



HIGH SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE

2017-2018

Executive Director: Susan W. Pullium

Principal: Sharon Johnson

Assistant Principal: Amy Turnbaugh

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the Neuse Charter School Board of Directors and Administration, we are committed to our students being career and college ready as they begin their futures outside of high school. This course catalog was designed to assist with this. It provides course titles and descriptions as well as graduation requirements and a course planning guide to assist students in choosing the most appropriate courses to match their postsecondary plans. Please read the descriptions carefully and choose courses with the assistance of your school counselor.

Neuse Charter School Board of Directors

Tony Gupton- Chair

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About this Course Catalog

This course catalog is designed to help high school students and parents in selecting appropriate courses to meet Neuse Charter School's graduation requirements. Parents, guardians, and students should carefully study the registration catalog and review the course listings and graduation requirements. Discuss students' goals, interests, past grades, performance on standardized tests, personal habits, attitudes toward school, aptitude, responsibilities outside of school, and other factors which may have an impact on student success. Parents may want to contact the counseling department for individualized service.

The course catalog and graduation requirements change throughout the year and, while we try to ensure the catalog is as accurate as possible, some items may change after the catalog is printed. Please work with the student's guidance counselor in order to ensure that the students are following the most current policies. If any changes to graduation requirements, courses, prerequisites, testing, eligibility, etc., occur after the catalog is printed, school guidance counselors are available to help make students, parents, and guardians aware of the changes.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Neuse Charter School does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, or handicapping conditions when considering students for enrollment in its educational programs. Employees or students of Neuse Charter School who feel that they have been discriminated against because of their gender, race, age, or handicapping condition should contact:

Susan Pullium
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COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PREP Graduation Requirements

Meets the highest level of academic standards and fulfills the minimum course requirements for admission to UNC Institutions.

Course	Number of Credits
English English I, II, III, & IV	4
Mathematics Math I, Math II, Math III, and a higher-level math course	4
Science Biology Chemistry or Physics Earth/Environmental	3
Social Studies World History Civics and Economics American History I and II	4
Second Language Two credits in the same language	2
Healthful Living Education Health/PE	1
Electives	9
Total	27

All core courses can be at an Honors level except for Math I

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

COURSE LOAD

Our schedule is based on block scheduling. Students will take four courses (90 minutes each) first semester, completing these courses prior to our December break. Upon return from break, students will begin second semester with four new courses. Students have the potential to earn 8 credits per year.

Students are not allowed to take two required English courses concurrently. For example, you may not take English II and English III during the same semester. If there are extenuating circumstances, the Principal may be consulted for approval.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Except when approved by the principal, students are not allowed to drop a course after the first (10) ten days of school. If a student withdraws after the (10) ten-day period and an emergency situation does not exist, a failure (WF) is noted as the grade, and the course is counted as a course attempted with no quality points earned.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS

From Grade	Promotion Criteria	Credits
9 th to 10 th grade	Completed English I and 6 additional units, 4 which must be non-elective units.	6
10 th to 11 th grade	Completed English I and II and 13 additional units, 8 which must be non-elective units.	12
11 th to 12 th grade	Completed English I, English II and English III and 20 additional units, 12 which must be non-elective units.	20

A minimum of 1 English core class and 1 Math core class must be taken each school year.

****Only those seniors who will receive a diploma or certificate may appear in cap and gown and take part in the graduation exercise. ****

GRADING SCALE

In October 2014, the State Board agreed and approved a standard 10-point grading scale to begin with the 2015-16 school year. This scale will not include “pluses” or “minuses” and it will be applied for coursework beginning with the 2015-16 school year for students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. There will not be any attempt to retroactively alter grades from prior years.

Under the new scale grades and grade point average calculations will be applied as follows:

A: 90-100 = 4.0

B: 80-89 = 3.0

C: 70-79 = 2.0

D: 60-69 = 1.0

F: < 59 = 0.0

Students in 9th, 10th & 11th Grade -Year 2017-2108 Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Range	Quality Points	QP Honors Level	QP AP & CC Level
A	90-100	4.0	4.5	5.0
B	80-89	3.0	3.5	4.0
C	70-79	2.0	2.5	3.0
D	60-69	1.0	1.5	2.0
F	<60	0.0	0.0	0.0

Students in 12th Grade- Year 2017-2018 Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Range	Quality Points	QP Honors & CC Level	QP AP Level
A	90-100	4.0	5.0	6.0
B	80-89	3.0	4.0	5.0
C	70-79	2.0	3.0	4.0
D	60-69	1.0	2.0	3.0
F	<60	0.0	0.0	0.0

MANDATED STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

If students miss more than 10 days in a single semester course, the student will receive an F, indicating they passed the course academically but based on absences they will not receive credit.

GRADING PERIODS/INTERIMS/REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued every nine weeks. Interim reports are issued at the midpoint of each 9-week quarter. Parents are encouraged to check PowerSchool for online grades.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Grade point averages are calculated and rounded off to four decimal places. Class rank is based on that four-decimal place of the weighted grade point average. Please note the following concerning graduating with Honors:

Honor Graduates – Seniors with a weighted cumulative grade point average of a 3.5 or above as a result of the last reporting period.

Honors vs. AP Courses

Honors Courses – there is a distinction applied to certain classes to distinguish them from regular (or academic) course offering. The difference between a regular class (such as English 1) and the Honors class (English 1 Honors) is not necessarily the amount of work, but the type of work required and the pace of studying. Honors courses are enriched; therefore, they offer the same material in greater detail combined with a faster pace. Honors courses emphasize critical and independent thinking to produce creative application of ideas. Motivation is the main quality that characterizes an Honors student.

Advanced Placement Courses (AP) – is a curriculum sponsored by the United States College Board which offers standardized courses to high school students that are generally recognized to be equivalent to undergraduate courses in college. The keys to success are motivation, self-discipline, and academic preparation. AP classes are more challenging and stimulating. They take additional time and require more work. The content of AP courses is more sophisticated than that in typical high school Honors courses. Students should have previous practice in analyzing content, drawing comparisons, and reasoning. They must be able to read perceptively and independently. Additionally, students will need to be proficient in writing clear, concise essays. Students who are not skilled in these areas must be even more highly motivated to make up deficiencies at the same time they are taking more rigorous courses. The earlier students prepare for AP or college courses by taking the most rigorous classes available, the more likely they will experience success. The keys to success are maturity, motivation, self-discipline, and academic preparation. Teacher recommendation is considered when placing students in Advanced Placement courses.

Course Guidebook

English

Honors English 1- Grade 9- Core Class- 1 credit

Required of all Ninth-Grade Students.

This course introduces students to both literary and informational texts. Students are asked to demonstrate their understanding through discussion, analysis, presentations, and various forms of writing. After being introduced to techniques of close reading, students read more deeply and show their awareness of the writer's tools. Their writing demonstrates the use of evidence and organization that is essential to both private deliberation and responsible public discourse in a democratic republic. Students read six to eight works of various genres. This course also includes instruction on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary.

Honors English 2 -Grade 10-Core Class- 1 credit

This course focuses on understanding both literary and informational texts. Students are asked to demonstrate their understanding through discussion, research, presentations, and various forms of writing. Being introduced to techniques of close reading and analysis, they become familiar with the cogent reasoning, use of evidence, and effective organization that are essential to both private deliberation and responsible public discourse in a democratic republic. Students read six to eight works of international fiction and non-fiction. This course also includes instruction on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary.

Honors English 3-Grade 11-Core Class- 1 credit

This course focuses analysis of both literary and informational texts. Students are often asked to consider more than the text alone, synthesizing multiple pieces and substantiating their understanding through discussion, research, presentations, and various forms of writing. By learning to apply the techniques of close reading and analysis, they demonstrate the cogent reasoning, use of evidence, and effective rhetorical devices that is essential to both private deliberation and responsible public discourse in a democratic republic. Students read six to eight works of American fiction and non-fiction. This course reviews grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary as well as the beauty and scope of our American literary history.

Honors English 4-Grade 12- Core Class- 1 credit

Students actively engage with high-quality literary and informational texts to build knowledge and vocabulary, enlarge their experience, and broaden their worldviews. Students demonstrate their understanding of the texts through writing assignments that will most often focus on analysis, argument, or reflection. By applying the techniques of close reading and analysis, they demonstrate the cogent reasoning, use of evidence, and effective rhetorical devices that are essential to both private deliberation and responsible public discourse in a democratic republic.

Advanced Placement English - Language and Composition (AP)- Elective- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Completed English III Honors with a minimum of a 90.

This course focuses analysis of both literary and informational texts. Students are often asked to consider more than the text alone, synthesizing multiple pieces and substantiating their understanding through discussion, research, presentations, and various forms of writing. By learning to apply the techniques of close reading and analysis, they demonstrate the cogent reasoning, use of evidence, and effective rhetorical devices that is essential to both private deliberation and responsible public discourse in a democratic republic. Students read six to eight major works of American fiction and non-fiction as well as numerous short works. In addition to reviewing the topics included in our Honors English 3 course, students prepare for the AP English Literature and Composition exam and its focus on rhetorical analysis and argumentation.

Advanced Placement English - Literature and Composition (AP)- Elective- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Completed English III Honors with a minimum of 90.

AP English Literature and Composition is designed for highly academically advanced, highly motivated students who are capable of reading complex literary selections independently and analyzing them in terms of themes, character motivation, and cultural and philosophical contexts. Students come to terms with a variety of critical approaches to literature. Students read ten to twelve major works of literature (approximately twenty-five to thirty pages of reading pages per night) as well as poetry and short works. There is a rigorous reading load in fiction, drama, and poetry, criticism and literary theory. Assignments include close textual analyses of fiction, poetry, and drama. Timed writings analyze prose and poetic passages and treat literary concepts from the students' repertoire. Students study advanced composition skills, including lessons in grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary. This course is extremely reading- and writing-intensive. This course prepares students to take the AP Examination in English Literature and Composition in May.

Mythology- Elective - 1 credit

This course explores the concept of myth, why man has created myth, and the myths of various cultures such as Egyptian, Sumerian, Norse, Asian, Greek, and Roman.

Creative Writing- Elective- 10th or 11th grade- 1 credit

Creative writing is designed for students who are interested in writing original poetry, plays, essays, and short stories. Students will consider the elements of creativity, inspiration, form, and content in relation to the styles of representative authors. Self-criticism, group evaluation, contest entries, and publication of students' work are required activities. Projects may include the publication of a literary magazine.

Yearbook/Journalism- Year-long-Elective- 2 credits

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

In this course, students explore and practice design through the production of the school annual. Along with the yearbook, students produce various documents that involve the knowledge and application of fundamental graphic design elements and principles. Projects in this course will be both individual and collaborative. Students learn to set and manage production schedules. They learn and are expected to operate equipment such as digital cameras and software such as Adobe Photoshop and Adobe InDesign. Students can take this course for all four years of high school. NB: This elective does not satisfy a graduation requirement in English. Introduction to Journalism presents a survey of the history of American journalism and recent developments in the fields of video, newspaper, magazine, and yearbook production. Topics for consideration in the class include photojournalism, news writing, advertising, media law and ethics. This course, if offered, is suggested as a prerequisite for participation on newspaper, yearbook, and video production staffs.

Honors Round Table- Elective- 1 credit

Honors Round Table is designed for students who are interested in the discussion of ideas. Students will be required to do extensive research and independent study, produce essays at an advanced level and use analytical skills to determine personal, social, ethical and cultural implications of selected readings, films, and class discussions. The course will have a thematic approach encompassing several areas of study. Students will choose from a variety of literary works and other media. They will receive training and practice in public speaking. Guest speakers will be invited to speak on their areas of expertise. Field trips will be arranged whenever applicable and possible. Students will be required to produce at least two major independent projects as well as a number of speeches, essays, and seminars. In addition to the themes explored by the entire class, students will also set individual goals and themes to explore.

Math

Foundations of NC Math 1 - Elective Class-1 credit

Will be taken in fall before Spring Math 1.

The purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. In conjunction with Math I, this course deepens and extends understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential and quadratic phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. In addition to studying bivariate data, students also summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable. The Geometry standards that appear in this course formalize and extend students' geometric experiences to explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, require that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Does not fulfil NC Math 1 requirement.

North Carolina Math 1-Core Class- 1 credit

Year-long with FOM or Semester-long in Fall.

The purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. This course deepens and extends understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential and quadratic phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. In addition to studying bivariate data, students also summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable. The Geometry standards that appear in this course formalize and extend students' geometric experiences to explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, require that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. This course fulfills the North Carolina high school graduation requirement for Algebra I. The final exam is the North Carolina Math I End-of-Course Test.

North Carolina Math 2 - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math 1.

This course expands on the concepts learned in North Carolina Math 1 and focuses on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions, comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear and exponential functions from North Carolina Math 1. This course addresses Numbers and Quantity, Algebra, Geometry, Functions, and Statistics and Probability. The geometry topics solidify the knowledge of concepts already encountered, and basic trigonometry is introduced. Students need to be able to solve equations with one variable and to simplify algebraic expressions, and they broaden their use of the coordinate plane to include isometric transformations such as rotations, reflections, translations, and the

non-isometric dilation transformation. The exploration of data includes expanding on ideas of probability to make and evaluate decisions. Students are consistently taught how to solve problems without the aid of a calculator, but appropriate technology, including the TI-83+ or TI-84+ graphing calculator, will be used for instruction and assessment. Daily preparation for class is essential since topics continually build upon each other and connections between topics are continually examined. North Carolina Math courses must be taken sequentially.

Honors North Carolina Math 2 - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math 1.

For a complete description of topics, see North Carolina Math 2. This Honors course goes deeper and requires more of students than the standard course. North Carolina Math courses must be taken sequentially.

North Carolina Math 3 - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math 1 and Math 2.

Math 3 continues students' study of basic algebraic, geometric, and trigonometric concepts including functions, exponents, polynomials, graphing, rational expressions, and systems of equations. New concepts will be introduced in function composition, logarithms, polynomial division, complex numbers, geometric proof and constructions, trigonometric functions, and statistical measures. Much time is spent on quadratics, expanding on multiple methods of solving quadratic equations and inequalities, and the fundamental theorem of algebra. Practical applications are emphasized for all skills, especially those required to apply the concepts to solving problems. Students are consistently taught how to solve problems without the aid of a calculator, but are also trained in the use of a graphing calculator. Daily preparation for the class is essential since topics continually build upon each other and connections between topics are continually examined. North Carolina Math courses must be taken sequentially.

Honors North Carolina Math 3 - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math 1 and Math 2.

For a complete description of topics, see North Carolina Math 3. This Honors course goes deeper and requires more of students than the standard course. Students are expected to bring different skills together for advanced problem solving, to derive for themselves many of the formulas they use, and to generalize from specific formulas to broader applications. Daily preparation for the class is essential since topics continually build upon each other and connections between topics are continually examined.

Advanced Functions and Modeling - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math 1, 2, and 3.

Advanced Functions and Modeling is a standard course that provides students an in-depth study of modeling and applying functions in areas from consumer issues to public policy to scientific investigations. A variety of mathematical relationships including trigonometric

functions are introduced and explored with an emphasis on applications to real-life problems. The main goal of the course, however, is to enable students to understand trigonometry and functions in order to advance in further studies. The prerequisite expectation is that students will have a grasp of the topics learned in previous courses. The in-class expectation will be that students actively participate in the class discussions and have a desire to supplement their understanding of mathematics. This course is not an Honors (H) course. It does incorporate the study of advanced functions.

Honors Pre-Calculus - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Honors Math 2 and 3 or teacher recommendation.

Pre-Calculus supplements a thorough exploration of topics discussed in previous courses with an introduction to sequences series, data analysis, and calculus. The trigonometric relationships among sine, cosine, tangent, and the unit circle will also be introduced. The Law of Sines and the Law of Cosines are discussed within the contextual framework of real life applications. The crux of the course is in the study of the functions. Students will learn the application of functions to model behavior in addition to exploring the concepts of functional limits and derivative, which are essential to calculus. The prerequisite expectation is that students have a strong grasp of the topics discussed in previous courses. Furthermore, students should have a desire to explore advanced mathematical concepts and their applications in a variety of disciplines such as science or engineering. Students participate in class discussions and can help provide direction to solving complex problems.

Honors Discrete Mathematics - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math III.

Honors Discrete Mathematics introduces students to the mathematics of networks, social choice, and decision-making. The course extends students' application of matrix arithmetic and probability. Applications and modeling are central to this course of study. It is recommended for mathematically inclined students who can maintain standards within the rigor and challenge of the honors curriculum. The student's level of mastery of the concepts in this course determines future course selection of either AP Statistics or Pre-Calculus

AP Calculus AB - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: minimum of a C in Honors Pre-Calculus.

AP Calculus AB is an intensive review of functions including domains, ranges, and functional limits that will be expanded upon to introduce the concepts of a derivative and integral. The first derivative is related to measures of change such as the slope of linear equations and to functional maxima and minima. The relationship between functions describing movement and the first and second derivative are examined. The concept of an integral is then introduced, and applications are presented. This course is designed to provide a classical study of Calculus that will enable further study of multivariate Calculus or differential equations. The prerequisite expectations will be a thorough understanding of functions and limits and students must take the AP Calculus AB exam in May. Students should be prepared to actively participate and work consistently on a daily basis since much

of the material is theoretical.

AP Calculus BC (AP) - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB with a minimum of a C.

The topics of Advanced Placement Calculus AB are continued in this course with additional topics to prepare the student for the Calculus BC Examination, including a rigorous treatment of sequences and series. The curriculum is prescribed and paced by the College Board. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Calculus BC Examination.

Honors Statistics - Elective- 1 credit

This course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will observe patterns and departures from patterns, decide what and how to measure, produce models using probability and simulation, and confirm models. Does not meet the Advanced Math Graduation Requirement.

Advanced Placement Statistics - Elective- 1 credit

Prerequisite: A minimum of a C in Honors Math III or Honor Pre-Calculus or Advanced Function & Modeling.

AP Statistics is an excellent option for any student who has completed two years of algebra, regardless of the student's intended college major. At least one statistics course is typically required for majors such as engineering, psychology, sociology, health science, mathematics, and business. This course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will observe patterns and departures from patterns, decide what and how to measure, produce models using probability and simulation, and confirm models. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Statistics Examination.

Personal Finance-Prerequisite: Math I- Elective- 1 credit

This course prepares students to understand economic activities and challenges of individuals and families, the role of lifestyle goals in education and career choices, procedures in a successful job search, financial forms used in independent living, and shopping options and practices for meeting consumer needs. The course also prepares students to understand consumer rights, responsibilities and information, protect personal and family resources, and apply procedures for managing personal finances. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced in this course.

Social Studies

Honors World History- Core Class - 1 credit

Required of all Ninth-Grade Students.

This course is a survey of world history from early civilizations to the present. The course focuses on comparative history across time and across the world. Students learn both the history of world cultures and civilizations and the skills necessary to be a successful history student throughout high school and college. Students develop the reading comprehension skills needed to understand historical documents. Throughout the year, students read the same sources professional historians read and learn to analyze material based on audience, context, and message. Students develop research skills such as note taking, outlining, and footnoting and participate in a museum project. Particular attention is given to developing one's writing skills in essays throughout the year.

Honors Civics and Economics - Core Class - 1 credit

Prerequisite: World History.

This course is a study of the economic, legal, and political systems of the United States. More specifically, students learn about the roots of the American democratic system, the founding documents, the structure of local, state, and national government, and economics. The curriculum connects to current events and interactions with state and local governmental leaders. Students develop strong reading and writing skills and work regularly with primary source materials like Supreme Court cases.

Honors Senior Seminar Course Description- Required Elective- 1 credit

Senior Seminar is a comprehensive course for all 12th grade students at NCS. The course focus is on postsecondary education. Students will explore and thoroughly plan and prepare for life after high school. Planning and applying to colleges will be the primary goal of the course. Students will participate in every phase of college preparation and planning/researching. They will write personal statements, submit applications, fill out financial aid forms, apply for scholarships and explore career options. During the course, students will also work on developing life skills with units and activities regarding campus life, college issues, and financial education.

Honors Johnston County History- Elective- 1 credit

The study of local history and its impact on our present lives. The course will examine everything from the earliest inhabitants to the 21st Century. The class will endeavor to answer the question: Why we are, the way we are? The answer to this question will be found in the study of local politics, industry, agriculture, economy, education, and social customs. The class will use a wide array of original documents and artifacts to help students understand the history of the county they live in.

Honors American History I & II –Core Classes- 2 credits- Year Long

Prerequisite: World History, Civics/Economics.

This course surveys United States history from European exploration through the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War. Students study the political, economic, and social history of early America and trace the intellectual roots of modern America. There is a strong focus on reading and interpreting primary-source material as well as evaluating and discussing historical debates. Students are expected to prepare for class discussion each day. In addition, students are asked to engage in independent research. In order to meet graduation requirements, these courses must be completed in sequential order.

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics (AP) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Honors Civics with a minimum grade of 85.

This course gives students perspective on the theory of how the government and politics work in the United States and how they work in reality. Students use current news to see examples of how and why our political system works as it does. In election years, students follow the hoopla and excitement of the campaign. Some of the questions we will discuss include why the Founders established the type of government they did? What does it mean to be a liberal or conservative? Why do people vote the way they do? Is there bias in the media? What are successful and unsuccessful campaign strategies that candidates have used? How do political parties, interest groups, and the media influence our politics? What powers do our national institutions such as Congress, the presidency, bureaucracy, and federal courts have and why do they function the way they do? We will discuss influential Supreme Court decisions to understand the evolution of our civil rights and liberties. The class involves extensive discussion, debates, congressional simulations, and analysis of campaign ads. This course prepares students to take the AP exam in US Government and Politics in May. Students will be expected to do summer reading and work over the breaks.

Advanced Placement European History (AP) – Elective - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Honors World History with minimum of a 90. May be taught alternate years. AP exam is required.

The study of European history since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. Without this knowledge, we would lack the context for understanding the development of contemporary institutions, the role of continuity and change in present-day society and politics, and the evolution of current forms of artistic expression and intellectual discourse.

Advanced Placement United States History (AP) - Elective- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Turning Point in Fall. Honors Civics with a minimum of a 90. May be taught alternative years. AP exam is required.

This course is an in-depth survey of the political, economic, and social history of the United States from pre-colonial times to the present. There is a strong focus on reading and interpreting primary source material as well as evaluating and discussing historical debates

and completing independent research. Students will be expected to do summer reading and work over the breaks. Students read challenging material each night. They also complete periodic writing assignments in addition to a major (10-15 pages) research project. In addition, students will be expected to learn and retain a large amount of factual information. Students should have a strong interest in history and be prepared to devote considerable time and energy to this class. This course prepares students to take the AP exam in US History in May. Students who take AP US History must also take a History or Social Science elective in order to meet graduation requirement.

Honors America at War - Elective- 1 credit

America at War will allow students the opportunity to examine America's military history beginning with the Native American wars of the early 17th century through the major wars and conflicts of the 21st century. Students will analyze the evolution and development of US military strategy. They will assess major technological advances in America's weapons and communications. Students will also examine the social, political, and economic effects of war on the country.

Honors Model UN - Elective- 1 credit

Model UN will function as an international model of UN simulation. In this course, students will learn rules and procedures of the UN and be able to function as a participant in those processes. Students will engage in active research on various key international issues and learn various points of view regarding those issues. Students will also be able to speak persuasively and fluently about the variety of international topics researched in class. Students will develop an understanding of international politics and foreign policies along with critical analysis, public speaking, diplomacy, teamwork and interpersonal relations, and leadership.

Honors Turning Points in American History - Elective- 1 credit

Most be taken in conjunction with AP US History. (See AP US History Prerequisites.)

This course is offered the first semester as the prerequisite to AP US History in the spring. The honors course in United States History provides the opportunity for advanced work, rigorous academic study, and the practical application of the major ideas and concepts found in the study of American history. The course is challenging and requires students to take greater responsibility for their learning by participating in problem-seeking and problem-solving, scholarly and creative processes, critical analysis and application, reflective thinking, and the expression and defense of ideas generated through the study of the content. Honors Turning Points in American History follows the same course of study as the corresponding Honors United States History course however, the material is taught with greater complexity, novelty, acceleration, and reflects a differentiated curriculum. Honors Turning Points in American History is distinguished by a difference in the quality of the work expected, not merely an increase in quantity.

Science

Honors Biology - Core Class- 1 credit

Required of all Ninth-Grade Students.

This Honors course follows the NC Essential Standards and prepares freshmen for the study of future advanced sciences. Themes covered include chemical basis of life, metabolism of cells, genetic continuity, homeostasis in plants and animals, and the evolution and ecology of populations. This class emphasizes “hands-on” learning and is suited for students who perform best with opportunities for practice along with the honors level thinking. Laboratory skills are emphasized as a major portion of the class. Students take an End-of- Course test in this course.

Advanced Placement Biology (AP) - Elective Class - 1 credit

Prerequisites: Honors Biology and Permission of the instructor. Honors Chemistry strongly recommended.

AP Biology is a college-level course designed to challenge students to extend their knowledge of biological theories and processes beyond the level of an introductory science course. Students explore various themes through an in-depth analysis of the following biological topics: science as a process, evolution, energy-transfer, continuity and change, relationship of form to function, regulation, the interdependence of nature and the relationship between science, technology, and society. The class involves lectures, lab experiments, student-led discussions, quizzes, and tests. Students are expected to do extensive careful reading in this course. The course also requires students to work on statistics, writing skills, and making connections between units of study. The course will prepare students to take the AP Biology exam in May.

Honors Chemistry - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math II (may be taken in conjunction with the course).

This course is designed so that students will develop an understanding of the concepts and principles of chemistry in depth and at a rapid pace. Students do extensive research, independent study, and laboratory investigations. The curriculum includes inquiry into the following content areas: atomic structure, the structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, conservation of energy and matter, and the interaction of energy and matter.

Honors Physics - Core Class- 1 credit

Prerequisites: Honors Chemistry & Honors Math II with a minimum of a B.

This introductory Physics course is divided into two sections. Mechanics is based on Newton’s laws of motion. Students learn to draw force diagrams, calculate the resultant force on an object, and predict the object’s motion using kinematic equations of constant acceleration in one and two dimensions. This semester includes an introduction to rotational and simple harmonic motion. Electromagnetism introduces the electric and magnetic forces and the optics of electromagnetic waves. All topics are taught with a mix of theoretical work and

practical laboratory work, in which the students demonstrate results for themselves. Some math will be taught (particularly vectors), but the emphasis is on developing physical intuition, and on using the math that students already know to solve physical problems.

Advanced Placement Environmental Science (AP) - Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisites: Honors Biology with a minimum of a B.

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. This rigorous science course emphasizes a strong understanding of biological, chemical, and geological processes. In addition, the course draws from many other disciplines, including economics, geography, history and politics, to encourage a strong understanding of the interactions between human actions and natural processes. The class provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. A combination of labs, discussion, projects and analysis is critical in understanding the topics at this level. Students have homework each night, including intensive reading assignments. The course will prepare students to take the AP Environmental Science exam in May.

Advanced Placement Psychology (AP) - Elective Class-1 credit

This is a college-level course designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Through reading, discussion, experimentation, and projects, students will examine research methods for exploring human behavior from theoretical and biological perspectives. Themes covered include learning, perception, cognition, testing, psychological disorders and treatments, personality, and development. The course will prepare students to take the AP Psychology exam in May.

Honors Forensics - Elective Class-1 credit

Prerequisite - Honors Biology.

This honors level course will introduce various methodologies and applications used in the forensic context. Topics discussed include analyses of crime scenes, physical evidence, principles of serology and DNA analysis, ballistics, fingerprint analysis, drug analysis, human remains and document examination. This course is taught with many hands-on as well as theoretical labs. Some math concepts are applied throughout many of the units.

Honors Anatomy and Physiology - Elective Class-1 credit

Prerequisite - Honors Biology required. Honors Chemistry strongly recommended.

This course is designed for the student with a strong background and interest in biology. A detailed study of the human body, including gross structure of the body and physiology, provides the framework of the course. Students are provided more extensive laboratory experiences and independent research than students enrolled in Anatomy and Physiology.

Honors Marine and Astronomical Science - Elective Class-1 credit

This course is designed for the student with a strong interest in the Marine and Astronomical Sciences. The importance of the marine environment to life on Earth is stressed. The underlying principles of historical and observational astronomy are also some of the major topics of study in the course.

Honors Chemistry II - Elective Class-1 credit

Prerequisite: Honors Chemistry with a minimum of a B.

This course will explore those concepts covered in your first chemistry course in more depth, especially the concepts of thermodynamics and equilibrium. It is designed to prepare students for their first college chemistry course, including key lab skills used in the college laboratory setting. This course is also recommended for those students taking either the SAT II: Chemistry Test and/or AP Chemistry.

Health & P.E.

Health & PE- Core Class- 1 credit

Health/PE is a combination of health and physical education. It is a course designed for the teaching and learning of behaviors that contribute to a healthful lifestyle and improved quality of life for high school students. Research continues to show that healthy, active, fit children are better students academically. Students develop the knowledge and skills that empower them to identify and manage health behaviors related to mental health: nutrition/weight management; infectious/chronic diseases; substance abuse; and reproductive health, to name a few. The physical education component stresses personal fitness, dance skills, and team sport activities. This course is a graduation requirement in North Carolina.

Life Time Sports- Elective Class- 1 credit

A life time sport is one that you can enjoy for an entire lifetime! These sports include golf, tennis, bowling, running, badminton, horse shoes, Frisbee, and cycling. They are typically not impact sports and if you start playing at a young age, you will likely be able to continue until you are collecting social security.

Advanced P.E.- Elective Class- 1 credit

Completed and passed Health & PE.

This course is designed to improve the overall physical fitness and strength of participants. It will encompass plyometric, flexibility, toning, and possibly some weight training. Daily participation is mandatory and this course can only be taken one time per year. It is a physically demanding class focusing on improving athletic performance.

Weightlifting - Elective Class- Yearlong- 1 credit

This class is designed to help improve an individual's muscular strength and muscular endurance. It is designed to use weightlifting to develop a positive mental and physical self-esteem. The focus will be on building muscle, safety, and proper technique. If students do not have proper mechanics or do not adhere to safety rules then they will be removed from the class. There will be some flexibility and agility training, but the main focus will be muscular strength training. The students will use mostly free weight equipment with some machine work. A rep log and testing will be used to track improvement throughout the semester.

Sports Medicine I- Elective Class- 1 credit

This class is designed to educate students interested in fields such as athletic training, physical therapy, medicine, fitness, physiology of exercise, kinesiology, nutrition and other sports medicine fields. The main focus of this class is to introduce students to the science of human anatomy and physiology, various injuries to the body, and ways to care for these injuries.

World Languages

Spanish I- Elective Class- 1 credit

In this course, students will actively participate in the four areas of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing, with an emphasis on oral communication. The basic functions covered will be formulating questions, both positive and negative responses, giving and receiving directions, communicating in the simple past, present, and future, and indicating needs and desires. Through individual and cooperative learning activities students practice specific topics such as talking about people. Describing everyday items, reading maps and other common daily activities. Students will also learn about the Hispanic world and its varied cultures, particularly as underscored by the language via formal and informal address, concepts of family and nationality, and gesture.

Spanish II-Elective Class-1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I.

In this course, students will build on their knowledge gained in Spanish I, while actively participating in the four areas of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on oral communication. Functions expand to include the progressive tenses, multiple grammar tenses, telling time, giving orders, discussing feelings, making comparisons and referring to habitual actions in the past. Through individual and cooperative learning activities students will cover specific topics such as, travel settings including hotel and marketplace, talking about health, and describing daily routines and weekend plans. Cultural awareness is expanded with a more specific study of the Spanish speaking world. Students will be required to engage in more challenging discussions in Spanish and English as they use critical thinking skills to restate and assess both written texts and recorded passage.

Honors Spanish III- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I & Spanish II.

Only students who have performed successfully in Spanish II should proceed to Honors Spanish III. This course includes review of Spanish II material, but a basic mastery of level II grammar and vocabulary is assumed. Extensive new vocabulary is acquired, and students are expected to participate in class activities designed to build skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening on a more sophisticated level than in previous courses. Grammatical concepts not covered in levels I and II are introduced. Reading and writing skills are stressed in the second semester as a preparation for Honors Spanish IV.

Honors Spanish IV- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Honors Spanish III.

Spanish IV is the advanced application of skills learned in Spanish I, II, and III. A firm grasp of grammatical concepts and an ample vocabulary are assumed. The development of reading skills is an important component of this course as history and literature of Spain and Latin America are studied in depth. Culture and current events are also studied.

Fine Arts

Band- Beginning- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: 3 years playing experience or permission of instructor.

This course further develops the musical concepts, knowledge, and skills learned in middle school band. Students will also perform more advanced musical literature. Students must place into this level of band by performing at an appropriate level of musical understanding and technique as determined by the band director. Public performances are required.

Band- Intermediate- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: 4 years playing experience or permission of instructor.

This course expands on the musical concepts, knowledge, and skills learned in beginning band. Students will also perform more advanced musical literature. Students must place into this level of band by performing at an appropriate level of musical understanding and technique as determined by the band director. Public performances are required.

Band- Advanced- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: 5 or more years playing experience or permission of instructor.

This course explores advanced musical concepts and ideas. Students will also perform more advanced musical literature. Students must place into this level of band by performing at an appropriate level of musical understanding and technique as determined by the band director. Public performances are required.

Visual Arts Beginning- Elective Class- 1 credit

In this introductory course for the high school art program, students explore a wide variety of art media including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed media. Students examine art and aesthetics from a multi-cultural perspective and learn how to critique their own art. Students will also learn about artists and their influence on culture and each other.

Visual Arts Intermediate- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Visual Arts Beginning or permission of the instructor.

In this course, students extend their visual literacy, engage in communication through art, and refine their art skills. Students explore more advanced techniques and begin to investigate historical artistic movements.

Honors Visual Arts Proficient- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Visual Arts Intermediate or permission of the instructor.

Students engage in advanced study of art processes, aesthetic issues, and art criticism. They

express concepts and communicate ideas using advanced approaches in various media. Each student develops an individual style and becomes familiar with art schools and art careers. Students also read and discuss a wide variety of current art topics.

Honors Visual Arts Advanced- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Visual Arts Proficient or permission of the instructor.

Students engage in advanced study of art processes, aesthetic issues, art criticism, and art history while maintaining the attitude and self-discipline of a working artist. Students exhibit technical proficiency and personal style while working in art media. They learn how to exhibit their own art, as well as the work of others. A culminating portfolio showing evidence of quality, concentration, and breadth of work produced throughout their high school program is required.

Theatre Arts Beginning- Elective Class- 1 credit

This class offers a general overview of world theatre, introduces elementary concepts, methods, theatrical terminology, discipline, and explores the creative process. Students study the origins of modern drama, and develop basic skills in all areas of theatre. A primary goal of this course is the definition and articulation of “personal aesthetic,” through the student’s own experiences, interests, values, and career objectives. Students are given the opportunity to stretch their imagination, focus creative energy, work alone and in groups to tell stories, and bring characters to life.

Theatre Arts Intermediate- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts Beginning or permission of the instructor.

Theatre Arts II continues the study of acting process theory and application. Particular emphasis is given to character development and text analysis. Students engage in an advanced exploration of theatre history and related styles of acting and design with an emphasis on analysis, research and technical skills. Students demonstrate knowledge, sensitivity, flexibility, and intuition in functioning as a member of an ensemble.

Honors Theatre Proficient- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts Intermediate or permission of the instructor.

This course is a rigorous exploration of theatre history and related styles of acting, directing and design. Activities may include the creation of original performance material, the study of period/style acting, reader’s theatre, and in-depth study of classic American plays from the 20th century and a directing/design project.

Business & Technology

Computer Science Principles- Elective Class- 1 credit

Computer Science Principles is a rigorous, introductory honors-level course intended to familiarize students with the general concepts and thinking practices of computing, computer science, and information science. Students will learn computing concepts through authentic visual and interactive projects using the BYOB/SNAP, GameMaker and AppInventor visual programming languages. Students will focus on the "big CS ideas" in creative ways that emphasize conceptual knowledge and thinking practices rather than on programming alone. The big ideas in CSP include computing as a creative activity, abstraction, facilitating knowledge creation through computing, algorithms, problem-solving, the Internet, and the global impact of computing. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, communication, creativity, and exploring the impacts of computing on how we think, communicate, work, and play.

AP Computer Science Principles- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: CPE.

This is a college-level introductory course in computer science. Because the design and implementation of computer programs to solve problems involve skills that are fundamental to the study of computer science, a large part of the course is built around the development of computer programs that correctly solve a given problem. These programs should be understandable, adaptable, and when appropriate, reusable. At the same time, the design and implementation of computer programs is used as a context for introducing other important aspects of computer science, including the development and analysis of algorithms, the development and use of fundamental data structures, the study of standard algorithms and typical applications, and the use of logic and formal methods. In addition, the responsible use of these systems is an integral part of the course. The course is designed to be the equivalent of a first-semester college course in computer science.

Computer Engineering Technology I- Elective Class- 1 credit

This course includes the hardware skills required for installing and maintaining computers. It includes objectives in the following five domains, a) PC Hardware, b) Networking c) Laptops, d) Printers, and e) Operational Procedures.

Computer Engineering Technology II- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: CET I.

This course includes the software skills required for installing and maintaining computers. It includes the following four domains, a) Operating Systems, b) Security, c) Mobile Devices, and d) Troubleshooting.

Honors Computer Programming I- Elective Class- 1 credit

This honors level course is designed to introduce the concepts of programming, application development, and writing software solutions in the Visual Studio environment. Emphasis is placed on the software development process, principles of user interface design, and the writing of a complete Visual Basic program including obtaining and validating user input, logical decision making and processing, graphics, and useful output.

Honors Computer Programming II- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: CP I

This honors level course is designed to teach students advanced programming concepts, including class structures, multimedia programming, advanced arrays, and file structures. Students will apply course concepts through the development of XNA Game Studio computer games.

Microsoft Word and PowerPoint- Elective Class- 1 credit

Students in Microsoft IT Academies benefit from world-class Microsoft curriculum and software tools to tackle real-world challenges in the classroom environment. In the first part, students will learn to use the newest version of Microsoft Word interface, commands, and features to create, enhance, customize, share and create complex documents, and publish them. In the second part, students will learn to use the newest version of Microsoft PowerPoint interface, commands, and features to create, enhance, customize, and deliver presentations. English language arts are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include cooperative education, internship, service learning, and job shadowing. Apprenticeship is not available for this course.

Personal Finance- Elective Class- 1 credit

This course prepares students to understand economic activities and challenges of individuals and families, the role of lifestyle goals in education and career choices, procedures in a successful job search, financial forms used in independent living, and shopping options and practices for meeting consumer needs. The course also prepares students to understand consumer rights, responsibilities, and information, protect personal and family resources, and apply procedures for managing personal finances. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include mentorship, school-based enterprise, service learning, and job shadowing. Apprenticeship and cooperative education are not available for this course.

Honors Teacher Cadet I- Elective Class- 1 credit

The NC Teacher Cadet Program is an innovative activity-based curriculum for high school juniors and seniors. The course is designed to promote a better understanding and create interest in those students who are considering teaching as a profession. The program details many components of the education environment and involves students in content, application, observations and teaching. Students learn through research, reading current articles and books, attend seminars, create visual projects, and videos. Students will plan, teach and grade students in the elementary and middle school classrooms. Students need to apply for the class.

Honors Teacher Cadet II- Elective Class- 1 credit

Prerequisite: Honors Teacher Cadet I and teacher recommendation.

This course is a continuation of Teacher Cadet I.

NCS Internship Program- Year Long Elective Class- Seniors only- 2 credits

Seniors must have completed all required course work and have own transportation. Internship will be unpaid; however, students who find paid employment may use that as credit towards the internship program.

Students will experience practical, hands-on, real world learning in both class and a professional workplace to ensure success in both college and career. The course will consist of a Fall semester of Internship Training and a Spring semester in which the students will go out into the community for the internship experience.

Fall Semester- Internship Prep and Training

Students will participate in a 5 day a week class to help them prepare for both college and career. Students will learn workplace professionalism, communication skills, workplace ethics, time management, teamwork, resume development, interviewing techniques, workplace etiquette, financial skills (such as check book balancing and credit cards) and budgeting. Students along with the direction of the Internship Training Coordinator will start the search for a Spring Internship with a local business, government agency, or non-profit.

Spring Semester- Internship Practicum

Students will attend school as normal in the morning and leave after lunch to work in their various Internships. Two days a week the students will meet with the Internship Coordinator to reflect on their experience. Students will be responsible for maintaining a weekly journal of what they are learning from the experience. Internship providers will also be presented a weekly form to fill out as a way to monitor student performance. As a final, the student will present an end of year presentation about the experience.