

# Parent/Student Handbook

## IvyTech Charter School

**6591 Collins Dr, Suite E-4**

**Moorpark, CA 93021**

**[www.ivytechcs.org](http://www.ivytechcs.org)**

**(805) 222-5188**

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## Message to Students and Parents

### *Welcome Message from the Principal*

Welcome to IvyTech Charter School, a blended model program for Independent Study. I hope the time you spend with us is positive, challenging, successful, and provides you with an educational experience that inspires you to keep learning for a lifetime.

This handbook is intended to introduce you to our school. Read it thoroughly and keep in mind that the staff is available to answer any questions you may have about IvyTech.

The unique nature of IvyTech is highlighted in the myriad of ways we are available to you. We offer many different modes of communication: On-site classes, Go To Meetings (Virtual), and, of course, the telephone to enhance your learning experience. As with any school the majority of the responsibility for learning falls on the shoulders of the students. Developing good work and study habits, as well as planning out your daily schedule from the beginning, attending ALL classes offered, will add to your success. Blended Learning is not an easy learning strategy for many students, but is one that allows flexibility and individuality of instruction for students that need a different approach for a variety of reasons. It is very important that students stay in communication with their teachers and counselor and keep up with course assignments.

Our ultimate goal at IvyTech Charter is to provide a full program that will promote achievement for all our students, middle and high school. For our high school students, we would like to help you achieve a high school diploma and prepare you for your chosen path: attending a higher learning institution or entering the work force. The 21<sup>st</sup> century skills you acquire at IvyTech will assist you towards leading a productive, successful adult life.

We are hopeful that your involvement with IvyTech will be positive and productive in an educational environment that contributes to your success and the success of others.

Jacqueline Gardner  
Principal

#### **Faculty**

Adreanna Diaz	Counselor/Teacher
Geoff Frankl	Administrative Designee/IT Manager/Teacher
Rebecca Jacobs	Teacher
Dana Scheumaker	Teacher

#### **Support Staff**

Diana Conner	Office Manager/Registrar
Steven Collazo	Academic Advisor/Digital Music/Guitar
Amber Marovitz	Academic Advisor/Art
Bonnie Cox	Special Education Coordinator

## About Us

### ***Introduction***

Our blended curriculum model integrates online curriculums rich in the use of 21st century technology tools - such as virtual whiteboards and online discussion forums - with onsite learning - which includes live classes, individual tutoring opportunities and small group collaboration. IvyTech Charter is staffed with 4 core full-time instructors and part-time elective instructors who offer live sessions of classes and ongoing individual support. As a result, IvyTech Charter School is uniquely positioned to serve students in a spectrum of grades and across a broad range of abilities.

At the core of IvyTech's rigorous curriculum are selected elements of recognized publishers of state adopted textbooks including Glencoe, McGraw-Hill, Pearson, and Aurora Learning. IvyTech has aligned these elements with the CCSS and has then built upon them with both proprietary interactive content and selected supplemental material to assure complete coverage. Our coursework includes text, animation, video and audio, educational games, and other engaging content, along with built-in assessments at both the unit and course levels. These assessments can be utilized to measure student mastery of common core standards and determine whether students requires remedial assistance, modifications, or one-on-one services to succeed.

IvyTech's unique Personalized Learning facilitates the effective delivery of instruction via an optimal combination of student connection, parent participation, and staff guidance. The Advisory program facilitates enriching in-person community activities to round out the comprehensive learning experience. The ultimate focus of the "Personalized Learning" IvyTech's instructional model is student achievement. Students will master the core subjects of reading/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies through a challenging curriculum that meets CCSS and will be prepared to excel on the California state assessments. Students will also be given opportunities for enrichment in Visual and Performing Arts, Physical Education, and a variety of other elective subjects.

### ***Vision Statement and Student Learning Outcomes***

IvyTech Charter School will educate its students to have the knowledge, character, and critical skills necessary to explore and contribute to the world in positive ways. Through effective communication and inspired collaboration, IvyTech students will graduate with purpose. They will go on to cultivate action in the world that sparks both creative investigation and innovation, thereby becoming both global learners and leaders of the 21st century.

The School wide Learning Outcomes of IvyTech Charter:

- **Innovative Learners**
  - Who are inspired, self-directed and resilient
  - Who are able to read critically, write clearly and engage creatively
- **Twenty-first Century Leaders**
  - Who can effectively navigate 21st century information systems to investigate a variety of issues
  - Who can communicate & collaborate with others both locally and globally to solve meaningful, relevant problems



## Procedures Section

### *Admissions*

Registration is a Two-Step process (Summer process below).

**Step 1:** Fill-out the registration either found on our website ([www.ivytechcs.org](http://www.ivytechcs.org)) or pick up a form in our front office. **PLEASE NOTE:** Students already enrolled in another school, DO NOT withdrawal until we have completed the registration review process and have contacted you with you orientation date with IvyTech. Your orientation will be your first day of attendance with us; at that time you MUST be withdrawn from your previous school and provide an unofficial transcript with withdrawal date printed on it.

**Step 2:** Once we receive your registration, we will call you to schedule and appointment for admission.

Orientation:

1. Parent or legal guardian for students under the age of 18 years must be present with student to sign the Master Agreement.
2. All students in grades 7-12 may be required to take a reading and math test for placement.
3. Bring an “Unofficial” transcript and current check out grades from your previous school.

### **SUMMER REGISTRATION:**

1. Fill out the “Summer Registration” form found on our website ([www.ivytechcs.org](http://www.ivytechcs.org)) or pick up a form in our front office.
2. Fax, email or bring filled-out form into the office. All students and their parents will need to sign a Master Agreement prior to the start day of classes, July 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. An email will be sent to the email address provided on the registration form (Only 1 email) the last week of June. This email will provide information in regards to Username and Login as well as to how to use our system. Our summer hours are 9am – 12 Noon. We are available to help outside those hours by email, however there may be up to 24 hour response time after hours.

## ***Academics***

### ***Graduation Requirements***

#### **STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE 230 CREDITS IN THE FOLLOW AREAS:**

<b>ENGLISH</b> -----	40 CREDITS (8 Classes)
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> -----	30 CREDITS (6 Classes)
Grade 10 – World History	
Grade 11 – US History	
Grade 12 – American Government & Economics	
<b>SCIENCE (Physical/Life)</b> -----	20 CREDITS (4 Classes)
<b>MATHEMATICS</b> -----	30 CREDITS (4 Classes)
All students must pass Algebra 1 Sequence	
<b>HEALTH</b> -----	5 CREDITS (1 Class)
<b>FINE ARTS</b> -----	10 CREDITS (2 Classes)
(or one year Foreign Language plus one semester Fine Art).	
<b>DIGITAL LITERACY</b> -----	10 CREDITS (2 Classes)
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> -----	20 CREDITS (4 Classes)
Grade 9 Two (2) semesters of P.E.	
Grade 10-12 Two (2) semesters of P.E.	
<b>ADDITIONAL CLASSES</b> -----	65 CREDITS
Duplicate courses in classes excluding P.E. may not be given double credit	

**CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM TEST REQUIREMENTS:** Students must pass both Language Arts and Math Exit Exams in order to receive a diploma

### ***Grading Policy and Scale***

Five credits are awarded for each semester course completed successfully with a grade A, B, C or D. The related credits earned are applied towards IvyTech Charter graduation requirements in accordance with each course’s “Required” or “Elective” credit designation. Once an academic requirement has been met, any excess credits may be applied towards Elective requirement.

#### **Repeat Policy**

Students may repeat a class to improve their GPA only if the original grade was a D or F. To be accepted by the UC system, students may repeat the course only once.

**No Mark (NM)** This grade may only be issued on a report card when a student was enrolled in the course for less than 15 days prior to the end of the grading period. Teachers must use a letter grade or an “I” incomplete in all other circumstances.

**Incomplete (I)** This grade may be given when a student is unable to complete coursework or take final exams due to extenuating circumstances. Students will have until the next official grading period (Quarter) to make up the missing work. Otherwise, the “I” incomplete will turn to a “F” fail.

**Variable Credit** – IvyTech Charter will issue variable credits for semester grading period. IvyTech will also accept variable credits from transfer students when listed on an official transcript or quarter report card from an accredited school.

**Weighted Grades** – 2014-2015 IvyTech does not offer Advance Placement or Honor course to issue weighted grades.

### **Grading Scale**

100-98%	A+
97-94%	
93-90%	A-
89-87%	B+
86-84%	B
83-80%	B-
79-77%	C+
76-74%	C
73-70%	C-
69-67%	D+
66-64%	D
63-60%	D-
59-0%	F

### ***Academic Integrity Policy***

IvyTech Charter School expects all students to abide by ethical academic standards. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating or copying the work of another, using technology for illicit purposes, or any unauthorized communication between students for the purpose of gaining advantage during an examination—is strictly prohibited. IvyTech Charter’s Academic Integrity Policy covers all school-related tests, quizzes, reports, class assignments, and projects, both in and out of class. The purpose of IvyTech Charter’s Academic Integrity Policy is to prepare students for the reality created by the technology explosion, for the world of college and beyond, where cheating and plagiarism have dire consequences.

Plagiarism is not the same as cooperation or collaboration. Teachers often expect, ever encourage, students to work on assignments collectively. This is okay, as long as whose work being presented is clearly relayed.

- **Collaboration** is to work together (with permission) in a joint intellectual effort.
- **Plagiarism** is to commit literary theft; to steal and pass off as one’s own ideas or words, and to create the production of another. When you use someone else’s words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the writer or speaker credit by citing the source. Even if you revise or paraphrase the words of someone else, if you use someone else’s ideas you must give the author credit. Some Internet users believe that anything available on-line is



public domain. Such is not the case. Ideas belong to those who create and articulate them. To use someone else's words or ideas without giving credit to the originator is stealing.

- **Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, copying or giving an assignment to a student to be copied (unless explicitly permitted by the teacher). Cheating also includes using, supplying, or communicating in any way unauthorized materials, including textbooks, notes, calculators, computers or other unauthorized technology, during an exam or project.
- **Forgery or stealing** includes, but is not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to exams or answers to an exam, altering computer or grade-book records, or forging signatures for the purpose of academic advantage.

The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on specific evidence provided by the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from others.

Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary as well as academic penalties, as outlined below.

<b>Range of Possible Consequences</b>		
<b>Copying class work or homework</b>	Zero on assignment Parent notification	Contract (i.e., probation)
<b>Plagiarizing or cheating on an Exam or assignment</b>	Counselor notification Parent / student / teacher / counselor conference	Notice to administration
<b>Forgery or stealing</b>	Involuntary transfer to Home District	Dismissal from extracurricular activities (i.e. field trips).

### ***Report Cards and Progress Reports***

Report cards will be issued each semester approximately one week after the end of each semester. Progress reports will be sent home each quarter.

### ***Student Transcripts***

School transcripts are maintained for each student at the secondary level. The transcripts include records of the student's courses, grades, and credits earned for each course. The transcripts are completed each semester and with the heading on each semester to date, time and school credits were earned. The transcript is an important resource for determining the courses a student needs to complete in meeting the graduation requirements.

## ***Testing***

Testing and assessment tools are an integral part of IvyTech Charter School's educational environment. All students are encouraged to demonstrate their abilities to their fullest capacity on each test.

All IvyTech courses have Mid-Terms and Finals. ALL testing will be conducted on-site, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Tests proctored by IvyTech on-site:

CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam)

CAASPP (California Assessment Performance and Progress) – this is the new state testing.

Other tests proctored by outside agencies and discuss by our staff:

ACT Exams (American College Test)

ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)

CHSPE (California High School Proficiency Exam)

GED (General Development Test)

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

SAT Subject Tests

SAT, ACT, AP Exam Scores IvyTech transcripts do not reflect these scores. When submitting college and /or scholarship applications, seniors are reminded to have their scores sent directly to colleges by the College Board and ACT.

## ***Attendance for Blended-Learning Classes and Electives***

Regular attendance is a critical component for success in school. Parents are requested to schedule family vacations during school vacation periods. Our blended-learning schedule offers a great deal of flexibility throughout each week for opportunities to enroll in our electives, college course, ROP classes, work experience and other extra curricular activities outside of school such as sports and dance.

Each semester has a slight variation in times, so please see attached the most current schedule.

## ***Student Expectations***

IvyTech Charter has the right and responsibility to control access and activities to ensure the safety, physical, and mental well being of those on site. Please remember that you, as a student, have enrolled subject to the following conditions:

### **School Equipment**

It is the responsibility of the student to monitor and take care of their assigned electronics. Books, or other material needed for IvyTech curriculum.

### **School Environment**

- The school is an alcohol, tobacco, drug, and weapon-free environment. The student understands that teachers cannot administer nor provide non-prescription or prescription medications.
- Loitering is NOT permitted in or near the school area. If this is abused and bother businesses around the school, students may be prohibited to attend classes and may only attend by appointment with teachers.
- Cell phone conversations are to be outside of school building.

### **Student Behavior**

The student's behavior must be appropriate or the student will be asked to leave or possibly dropped from enrollment, depending on the nature of the problem. In the event of any direct threat, violent act, possession of any weapon, narcotics, illegal substance, or any other act considered illegal by the state of California, the student will be suspended and/or expelled from IvyTech Charter.

### **Dress Code**

Students should come appropriately dressed to school. Attire that is considered distracting, immodest, revealing, gang related, vulgar, or that mocks others on the basis of race, gender, religion, color, or national origin is prohibited. Consequences for Dress Code Violations will be to leave or change clothing.

### **Safety Drills**

Students will participate in all safety drills and will familiarize themselves with the emergency escape plan posted at the school.

### **Internet Code of Conduct Policy**

All students will sign an "Acceptable Uses Policy" during orientation.

## **General and Miscellaneous Information**

### ***School and Office Hours***

Our office is open from 8am – 3:30 pm Monday – Friday.

Classes are schedule throughout the day for all grade levels and electives beginning at 8:30am – 3:30 pm Tuesday – Friday. Teacher appointments for tutoring or schedule a test are between the students and teachers to make.

### ***Campus Visitors***

IvyTech welcomes parents/guardians to visit our school. For safety, all visitors, including parents and guardians, are required to report to the office upon arrival and departure.

**Students not enrolled in IvyTech are not permitted to visit or wait for classes to end.**

### ***Updating Student Information***

When families move during the course of a school year, it is critical that they notify the school office of this change so the school can maintain necessary and appropriate contact with the family. If you move during the course of the year, please submit all pertinent information to the school office prior to the move. This is the same in regards to new phone or email information.

### ***Conference Scheduling***

The staff is always happy to discuss a student’s progress or address any questions during a scheduled conference time.

### ***Field Trips***

During the school year, teachers may schedule educational or service-based field trips. The teacher or school office will announce trips in an email in advance. A permission slip must be signed and returned to the school in order for the student to attend the field trip. The permission form will provide details of the trip (destination, times, transportation, and cost).

### ***Lunch/Snacks Program***

Due to Ivytech is an Independent Study school and all students have different schedules (Less than 4 hours on site) IvyTech does not serve lunch or snacks.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

### **7th Grade Courses**

#### **English 7**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

In addition to building core skill areas, English 7 covers many literary genres as well as a variety of compositional forms, including narratives, critiques, short stories, poetry and persuasive essays. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards.

#### **Math 7**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

Math 7 covers decimal numbers, money, fractional parts, linear measurement, area, perimeter, volume, solids, percents, ratios, probabilities and angle measurement. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards.

#### **Science 7**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This is a full-year Environmental Science course also known as Kids4Earth. It teaches general science while empowering students to make a difference in their own home, community, and the world itself. This course is endorsed by the United Nations Environment Program.

#### **History 7**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This is a World History course from Ancient times through the American and French revolutions. It looks at American history in the context of world history, emphasizing the patterns of history, the people who made history, and children's historical literature. The course meets state standards and is based on the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) standards.

#### **7th Grade Health & Physical Education Portfolio**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

The 7th Grade Integrated Health & Physical Education Portfolio combines a semester of PE with a semester of Health, all in a fun, online workbook format. Students choose their own physical education activities while completing lessons and activities about health. Health topics include: human senses, systems of the body and proper care of the growing body. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Health Education standards.

### **8th Grade Courses**

## **English 8th**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

In English 8, students continue studying vocabulary with word analogies, grammar and literary analysis. With an emphasis on creative writing and research, writing and proofreading skills, English 8 provides a strong preparation for high school. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards.

## **Math 8**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This is a pre-Algebra course that explores the use of fractions, mixed numbers, decimal numbers and basic geometry. It then introduces the beginning concepts of Algebra in preparation for high school Algebra. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards.

## **Science 8**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

The study of science covering grade 8 standards including units on Physical Science which covers energy, matter, force and motion; earth science which covers the earth in the solar system, geology and chemical reactions and life science which covers chemistry of living systems, genetics, and density and buoyancy. It will include scientific investigations and problem solving in all of the sciences. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards.

## **History 8**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This U.S. History course examines early societies in North America, West Africa and Europe leading up to early American colonial history. It continues through the American Revolution, later wars, and ends with the present day. The course meets state standards and is based on the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) standards.

## **8th Grade Junior High Health**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

This 18-week course covers a variety of topics within the areas of disease prevention, human growth and development, substance abuse prevention, nutrition and the importance of taking responsibility for one's health. The content of this course follows the areas of traditional health education, building a foundation for health in 9th – 12th grades. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Health Education standards. *Note: In accordance with state mandates, this course includes education on drugs and alcohol, AIDS and sexuality, so that students can make informed, responsible decisions.*

## **8th Grade Health & Physical Education Portfolio**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

The 8th Grade Health & Physical Education Portfolio combines a semester of PE with a semester of Health, all in a fun, online workbook format. Students choose their own physical education activities while completing lessons and activities about health. Some of the topics covered include: peer and family relationships, drug and alcohol abuse, AIDS, diet and time management. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Health Education standards.

## **Additional Middle School Courses**

### **Intro to the Internet 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

This 18-week course gives students a basic understanding of how to navigate and search for information on the Web. After taking this course, the Internet will be a familiar resource tool for research and explorations. This course meets state standards and the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS).

## **HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

### **Language Arts**

#### **English 9**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

English Fundamentals provides students with an introduction to sophisticated literary analysis, multiple modes of writing and various literary genres. It also maintains a strong emphasis on vocabulary enrichment and grammar. Each lesson integrates basic terms, vocabulary words, reading passages and a writing assignment. The course is geared toward independent thinking, building from basic reading comprehension and grammar exercises in the beginning, to comparative text analysis and grammatical self-correction by the end. The course includes two review lessons and frequently draws from previous lessons to inform and enrich later ones. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards. [College Prep](#).

#### **English 10**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

Students read short stories, poetry, drama, biographies and essays about people and places in other countries. Themes help students bridge the gap between their own and other cultural and historical contexts. Expanded sections on contemporary, European, African and Asian literature enrich students' perspectives of today's global society. Stories from the past and present are presented with equal enthusiasm. Additional books, an encyclopedia and other online reference materials may be required to fulfill writing requirements. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards. [College Prep](#).

#### **English 11**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

Presented in anthology form, this course helps students develop the tools and perspectives necessary to read American literature with care, understanding and enjoyment. The course includes the historical development of American literature from the colonial period to the 20th century. It combines a carefully selected collection of short stories, essays, poems and plays with a comprehensive guide to writing essays and reports. Additional books, magazines, encyclopedias and other online reference materials may be required to fulfill written requirements. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards. [College Prep](#).

#### **Shakespeare in Literature 12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*



This 18-week course examines William Shakespeare's sonnets and his play, Julius Caesar. Students also examine the controversy of authorship. Did William Shakespeare really write the plays, or was it the Earl of Oxford or Christopher Marlowe? Shakespearean Literature is designed to introduce students to the works of Shakespeare, as well as stimulate those who are familiar with his style of writing. Shakespearean Literature can be combined with Drama in Literature to make a full year (2-semester) course. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards. [College Prep.](#)

### **Creative Writing 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

Creative Writing is a friendly, student-centered course written for all skill levels. Students explore journal writing, poetry, fiction and nonfiction such as letter writing and technical writing to foster creative writing in a variety of forms.

### **Journal Writing 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 unit*

The reasons for keeping a journal are many. It can aid in self-reflection, clarify ideas, or simply serve as amusement. Whatever the reason, the act of putting pen to paper (or fingertips to keyboard, as the case may be) is empowering. Journal Writing encourages the young writer through a variety of activities such as free writing; response to literature; prompts; graphical activities that allow the student to express him or herself via creation of cartoons, logos, "tags," and signatures; and finally, production of one's own book.

### **Media Literacy 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

This 18-lesson course teaches students how to critically evaluate the media that surround them every day as well as creating their own examples of media. The example-rich course covers the history of media, critical-thinking skills, the various channels media take in our world, as well as the influence media have on our lives and thinking. Students approach the material through both projects and more traditional assignments. [College Prep.](#)

### **English Internet Explorations A 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

English Internet Explorations A integrates the core subjects of English, Science and Social Studies in a fun, lively course. Students polish their reading and writing skills while visiting exciting websites. Assignments regularly include creative writing projects. This is a good nontraditional English course for students without strong English skills. Meets graduation requirements.

### **English Internet Explorations B 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

English Internet Explorations B is a popular follow-up to English Internet Explorations A. Topics include: raptors, the Ben Franklin Museum, volcanoes and Godzilla.

Assignments regularly include creative writing. This is a good nontraditional English course for students without strong English skills. Meets graduation requirements.

## Mathematics

### **Pre-Algebra 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

Pre-Algebra is an engaging blend of animated and interactive learning activities, graphically enhanced instruction and written explanation. Each lesson contains detailed instruction, guided practice, independent practice, and plenty of opportunities to ask for help. The course covers the following areas in detail to prepare students for Algebra 1: types of numbers; estimation; order of operations; negatives and absolute values; calculating with negative numbers; fractions, decimals and percent basics (applying to real-world situations); algebraic reasoning (inductive and deductive); sequences and patterns; how to approach and solve complex problems; working with exponents and powers and working with roots. Each semester concludes with a thorough review. Pre-Algebra contains ample assessments throughout the course that reflect its complete alignment to multiple state content standards, as well as guidelines set forth by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

### **Algebra 1 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This course is designed for students without any algebraic background. The course covers all the essential topics needed to be successful in Intermediate Algebra/Algebra II. Topics include real numbers and algebraic expressions, linear equations, inequalities, exponents, order of operation, polynomial expressions, factoring, quadratic equations, graphing linear equations, radical expressions and equations, linear systems and mathematical modeling. This course is designed to meet all state requirements for the curriculum of Elementary Algebra/Algebra I. This course is equivalent to one year of High School Algebra I or one semester of college level Elementary Algebra. This course meets Common Core standards as well as the California state requirements.

### **Omega Math Algebra 2 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

Building upon the lessons learned in Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1, Algebra 2 broadens its scope to include the essential topics needed to be successful in College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, or Trigonometry. Algebra 2 is supported by the informative, user-friendly Omega Math website. Topics include: functions, logarithmic functions, exponential functions, complex numbers and more. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards. [College Prep](#).

### **Omega Math Plane Geometry 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This course is designed to prepare students in the understanding of properties and applications in Euclidean geometry. Extensive use of definitions, postulates and

theorems are used throughout this course to write proofs using deductive reasoning. Critical thinking skills are used in solving real world applications. Topics include parallel and perpendicular lines, congruence, similar and other properties of triangles, introduction to trigonometry, transformations, three dimensional concepts, conics, angles, polygons, circles, area, perimeter, surface area and volume. This course is equivalent to one year of High School Plane Geometry or one semester of college level Geometry. This course meets Common Core standards as well as the California state requirements.

### **Survival Math 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 unit*

Students identify and practice skills essential to independent living. Exercises provide challenges in day-to-day living, including purchases, living expenses, health care decisions and future planning to improve real-world knowledge and build self-confidence. Meets graduation requirements.

### **Math Proficiency 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 unit*

This course prepares students for the Math section of the High School Proficiency Test. It teaches the main learning objectives covered by the test, including arithmetic, measurement, geometry, data analysis and basic algebra. The course also provides test taking strategies and sample test problems. Meets graduation requirements.

## **Sciences**

### **General Science 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

General Science offers students a fun, nonthreatening introduction to the world of science. Students visit some of the best sites on the Web and have the opportunity to conduct independent research. Some of the lessons contain hands-on activities and experiments. The course covers several different branches of science, including topics such as: hurricanes, weather stations, lasers, magnets, hummingbirds, polar bears and botanical gardens. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards. [College Prep](#).

### **Earth Science 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 unit*

Students learn the critical importance of scientific developments in today's world through gaining basic knowledge of earth science. Topics include early Earth, geological history, fossils, minerals and rocks, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, the Carbon and Nitrogen cycles, the atmosphere, the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, weather, climate, air and ocean circulation patterns, the solar system, our galaxy, and beyond. Historical achievements in the field of earth science and consideration of potential future developments contribute to students' learning and personal development. Students have the opportunity to engage in independent research on subjects of students' interest. The course includes a wealth of informative and dynamic web sites. Earth Science can be

combined with Oceanography to make a full-year (2 semesters) course. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards. [College Prep](#).

### **Oceanography 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

Students study the ecology and diversity of the world's oceans, with particular attention paid to the complex interactions among all marine life, from the smallest microorganism to the largest sea mammal. Topics include: life in the sea, deep sea exploration, marine mammals, coastal ecosystems and the sea floor. Students periodically write research papers on individual areas of interest. Students also learn to use graphs, tables, maps, data and the Internet to enrich their study of this challenging and exciting course. Oceanography can be combined with Earth Science to make a full year (2-semester) course. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards. [College Prep](#).

### **Biology 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This course teaches students the fundamental concepts of biology. Topics include: the characteristics of life, basic chemistry, animal life, plant life, reproduction and development, genetics, evolution, diversity and ecology. Through investigation and activities, students gain firsthand experience with such learning skills and processes as observing, classifying, identifying, measuring, inferring, hypothesizing, interpreting and predicting. Biology includes weekly thought-provoking questions answered in essay form. Students also complete semester term papers on a chosen topic. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards. [College Prep](#).

### **Honors Biology 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

Honors Biology is a research and writing-intensive version of our regular Biology course. (See the Biology description for detailed information.) This course meets state standards and is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards. [College Prep](#).

### **Conceptual Physics 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This course introduces students to the fundamental principles of physics. Each lesson provides comprehensive coverage of a specific concept or topic. Some of the concepts and laws of physics covered include: mechanics, properties of matter, heat, sound and light, electricity and magnetism, atomic and nuclear physics. Prerequisite: Algebra 1. [College Prep](#).

## **Social Studies**

## **World Cultures**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

Rich with primary source excerpts and cultural vignettes, this course provides a tour of the history, cultures and environments of the seven continents. The study of geography is further enhanced with access to maps, diagrams and related cultural information. This course presents geography in an enjoyable, exploratory format. It culminates in planning a trip around the world. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) standards. [College Prep](#).

## **World History 10**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

World History encourages students to use multimedia to establish a chronology and understanding of influential historical events. By examining traditionally under-represented perspectives, students learn to question traditional historical accounts and form their own understanding of world history. Topics include: the beginning of civilization, civilizations of the Mediterranean world, Asian history, the early modern world, the emergence of modern nations, the development of industrial society and world wars in the 20th Century. Weekly compositions in response to the readings employ creative writing, analysis and independent research. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) standards. [College Prep](#).

## **US History 11**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This one-year course visits aspects of American history and provides a well-rounded, comprehensive depiction of events from the American Revolution to modern times. Students review many photographs, maps and speeches from different time periods, as well as cultural descriptions. American History is a substantial, exciting course with many engaging websites to explore. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) standards. [College Prep](#).

## **U.S. Government 12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

U.S. Government provides the student with a basic understanding of American government. Topics include: the roots of democracy, the judiciary system and the law, interest groups in government, landmark Supreme Court cases, civil rights and individual liberties. Diverse online resources make this course informative and engaging. U.S. Government can be combined with Economics to make a full year (2-semester) course. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) standards. [College Prep](#).

## **Economics 12**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

In this 18-week course, students use the Internet to learn and apply the fundamental concepts of modern economics. In addition to studying the primary types of economic systems, laws of supply and demand and other key economic concepts, students learn

about the effect that jobs, earnings and career decisions have on their buying power and quality of life. Students also explore the role that an increasingly global market plays in their daily lives. In this course, economic concepts are explained in a simple, understandable way. Lessons involve problem-solving activities for real-life questions and scenarios. Economics can be combined with U.S. Government to make a full year (2-semester) course. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) standards. [College Prep](#).

## Arts and Technology

### **Art History 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

This course combines two 1-semester courses (Art History: Ancient to Gothic and Art History: Renaissance to Modern) into a single yearlong course. The course begins with a general discussion of art and the place of art in the development of human civilization. It introduces man's earliest reflective art form - cave paintings-- and moves forward in time through the art of early civilizations of the Middle East, Rome and Greece, India, China, and Japan. Then we investigate the art of Early American civilizations and societies and travel across the Atlantic Ocean to learn about African Art. At the end of the first semester, we explore Islamic and Early Christian art: Byzantine, Romanesque, and Gothic. The second semester of Art History begins with a study of the Renaissance period in European art, and continues through the rich Baroque and Rococo periods in Europe, followed by studying the impact of Romanticism on art and the development of Impressionism. Late 19th and early 20th century developments, from Surrealism to cubism are explored. We end with Modern art, including the United States and Mexico. Students are inspired to create a few simple art projects based on the styles and movements they have studied. Web resources from the greatest museums in the world are accessed. Topics include visual vocabulary, principles of art, drawing, painting, sculpture, studio art, art history, art criticism, and aesthetics. Art History is an inspiring addition to any student's curriculum. [College Prep](#).

### **Media Literacy 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

This course teaches students how to critically evaluate the media that surrounds them every day, as well as create their own examples of media. This example-rich course covers the history of media, critical thinking skills, the various channels media takes in our world and the influence media has in our lives and thinking. Students approach the material through projects and writing assignments. This course meets state standards and is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards. [College Prep](#).

### **Introduction to the Internet 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

This 18-week course gives students a basic understanding of how to navigate and search for information on the Web. After taking this course, the Internet will be a familiar

resource tool for research and explorations. This course meets state standards and the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS).

### **3D Graphics 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

In this course you will learn about the world of 3 Dimensional Graphics. 3D Graphics encompasses getting familiar with the application environment and discover how to create superb 3D graphics that are pleasing to the eye. The 3D Graphics application gives you the capability to integrated 3D modeling, animation, effects, and rendering solutions from one comprehensive API (application programming interface).

## **Health and Life Skills**

### **High School Health 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

This course presents students with a clear look at the health issues facing humanity today. Students evaluate their own level of health and examine areas of health risks, nutritional needs, exercise, drugs, self-care, environment and safety. This is a hands-on course where students learn to take charge of their own health by practicing preventative health habits. The course includes a wealth of high quality, up-to-date Internet resources. It meets state standards and is based on the National Health Education standards. Note: In accordance with state mandates, this course includes education on drugs and alcohol, AIDS and sexuality so that students can make informed, responsible decisions.

### **Life Management 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

Life Management provides students with an opportunity to look at their lives in terms of self-examination, self-actualization, community involvement, personal health, money management skills, college planning, resource and time management and career options. The course stresses a reflective as well as an analytical approach to life skills and includes journal writing as an integral element of the course. The culminating activity, an autobiography from the perspective of 10 years from today, asks students to think concretely about their futures.

## **Standardized Test Preparation**

### **SAT Prep 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

This course provides high-quality instruction that is completely customized to each student, pinpointing the student's abilities on the skills that are tested in the actual exam. Students' areas of weakness are strengthened by reinforcing essential skills and concepts, and extra challenge is provided in areas of strength. Student's progress through the course at their own pace, whenever their schedules allow.

## Enrichment and Special Needs

### **Special Needs–Integrated Science 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

Integrated Science asks students to look at websites from all over the world to learn about different topics. One week, students will be swimming in the deep ocean with whales; another time, they might be investigating bugs; next, they might journey to Mars!

### **English Internet Explorations A 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

English Internet Explorations A integrates the core subjects of English, Science and Social Studies in a fun, lively course. Students polish their reading and writing skills while visiting exciting websites. Assignments regularly include creative writing projects. This is a good nontraditional English course for students who lack strong English skills. Meets graduation requirements.

### **English Internet Explorations B 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*2 semesters 10 credits / 1 unit*

English Internet Explorations B is a popular follow-up to English Internet Explorations A. Topics include: raptors, the Ben Franklin Museum, volcanoes and Godzilla. Assignments regularly include creative writing. This is a good nontraditional English course for students who lack strong English skills. Meets graduation requirements.

### **Survival Math 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*1 semester 5 credits / .5 units*

Students identify and practice skills essential to independent living. Exercises provide challenges in day-to-day living, including purchases, living expenses, health care decisions and future planning to improve real-world knowledge and build self-confidence. Meets graduation requirements.