



Kinder High School for the  
Performing and Visual Arts

## 2020-21 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academic Course Offerings

### Overview

All students will take one academic course each in the fields of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, and Languages Other Than English (if the student has not completed this requirement). Within each of these subjects there are choices that are differentiated by workload and content.

### English

English 1 Academic - Students in Freshman English write for a variety of purposes and in a variety of modes as well as read and analyze selected texts from all genres of literature. Based on a curriculum that integrates both writing and reading concepts and skills, this course empowers students to use the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) as they write to learn about themselves, their world, and their print-rich environment. Students in English I read extensively, write responsively, listen critically, work cooperatively, and think independently. Students should expect to work no more than 1 hour per week outside of class.

English 1 Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) - focuses on the close reading, analytical writing, and language skills that have immediate relevance for students across their current courses and that are most essential for their future work in high school, college, and careers. Texts take center stage in this classroom, where students engage in close, critical reading of a wide range of materials. The course trains the reader to observe the small details within a text to arrive at a deeper understanding of the whole. It also trains the writer to focus on crafting complex sentences as the foundation for writing to facilitate complex thinking and communicate ideas clearly. Areas of focus include: 1) reading closely, 2) valuing evidence, and 3) noticing language choices. This course is excellent for students who enjoy a more fast-paced, independent-reading environment where texts are analyzed and discussed in class. Students should expect to write at least one essay/research paper/analysis/creative piece per cycle.

### Science

Biology Academic - This is a general survey course that presents the facts of biology within a pattern of unifying themes that helps students understand the larger significance of the details that they are learning. Examples of themes studied are cells, Mendelian genetics, molecular biology, natural selection, reproduction and inheritance, structure and function, energy relationships, ecology, and science and society. Emphasis is also placed on developing critical

thinking, laboratory, and writing skills. At the completion of two semesters of Biology I, students take a statewide end-of-course exam. Homework will be assigned for every lesson and will last about 20-30 minutes.

Biology Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) – Topics covered in this fast-paced course include ecology, biochemistry, cell biology, molecular biology, microbiology, genetics, ethics, evolution, diversity of life, human anatomy, physiology, and botany, with an emphasis on evolutionary biology. Students are expected to review independently much of the information presented. Concepts presented in lectures are illustrated using demonstrations and experiments. Students in this class must be able to articulate their knowledge clearly and concisely, both in speech and writing. Lab reports include data collection as well as an in-depth analysis of experimental results. Students should be able to apply basic algebraic skills and statistical analysis of data. In addition to readings from the text, students are frequently assigned technical and complex supplemental readings.

Projects in the form of presentation are assigned each term. This course fulfills the life science requirement. Students should expect 1 chapter test every two weeks, and homework from every lesson.

## **Social Studies**

World Geography Academic – This course is a freshman level thematic geography course. Students will review physical geography, mapping and geography tools, and then explore a wide variety of human geography concepts such as human-environment interactions, demographics, religions of the world, political systems, economic systems, globalization, and regional studies. Per HISD, as there is no textbook for the class, readings will be curated by the classroom teacher and district and provided digitally. Academic geography requires minimal outside time commitments other than finishing class assignments and preparing for unit tests twice a marking period. For most students, time spent on Academic World Geography at home is no more than 1 hour per week. Tests are mostly multiple choice with some short answer.

World Geography Pre-Advanced Placement – Pre-AP World Geography's curriculum and work load are meant to prepare students for a lower level collegiate course, as we assume pre-AP students will enroll in AP World History their sophomore year (their first AP course in high school, generally). Our text is very challenging, and students will be tested on material in the text that is not covered in class. Written analysis will form the majority of our assessment (no multiple choice - all summative assessments will be open ended, essay style tests). Significant outside work (3-6 hours a week) is expected and will vary on your student's reading comprehension level. In addition, this course covers many sensitive, controversial, and debated topics. We will discuss religion, demography, climate change, the migration of hominins out of Africa, terrorism, world politics, globalization and other debated topics.

## Math

The typical math course progression is as follows;

Algebra 1 → Geometry → Algebra 2 → (Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics )→ (AP Calculus or AP Statistics)

All students must earn four credits in mathematics, however, students who earned Algebra 1 credit (or higher) in middle school may count those courses towards their four credits.

The objective of homework is to practice outside of class to become more proficient. While homework times are noted below, it truly varies from student to student based on their skills in the course (HpW = Hours per Week).

Algebra 1 - This course is the foundation of high school mathematics. All students who have not yet earned an Algebra 1 credit must take this course and then pass the State End of Course exam at the end of the year. There is no Pre-AP level for Algebra 1. Topics covered include linear, quadratic, and exponential functions using both symbolic, graphical and calculator methods. HpW: 3

Geometry (prerequisite Algebra 1) - In this course, you will build on your knowledge of geometric figures by learning and applying new properties and characteristics to these figures. Academic level moves slower while focusing on content specific to the course. Pre-AP level moves more quickly and covers additional content and skills to lay the groundwork for future advanced coursework in math and science. HpW: 1-3 / 2-3

Algebra 2 (prerequisite Geometry) - The goal of this course is to prepare students to successfully pursue more advanced topics in mathematics. It is a mix of review from Algebra 1 as well as new topics such as the use of complex numbers, quadratic functions, coordinate geometry, logarithmic and exponential functions, solving and graphing polynomial functions, sequences and series, and probability. Like Geometry, the Academic level focuses on current year objectives, while the Pre-AP level covers additional content to prepare for advanced coursework. HpW: 2 /

## Languages Other Than English

Spanish 1 - This is a freshman level course. Students will have the opportunity to begin the fun journey of learning a new language and explore the culture of all Spanish speaking countries. At this level, students will be able to: talk about what they like to do, describe themselves and others, talk about their likes and dislikes, introduce themselves and others, talk about countries and nationalities, describe the weather, identify people and things, talk about daily schedules, discuss food preferences, exchange information about family, make comparisons, use common idioms, etc. This is a fun course where students are going to be encouraged to communicate in the target language since day one. No previous knowledge is required. Students will practice all four communicative skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. At this level, students require

minimal outside time commitment to complete short assignments, prepare quizzes, projects, and tests. Most students spend no more than one hour per week to complete their work.

Spanish 2 - Students will continue the fun journey of learning a new language and explore the culture of all Spanish speaking countries. Grammar plays a very important role in this course to advance so, several techniques and resources are incorporated to reinforce the students learning process to make it meaningful yet entertaining. Music, art, videos, aural materials, hands-on activities, written texts and authentic materials are part of this course. Students will continue improving all four communicative skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and students will be tested after each grammar and vocabulary topic is covered. At this level, students still require minimal outside time commitment to complete short assignments, prepare quizzes, projects, and tests. Most students spend no more than one hour per week to complete their work.

Spanish 3 Pre-AP is a preparatory language college course in which different approaches are used. The resources are varied, and technology is incorporated. Among others, music, art, videos, the web, aural materials, hands-on activities, written texts and authentic materials are included in the lessons. The language will be practiced and promoted through a variety of oral and written activities and students will be encouraged to respond in the target language. The students will read short stories and authentic materials to enhance their reading skills. They will also be exposed to many different styles of speaking to facilitate their oral production and to improve their ability to pick up salient facts and ideas presented orally.

The students are quizzed after each grammar and vocabulary topic is covered and a test is given after each chapter is finished. Homework, quizzes, projects, tests, etc. are announced in advanced so that students have enough time to prepare them; there usually are oral projects that are carefully graded using a rubric. Two to three full years of basic and low intermediate language study is required to be ready for the demanding content of the course. Moderate outside time is required in this course and most students spend no more than 2-3 hours per week to complete their work.

Spanish IV AP follows the guidelines of the College Board AP Spanish Language and Culture course and provides opportunities for students to demonstrate their proficiency in the modes of communication from the Intermediate to the Pre-Advanced range as defined in the learning objectives in the curriculum framework. The three modes of communication (Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational) defined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century are foundational to the AP Spanish Language and Culture course.

This AP Spanish Language and Culture course will be developed around themes that create an interesting, meaningful context in which students explore a variety of language concepts. These themes will help integrate language, content, and culture into an interrelated series of lessons and activities that promote the use of the language in a variety of settings.

Two to three full years of basic and low intermediate language study is required to be ready for the demanding content of the course. Moderate outside time is required in this course and most students spend no more than 3-4 hours per week to complete their work.

French 1 - This is a beginning level course. No prior knowledge is required. In this class we will, of course, be learning the French language. We will also be studying the cultures and traditions of

France and other French-speaking countries. Focus and practice from day one will be on the four language skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing. By the end of this school year, you will be proficient in the understanding and speaking of basic French. You will be able to speak and read text in the present, near future and command forms. You will know how to ask questions to request information. You will be able to describe yourself, your family, friends, clothing, tell time, order in a restaurant, and speak to shop owners. You will also be able to discuss teen activities, express likes and dislikes, make comparisons, and more. Each year includes a Food Day activity celebrating the French-speaking culture. At this level, students require minimal outside time commitment to complete short assignments and to prepare for quizzes, projects, and tests. Most students spend no more than one hour per week to complete their work.

French 2 - In this class we will continue our journey to learn the French language, culture and traditions of France and other French-speaking countries. After a comprehensive review and continued practice of the previous year's curriculum, you will be learning to describe past, present and future events; discuss travel, technology, gastronomy, professions, shopping, teen activities, cultural events and the arts. Through many interactive activities and performance based-tasks (such as writing and illustrating your own children's book), you will also be able to request information, give directions, describe the weather, and further enhance your understanding of French to apply complex structures more resembling that of a native speaker. We will be listening to music, seeing videos, and holding conversations in addition to reading short stories, writing and speaking. Each year includes a Food Day activity celebrating the French-speaking culture. At this level, students still require minimal outside time commitment to complete short assignments, prepare for quizzes, projects, and tests. Most students spend no more than one hour per week to complete their work.

French 3 Pre-AP - French 3 is a college preparatory language class with a more rigorous focus on the four language skills, so 100% of this class will be conducted in French. Students are expected to use French as much as possible, particularly as the school year progresses. In addition to learning the French language, culture and traditions of France and other French-speaking countries at a higher level of complexity, students will be reading *Le Petit Prince*, short stories, and news articles, among other authentic texts. You will explore social issues, career choices, traditions, media, travel and the arts. You will further enhance your understanding of French to apply complex structures and verb tenses (conditionnel, futur, subjonctif, for example), and language skills to be fully understood by native speakers. I also hope to assign French penpals via ePals.com this year to French 3 students – a wonderful way to practice your French, communicate with a native speaker and even develop a lasting friendship. Each year includes a Food Day activity celebrating the French-speaking culture. Two to three full years of basic and low intermediate language study is required to be ready for the demanding content of the course. Moderate outside time is required in this course and most students spend no more than 2-3 hours per week to complete their work.