano provides students with an introduction to keyboard performance and basic music theory. Students learn note reading, scales, chords and simple pieces while developing technique and musical expression. No prior experience is required. The course emphasizes practice, performance and building foundational skills in music.

Recording Techniques

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Recording Techniques introduces students to the fundamentals of audio production and sound engineering. Students will learn how to use recording equipment, digital audio workstations and editing software to capture and produce music. The course emphasizes hands-on experience, creativity and an understanding of modern music production processes.

Theatre Arts

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/4 Credit

Theatre Arts provides students with an introduction to acting, stage performance and theatrical production. Students explore character development, improvisation, voice and movement while participating in scene work and performances. The course fosters creativity, confidence and collaboration while building an appreciation for the performing arts.

Physical Education and Health Course Descriptions

Overview

The mission of Falk School's Physical and Health Education program is to provide all students with the knowledge, skills and desire to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. Students in New York State are required to earn two credits of physical education for graduation. New York State also has set three standards that students must meet in physical education. These are: 1. Each student will have the necessary knowledge and skills to establish and maintain physical fitness, participation in physical activity and maintain personal health. 2. Each student will acquire the knowledge and ability to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment. 3. Each student will understand and be able to manage his/her personal and community resources.



Fitness and Weight Training



Food, Nutrition and Personal Wellness



Health



Nutrition and Wellness



Physical Education



Sports, Exercise and Health Science

Fitness and Weight Training

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Fitness & Weight Training focuses on developing strength, endurance and overall physical wellness through structured exercise. Students will learn proper techniques for weightlifting, resistance training and cardiovascular conditioning while emphasizing safety, goal-setting and personal progress. The course highlights the importance of lifelong fitness habits, nutrition and injury prevention. Individualized workout plans and regular assessments allow students to track improvement and build confidence. By combining knowledge with hands-on practice, this course promotes healthy lifestyles and prepares students to maintain physical fitness beyond high school.

Food, Nutrition and Personal Wellness

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Food, Nutrition and Personal Wellness equips students with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about healthy living. The course explores topics such as nutrition basics, meal planning, food preparation and the relationship between diet and overall health. Students will examine how lifestyle choices influence physical and mental well-being while learning strategies for stress management, fitness and balanced living. Hands-on activities and practical applications encourage students to develop lifelong habits that promote personal wellness and healthy decision-making.

Health

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Health Education is a NYS required half year course that aims to arm students with essential skills that pertain to self & relationship management in order to optimize their quality of life. Health Education's higher learning objectives include: creating life-like scenarios in which the student may practice those skills, demonstrate their health literacy and promote healthy lifestyles through advocacy. Areas of study include: Risk Behaviors, Bullying/ Violence Prevention, Decision Making, Values, Communication, Nutrition, Stress Management, Mental Health, Human Growth & Development, Sexuality & Relationships, Disease Prevention, Social & Community issues related to Alcohol, Tobacco and other drugs. The student is expected to participate in classroom discussions and activities (i.e., oral reports, research papers, homework, etc.). Community/ school resources are used to acquaint students with the skills in accessing valid health information, products and services. Satisfactory completion of a health course is required for graduation.

Nutrition and Wellness

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/4 Credit

Nutrition and Wellness provides students with an understanding of how food choices and lifestyle habits impact overall health. The course covers essential topics such as the principles of nutrition, balanced diets, weight management and the prevention of diet-related illnesses. Students will learn to evaluate food labels, plan nutritious meals and make informed decisions that support long-term well-being. Emphasis is placed on the connection between nutrition, physical fitness and mental health. Through hands-on activities, projects and personal goal setting, students will develop the skills needed to establish and maintain healthy habits for life.

Physical Education

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Physical Education fosters students' physical, mental and emotional well-being through a variety of activities that promote fitness, teamwork and personal health. Students will engage in individual and team sports, fitness exercises and activities that enhance strength, coordination, flexibility and endurance. Emphasis is placed on developing lifelong habits of physical activity, understanding the importance of nutrition and fostering a positive attitude toward personal health and wellness. In addition to physical skills, students will learn about sportsmanship, leadership and cooperation. Aligned with New York State standards, this course helps students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to lead active, healthy lives both in and outside of school.

Sports, Exercise and Health Science

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/2 Credit

Sports, Exercise and Health Science explores the scientific principles behind human performance, physical activity and wellness. Students study anatomy, physiology, biomechanics and nutrition, with emphasis on how the body responds and adapts to exercise. The course integrates classroom learning with practical applications such as fitness assessments, training methods and wellness planning. Students will analyze the role of exercise in promoting lifelong health and preventing disease, while also exploring careers in sports medicine, physical therapy, fitness and health sciences. Hands-on labs, data analysis and research projects encourage critical thinking and prepare students for post-secondary study in health-related fields.

Science Course Descriptions

Overview

A knowledge of science is essential to all students. As consumers and workers in science-related areas, the courses offered will aid students in their understanding of this ever changing and increasingly complex world. Programs provide basic information to students at their individual levels of understanding. Students can choose courses that stress basic skills and understandings or others that stress college-level material and concepts. All courses include demonstrations, laboratory work and classroom discussion. In Regents science classes, students are scheduled to attend a separate laboratory session that meets one day out of a four day cycle. Students in Regents courses must meet specific lab requirements in order to be eligible to take the state Regents examinations.



Anatomy



Astronomy



Earth and Space Science



Environmental Science



Integrated Science-Wilderness Wise



Introduction to Forensic Science



Life Science/Biology



Zoology

Anatomy

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit

This course offers an in-depth study of human anatomy, focusing on the structure and function of the body's major systems. Students will explore topics such as the skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, digestive and nervous systems through labs, models and interactive activities. Emphasis is placed on the interdependence of body systems, health and wellness and real-world applications in medical and health-related fields. Ideal for students interested in biology, healthcare, sports medicine or allied health careers, this course supports college and career readiness and aligns with New York State science learning standards.

Astronomy

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1/4 Credit

Astronomy introduces students to the study of the universe and the scientific principles used to understand objects and events beyond Earth. Students explore topics such as the solar system, stars, galaxies, constellations, and space exploration. Through observations, hands-on activities, and inquiry-based learning, students investigate celestial patterns and develop an understanding of Earth's place in the universe. The course encourages scientific curiosity, critical thinking, and an appreciation for the exploration of space.

Earth and Space Science

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

This course offers students a comprehensive exploration of Earth's systems and the universe beyond. Topics include geology, meteorology, oceanography, astronomy and the impact of human activity on the environment. Students will investigate natural processes such as plate tectonics, weather patterns, climate change and celestial movements through hands-on labs, data analysis and scientific inquiry. Aligned with the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards, this course encourages critical thinking, environmental awareness and curiosity about our planet and its place in the cosmos. This is a lab course that requires a minimum of 1200 minutes of hands-on laboratory experiences with satisfactorily completed lab reports. Students will have a regularly scheduled lab period in addition to their traditional class periods.

Environmental Science

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit

Environmental Science explores the dynamic relationships between humans and the natural world. Students will investigate topics such as ecosystems, biodiversity, climate change, natural resources, pollution and sustainability through scientific inquiry, data analysis and project-based learning. Emphasis is placed on understanding environmental challenges at the local, national and global levels and developing solutions through critical thinking and civic engagement. This interdisciplinary course aligns with the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards and encourages students to become informed environmental stewards and responsible global citizens.

Integrated Science-Wilderness Wise

Grades 11, 12 (Elective) 1/2 Credit

Wilderness Wise is an interdisciplinary science course that combines environmental studies, biology and earth science with practical outdoor skills. Students explore ecosystems, biodiversity and sustainability while engaging in hands-on experiences such as nature observation, field journaling and basic wilderness survival techniques. Topics include plant and animal identification, ecology, weather patterns, conservation practices and human impact on natural systems. The course emphasizes problem-solving, teamwork and environmental stewardship, preparing students to appreciate and responsibly interact with the natural world. Aligned with New York State science learning standards, Wilderness Wise blends classroom learning with experiential activities to foster curiosity, resilience and respect for the outdoors.

Introduction to Forensic Science

Grades 9, 10,11, 12 (Elective) 1/4 Credit

Forensic Science introduces students to the principles and techniques used to solve crimes through the application of science. Students will explore key topics such as crime scene investigation, evidence collection, DNA analysis, fingerprinting, toxicology and ballistics. Hands-on labs and case studies will allow students to apply scientific methods to real-world forensic scenarios, enhancing their understanding of biology, chemistry and physics in the context of criminal justice. This course encourages critical thinking, problem-solving and attention to detail, making it ideal for students interested in careers in law enforcement, criminal justice or forensic science.

Life Science/Biology

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

This foundational course explores the structure, function and interactions of living organisms and their environments. Key units include cell biology, genetics, evolution, ecology and human body systems. Students will engage in hands-on labs, scientific inquiry and evidence-based reasoning to build a deep understanding of biological processes. Emphasis is placed on real-world applications, environmental connections and the role of biology in health, technology and society. Aligned with the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards, this course prepares students for the Regents Exam and supports scientific literacy for all learners. Students will have a regularly scheduled lab period in addition to their traditional class periods. Successful completion of the Regents Lab Requirement, which is 1200 minutes of lab work with satisfactory written lab reports, is necessary for admission to the New York State Regents Exam, which serves as the final exam for the course.

Zoology

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (Elective) 1/4 Credit

This course will take students on a tour of animal systems by group (including chordates, fish, amphibians, birds, and mammals). Each unit covers biology and anatomy, husbandry (animal care), and animal behavior/species interactions. Field work and immersive experiences will be central to the course.

Social Studies Course Descriptions

Overview

Students are required to earn four credits in social studies to graduate. These include Global History & Geography 9, Global History & Geography 10, U. S. History & Government, Economics and Participation in Government. Required tests include passing the Regents Exam in Global History & Geography (after 10th grade) and U. S. History & Government. Students are eligible to work beyond these requirements by selecting social studies elective courses.



20th Century History and Current Events



Civics



Contemporary Issues in History



Economics



Global History and Geography I



Global History and Geography II



Holocaust Studies



Indigenous History and Culture



Participation in Government



Principles of Marketing

Social Studies Course Descriptions



Psychology



Social Justice



Student Government and Leadership



United States History and Government

20th Century History and Current Events

Grade 11, 12 (Elective) 1/4 Credit

This elective course explores major events, movements and transformations of the 20th century and connects them to the key issues shaping the world today. Students will examine global conflicts, social and political revolutions, economic trends and cultural developments, with an emphasis on how the past informs present-day events. Through the analysis of primary sources, media literacy and current news, students will deepen their understanding of historical context and develop the critical thinking skills necessary for informed citizenship in a complex, interconnected world.

Civics

Grades 11, 12 (Elective) 1/2 Credit

This course empowers students to understand and actively engage in the democratic process. Grounded in the principles of the U.S. Constitution and New York State government, students will explore the roles of citizens, institutions and civic action in shaping public life. Key topics include the structure and function of government, civil rights and responsibilities, policy-making and current events. Through debates, simulations and community-based projects, students will develop skills in critical thinking, media literacy and civic participation. The course supports the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness and prepares students to be informed, responsible and engaged members of society.

Contemporary Issues in History

Grades 11, 12 (Elective) 1/2 Credit

This elective course examines the relationship between historical events and the complex issues facing the world today. Students will explore topics such as global conflict, civil and human rights, environmental change, social justice movements and political developments through both historical and modern lenses. Emphasis is placed on critical analysis, media literacy and informed discussion. By connecting past events to current challenges, students will gain a deeper understanding of the forces that continue to shape our society and the role individuals can play in influencing change.

Economics

Grade 12 1/2 Credit

This course introduces students to the fundamental principles of economics and their application to personal, national and global financial decision-making. Topics include supply and demand, market structures, economic systems, personal finance, government policy and international trade. Students will analyze current economic issues and develop financial literacy skills necessary for responsible citizenship and lifelong economic competence. The course aligns with the New York State Social Studies Framework and supports critical thinking, problem-solving and real-world application of economic concepts.

Global History and Geography I

Grade 9 1 Credit

Global History & Geography I examines the development of human societies from early human history through approximately 1750. Students begin with the Paleolithic and Neolithic eras and the emergence of early civilizations before exploring the development and achievements of classical societies, including China, Greece, Rome, India, and other influential civilizations. The course examines major belief systems, forms of government, cultural achievements, and the ways geography influenced the growth and development of societies. Students investigate the rise and interaction of civilizations across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, including the golden ages of Asian and Islamic societies, Trans-Saharan and Silk Road trade networks, and the political, economic, and social development of Europe during the Middle Ages. Later units explore expanding global interactions, cultural diffusion, trade, exploration, and the changing political and economic systems that shaped the world through approximately 1750.

Global History and Geography II

Grade 10 1 Credit

Global History & Geography II continues the study of world history from approximately 1750 to the present. Students explore major events and changes that shaped the modern world, including the Age of Revolutions, Industrial Revolution, imperialism, nationalism, and the development of new political and economic systems. The course examines World War I, the Russian Revolution, World War II, the Holocaust, the Cold War, decolonization, globalization, and contemporary global issues. Students study developments across Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East while making connections between historical events and the world today. Aligned with the New York State Social Studies Framework, students develop skills in analyzing primary and secondary sources, identifying cause and effect, comparing historical events, and writing evidence-based responses. The course prepares students for the New York State Regents Examination in Global History and Geography II.

Holocaust Studies

Grades 9,10,11, 12 (Elective) 1/2 Credit

Holocaust Studies examines the historical events, conditions, and human experiences surrounding the Holocaust. Students explore the rise of Nazi Germany, antisemitism and persecution, the experiences of victims and survivors, resistance and rescue, and the lasting impact of the Holocaust. Through primary and secondary sources, literature, survivor testimony, and historical analysis, students develop skills in critical thinking, source evaluation, and informed discussion. The course emphasizes the importance of human rights, individual responsibility, and the consequences of prejudice, discrimination, and intolerance while encouraging students to consider the relevance of these lessons in the world today.

Indigenous History and Culture

Grade 11, 12 (Elective) 1/2 Credit

This course centers the histories, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples, with a focus on the diverse nations of what is now New York State and North America. Students will engage with Indigenous perspectives, oral traditions and contemporary voices to gain a deeper understanding of sovereignty, land stewardship, identity and resistance. Through primary sources, literature and community partnerships, the course highlights the enduring presence and resilience of Indigenous communities. Aligned with the NYS Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework, this course fosters respect, empathy and a more inclusive understanding of American history.

Participation in Government

Grade 12 1/2 Credit

This course emphasizes the importance of active citizenship and democratic participation in local, state and national government. Students will explore contemporary public issues, the structure and functions of government and the role of individuals and groups in shaping public policy. Through research, discussion and civic engagement activities, students will develop the knowledge, skills and motivation necessary to become informed and involved members of their communities. The course aligns with New York State Social Studies Framework and encourages critical thinking, collaboration and responsible decision-making.

Psychology

Grades 11, 12 (Elective) 1/2 Credit

This course offers students an introduction to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Through the exploration of topics such as brain development, learning, memory, personality, mental health and social behavior, students will gain insight into how humans think, feel and act. Emphasis is placed on real-world applications, self-awareness and critical thinking. Students will also examine key psychological theories, influential studies and current issues in the field. The course encourages ethical inquiry, cultural sensitivity and reflection, helping students better understand themselves and others in a diverse and complex world.

Social Justice

Grades 11, 12 (Elective) 1/2 Credit

This course invites students to explore the concept of social justice through historical, cultural and contemporary lenses. Through critical discussions, multimedia resources and community-based projects, students will examine systems of power and inequality, and consider how individuals and groups have worked—and continue to work—toward equity and justice. Topics may include race, class, gender, ability, immigration and environmental justice, with a focus on local, national and global contexts. Students will build skills in critical thinking, civic engagement and advocacy, empowering them to be informed and active participants in a diverse democracy.

Student Government and Leadership

Grades 9,10,11, 12 (Elective) 1/4 Credit

This course empowers students to discover and develop their leadership potential through self-awareness, communication, collaboration and civic engagement. Students will explore leadership styles, goal setting, ethical decision-making and conflict resolution while applying these skills through service learning, team projects and community initiatives. Emphasizing equity, inclusion and social responsibility, the course aligns with the NYS Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework and supports the development of confident, compassionate and effective leaders. Ideal for students looking to make a positive impact in their schools and communities.

United States History and Government

Grade 11 1 Credit

United States History & Government is designed as the primary course of study for juniors at Falk School. The course examines American history from its colonial foundations through the present day, with an emphasis on the period from 1865 forward. Students explore the Revolutionary Era, the U.S. Constitution, expansion, nationalism and sectionalism, industrialization, urbanization, and major reform movements. Students also examine prosperity and depression, the World Wars, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and significant developments in modern domestic and foreign policy. Through historical sources and connections to current issues, students develop an understanding of America's diverse history and culture, as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. The course prepares students for the New York State Regents Examination in United States History and Government.

World Languages Course Descriptions

Overview

The world language program is designed to aid the student in developing presentational, interpersonal and interpretive skills in the target language in order to express oneself adequately in the new language and understand the language when it is spoken or written. The extent to which the student will develop these skills will depend upon exposure to the language and the degree of student effort. All world language courses include intense practice in listening, pronunciation as it affects meaning, vocabulary development, accurate use of linguistic structures and forms and exercises in reading and writing.



American Sign Language



Spanish I

American Sign Language

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

American Sign Language (ASL) provides students with the opportunity to learn a visual and expressive language used by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. Through immersive learning, students will acquire basic ASL skills, including vocabulary, grammar and syntax, as well as cultural insights into the Deaf community. The course emphasizes both receptive and expressive signing, fostering communication, cultural awareness and empathy. By the end of the course, students will be able to engage in everyday conversations and appreciate the rich history and contributions of Deaf culture. This course promotes inclusivity and supports students interested in careers in education, healthcare, social services and other fields requiring effective communication across diverse communities.

Spanish I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

Introduction to the target language includes phonology of the language, basic structure necessary for common conversation and basic vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on comprehension of authentic speech and speaking in an everyday conversational setting. Reading of authentic public announcements and messages, writing of simple sentences pertaining to personal needs and short messages are included. An introduction to culture and customs is integral in this course.