



SELWYN
SCHOOL

Learning Objectives & Standards
Middle School | Upper School | Fine Arts Academy

2024-2025

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Introduction to Selwyn's Learning Objectives and Standards

Who We Are

Selwyn School is an independent, non-sectarian, college-preparatory day school serving three-year-olds through grade twelve students. A member of the National Association of Independent Schools, Selwyn provides the most thoroughly individualized, comprehensive, and developmentally appropriate array of student-focused experiences in Denton County. Our students grow into independent thinkers and creative problem solvers who are highly resilient and emotionally intelligent leaders prepared for effective citizenship in a global society.

At Selwyn School, our mission is to cultivate global citizens to embrace complex challenges with empathetic and innovative thinking that advances the human condition.

Selwyn is About Inclusion

Selwyn School's mission promotes a school culture that allows students to learn without fear of intimidation or discrimination. Because of our school's global focus and diverse student, family, and faculty body, Selwyn School is committed in policy, principle, and practice to maintaining an environment that encourages behavior affirming of the equality of all persons. Selwyn School remains committed to providing a welcoming and respectful work and educational environment, in which all individuals within the school community may benefit from each other's experiences and foster mutual respect and appreciation of divergent views.

Selwyn School will not tolerate conduct that violates rights guaranteed by the law or by other school policies. As such, Selwyn School prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, national origin, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, or any other class of individuals protected from discrimination under state or federal law in any aspect of the administration of its educational programs, including admission and financial aid, or in employment and application for employment. Furthermore, Selwyn School policy includes prohibitions of harassment of students and employees, including racial harassment, sexual harassment, or retaliation for filing complaints of discrimination. Above all, Selwyn School affirms the fundamental dignity of all persons.

About Selwyn's Learning Objectives and Standards

Because Selwyn is an independent school with small, student-focused classrooms, our teachers exercise a great deal of autonomy in developing the curricula that will best serve our students' learning needs. Our teachers focus on creating lessons that are engaging and experiential while simultaneously challenging to students to think deeply and laterally about problems across the humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

While Selwyn's instructors tailor their curricula to individual student needs, they *do* teach material that follows the best practices and learning outcomes that have been devised by their peer teachers nationally. Selwyn learning objectives and standards for various classes may follow guidelines from such institutions as the National Council of Teachers of English, the National Council for Social Studies, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and many others. Often, these nationwide, teacher-driven organizations develop sets of class-level teaching standards and learning objectives.

Selwyn's teachers, therefore, teach to individual students while working toward mastery of the standards and objectives established by nationwide, nonprofit teacher organizations. This document sets forth the learning objectives and standards for individual classes that are, or may be, taught at Selwyn's Middle and Upper Schools as well as its Fine Arts Academy.

Our Middle School Program at a Glance

Extensive research indicates that children in the early stages of adolescence have an underlying need to feel a sense of connection, importance, and belonging from their peers, adults, and school. That sense of connection is a key factor in the development of their social identity, and in turn many other measurements of success. Selwyn's Middle School is customized for adolescents in 5th through 8th grade, designed to support their unique needs during some of their most fragile and transformative years.

Through an engaging, interdisciplinary approach seamlessly integrated with our outdoor education program, Selwyn students have the tools and guidance to build critical-thinking skills, lifelong values of personal responsibility, mutual respect, and a healthy curiosity to understand and interact with the world around them. Ultimately, middle school students need a safe and nurturing community where they can feel comfortable developing a strong sense of themselves as individuals, which is why we intentionally keep our class sizes small. Our goal is to build genuine connections between both our students and our teachers that cultivate trust and security, allowing our children not just to get through their middle school years, but thrive.

Our Upper School Program at a Glance

Given the competitive nature of higher education and the academic rigors of collegiate life, Selwyn recognizes the need for robust scholarly challenges in preparing its upper school students for what lies ahead. To meet this need effectively, beginning in grade 9, faculty guide students through a yearly project designed to provide an understanding of university-level research expectations. Research projects are assigned in a new academic field each school year, exposing our students to a variety of disciplinary styles and intellectual pursuits.

Since different areas of expertise have different standards, students will gain an appreciation for how research in one discipline, such as chemistry, is distinct from that of another, like English. Through this process, students demonstrate proficient or above grade-level writing, analytical skills, and verbal abilities by composing a final paper and delivering a formal presentation based on their work.

The current course plan for Selwyn's research program is as follows: 9th grade—Ancient Civilization, 10th grade—chemistry, 11th grade—U.S. History, and 12th grade—English and, for advanced students, an independent study.

Our Fine Arts Academy at a Glance

The Selwyn Fine Arts Academy offers students the time and space to pursue an individualized, four-year long study of music or visual art taught by classically trained subject-area specialists. Whether a student wants to develop her passion for music or photography, the Fine Arts Academy pays special attention to each child's unique talents and skills and develops them into refined abilities. Students graduating from the Fine Arts Academy will have the same excellent academic pedigree as other students at Selwyn—enjoying the benefits of Outdoor Education, the Perspectives Travel Program, and all of the privileges that the other students experience. The Selwyn Fine Arts Academy enhances this educational experience with in-depth courses related to the student's artistic or musical interests. The dynamic Fine Arts Academy offers students unparalleled access to artistic and musical resources throughout their day. Each student will develop skills in the fine arts that will carry over into all aspects of their lives: they will build stronger connections to world cultures, will develop tenacity and grit as they learn to master their crafts, and will acquire an understanding of the connections between the arts and sciences. Importantly, they will develop these skills regardless of whether they ultimately choose to pursue a degree in fine art. Designed specifically with artistically inclined students in mind, the Selwyn Fine Arts Academy is built to nurture the talents of each student in ways few other programs can.

Students in the Music Academy will receive thirty minutes of private, individual instruction in their instrument of choice from adjunct instructors who are degreed musicians and specialists in their instruments. Music Academy students will play in the Piano Lab, learn advanced music theory and musical notation, and will gain significant solo and ensemble performance experience. Students who graduate from the Selwyn Fine Arts Academy will have developed the skills necessary to audition at the most competitive music programs in the country—including the one in our own backyard at the University of North Texas.

Similarly, students in the Visual Arts Academy will learn the concepts of two- and three-dimensional art, and will learn to express themselves through photography, ceramics, sculpture, painting, jewelry-making, drawing, and graphic design. This depth and breadth of experience will allow all students in the Visual Arts Academy to curate a well-rounded portfolio as they apply to the art schools of their choice. Learning from experienced artists on Selwyn’s campus and from within our community make this arts program one-of-its-kind in North Texas.

The Selwyn Fine Arts Academy provides a distinguished arts education without sacrificing the core foundational excellence our community has come to expect of Selwyn. The Music Academy and Visual Arts Academy enhance the value of that education by providing unmatched access to trained artists and musicians during the school day. The Fine Arts Academy allows students to flourish in the classroom, on the stage, or in the studio—but above all, the Academy offers a way for students to find their voice. With it, they can change the world.

Middle School Standards

Humanities

The Middle School Humanities curriculum is comprised of the following subject areas:

- Literature and Reading
- Writing and Grammar
- Spelling and Vocabulary
- The study of Culture and History
- Government, Civics, and Economics
- Global Interdependence
- Geography and Map Skills
- Philosophy and the Art

The primary Humanities objectives are based upon the following:

- The standards and thematic strands as outlined by the National Council for the Social Studies.
- The Historical Thinking Standards as outlined by the UCLA Public History Initiative.
- The standards as outlined by the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association.

NCSS GUIDELINES

1. **Culture**: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity. This should be addressed in units dealing with geography, history, sociology, and anthropology, as well as multicultural topics across the curriculum and place.
2. **Time, Continuity, and Change**: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.
3. **People, Places, and Environments**: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments. This should be addressed in units dealing with geography, regional studies, and world cultures.
4. **Individual Development and Identity**: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of individual development and identity.
5. **Individuals, Groups, and Institutions**: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions. This should be addressed in units dealing with sociology, anthropology, psychology, political science, and history.
6. **Power, Authority, and Governance**: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create, interact with, and change structures of power, authority, and governance. This should be addressed in units dealing with government, politics, political science, civics, history, law, and other social sciences.
7. **Production, Distribution, and Consumption**: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. This should be addressed in units dealing with concepts, principles, and issues drawn from the discipline of economics.
8. **Science, Technology, and Society**: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of relationships among science, technology, and society. This should be addressed in units dealing with history, geography, economics, and civics and government.

9. **Global Connections:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of global connections and interdependence. This should be addressed in units dealing with geography, culture, economics, history, political science, government, and technology but may also draw upon the natural and physical sciences and the humanities, including literature, the arts, and languages.
10. **Civic Ideals and Practice:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic. This should be addressed in units dealing with civics, history, political science, cultural anthropology, and fields such as global studies and law-related education, while also drawing upon content from the humanities.

PUBLIC HISTORY INITIATIVE HISTORICAL THINKING STANDARDS

1. Chronological Thinking

- Distinguish between past, present, and future time.
- Identify the temporal structure of a historical narrative or story.
- Establish temporal order in constructing historical narratives of their own.
- Measure and calculate calendar time.
- Interpret data presented in time lines and create timelines.
- Reconstruct patterns of historical succession and duration; explain historical continuity and change.
- Compare alternative models for periodization.

2. Historical Comprehension

- Identify the author or source of the historical document or narrative and assess its credibility.
- Reconstruct the literal meaning of a historical passage.
- Identify the central question(s) the historical narrative addresses.
- Differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretations.
- Read historical narratives imaginatively.
- Appreciate historical perspectives.
- Draw upon data in historical maps.
- Utilize visual, mathematical, and quantitative data.

3. Historical Analysis and Interpretation

- Compare and contrast differing sets of ideas.
- Consider multiple perspectives.
- Analyze cause-and-effect relationships and multiple causation, including the importance of the individual, the influence of ideas.
- Draw comparisons across eras and regions in order to define enduring issues.
- Distinguish between unsupported expressions of opinion and informed hypotheses grounded in historical evidence.
- Compare competing historical narratives.
- Challenge arguments of historical inevitability.
- Hold interpretations of history as tentative.
- Evaluate major debates among historians.
- Hypothesize the influence of the past.

4. Historical Research Capabilities

- Formulate historical questions.
- Obtain historical data from a variety of sources.
- Interrogate historical data.
- Identify the gaps in the available records, marshal contextual knowledge and perspectives of the time and place.
- Employ quantitative analysis.
- Support interpretations with historical evidence.

5. Historical Issues-Analysis and Decision-Making

- Identify issues and problems in the past.
- Marshal evidence of antecedent circumstances.
- Identify relevant historical antecedents.
- Evaluate alternative courses of action.
- Formulate a position or course of action on an issue.
- Evaluate the implementation of a decision.

NCTE GUIDELINES

1. Students read a wide range of print and non-print texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.
2. Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience.
3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).
4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
5. Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
6. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print texts.
7. Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and non-print texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.
8. Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.
9. Students develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns, and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions, and social roles.
10. Students whose first language is not English make use of their first language to develop competency in the English language arts and to develop understanding of content across the curriculum.
11. Students participate as knowledgeable, reflective, creative, and critical members of a variety of literacy communities.
12. Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

5th Grade Humanities

In 5th-grade Humanities, students will delve into American History from the Revolutionary War to modern times. Through engaging narratives, literary analysis, and historical documents, students will not only learn about pivotal events but also enhance their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. This interdisciplinary approach fosters a deeper understanding of American history while honing language arts abilities, preparing students for comprehensive learning across disciplines.

Social Studies Skills

- Use problem-solving and decision making processes to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution
- Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including technology
- Analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, generalizing and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions
- Organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps
- Identify bias and points of view from the historical context surrounding an event that influenced the participants
- Evaluate the validity of a source based on corroboration with other sources and information about the author
- Support a point of view on an issue or event
- Create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information
- Use effective written communication skills, including proper citations and avoiding plagiarism

English Language Arts Skills

- Develop and sustain foundational language skills through active listening, speaking, and discussion, follow and give complex oral instructions, engage in meaningful discourse, and provide and accept constructive feedback from others
- Develop and sustain foundational language skills by using context and root words to clarify the meaning of words, reading grade-level text with fluency and comprehension, and self-selecting texts for sustained independent reading
- Develop and sustain comprehension skills while reading by generating and answering questions, making and confirming predictions, creating mental images and making personal connections, making inferences, and using evidence to support understanding
- Develop and sustain comprehension skills by evaluating details to determine key ideas, synthesizing information, and self-monitoring comprehension in order to make adjustments when understanding breaks down
- Write responses that demonstrate understanding of texts, including comparing sources within and across genres and using text evidence to support an appropriate response
- Paraphrase and summarize texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order
- Interact with sources in meaningful ways such as note taking, annotating, freewriting, or illustrating
- Discuss and write about the explicit or implicit meanings of text and then reflect on and adjust responses as new evidence is presented

- Demonstrate knowledge of literary genres and analyze setting, plot elements, characterization, character development, and plot development
- Infer multiple themes within and across texts using text evidence
- Explain the author's purpose and message within a text and analyze the use of text structure, print and graphic features, use of figurative language, and literary devices such as subjective and objective point of view
- Analyze mood, voice, and tone, rhetorical devices such as direct address and rhetorical questions, and logical fallacies such as loaded language and sweeping generalizations
- Plan a first draft by selecting a genre appropriate for a particular topic, purpose, and audience
- Develop drafts into a focused, structured, and coherent piece of writing through purposeful structure that includes an introduction, transitions, coherence within and across paragraphs, and a conclusion
- Develop drafts that include an engaging idea reflecting depth of thought with specific facts, details, and examples
- Revise drafts for clarity, development, organization, style, word choice, and sentence variety
- Edit drafts using standard English conventions, including complete complex sentences with subject-verb agreement, consistent, appropriate use of verb tenses, pronoun-antecedent agreement, correct capitalization and punctuation, and correct spelling
- Compose literary texts such as personal narratives, fiction, and poetry using genre characteristics and craft
- Compose informational texts, including multi-paragraph essays that convey information about a topic, using a clear controlling idea or thesis statement and genre characteristics and craft
- Compose multi-paragraph argumentative texts using genre characteristics and craft
- Compose correspondence that reflects an opinion, registers a complaint, or requests information in a business or friendly structure.
- Generate, develop, and refine a major research question, identify and gather relevant information from a variety of sources, synthesize information from a variety of sources, differentiate between paraphrasing and plagiarism when using source materials
- Examine sources for reliability, credibility, bias, and faulty reasoning such as hyperbole, emotional appeals, and stereotype
- Display academic citations and use source materials ethically

Speech Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of the communication process by making appropriate communication choices, using oral language standards appropriately, and using non-verbal communication appropriately
- Analyze how perception of self and others affects communication and the importance of assuming responsibility for communication decisions
- Analyze and develop techniques and strategies for building self-confidence and reducing communication apprehension
- Demonstrate understanding of communication in interpersonal situations such as the appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication skills, the use of reflective empathic listening skills to respond appropriately, and the importance of using tact, courtesy, and assertiveness, and the use of appropriate strategies for agreeing or disagreeing in interpersonal and group situations
- Make and acknowledge introductions and giving and accepting praise and criticism
- Use effective techniques to prepare, organize, and present a speech

- Use appreciative and critical-listening skills to analyze, evaluate, and respond appropriately to class, public, or media
- Use appropriate information and effective critical-thinking skills in group decision-making and problem-solving processes
- Plan, research, organize, prepare, rehearse, and present an informative speech
- Use notes, manuscripts, rostrum, and visual and auditory aids appropriately in speeches
- Recognize and develop skills for analyzing persuasive strategies such as propaganda devices and emotional appeals
- Demonstrate persuasive skills in informal or formal argumentation, discussions, or debates

1st Interim: American Revolution and the Constitution

- Analyze the ideas and interests involved in the revolutionary movement
- Identify and describe the causes and events leading up to the American Revolution
 - Key events: Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, Intolerable Acts, and First Continental Congress
- Identify the founding fathers, key figures, and heroes of the American Revolution
 - Key figures: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Hancock, Paul Revere, James Madison, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Paine, Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, and Phyllis Wheatley
- Identify and compare the roles and perspectives of people of different social or economic status, race, gender, and political loyalty
- Identify and describe the key battles of the American Revolution
- Analyze the impact of the American Revolution on American politics, economics, and culture
- Identify and explain the origin and purpose of the Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights
- Analyze the impact of the American Revolution and founding documents on slavery and its eventual abolition
- Identify and explain the basic functions of the three branches of government and the system of checks and balances outlined in the Constitution
- Identify and describe the guarantees outlined in the Bill of Rights
- Analyze the evolution of the Constitution and its amendments over time

2nd Interim: Civil War, Reconstruction, and Civil Rights

- Describe the territorial expansion of the United States between the American Revolution and the Civil War
 - Key factors: Louisiana Purchase, War of 1812, The Monroe Doctrine and the concept of Manifest Destiny, the Mexican-American War
- Analyze how expansion and industrialization impacted slavery in the United States
- Identify the economic factors related to the expansion of slavery
- Identify the various ways that enslaved people resisted enslavement
- Contrast the movement for universal white male suffrage seen during the Age of Revolution with the disenfranchisement of non-white male people at that time
- Explain the Missouri Compromise and evaluate its political consequences
- Explain the fundamental beliefs of the abolitionist movement
- Identify and explain the causes of the Civil War and evaluate the importance of slavery as a principal cause of the conflict

- Key causes: Sectionalism, states' rights, election of Abraham Lincoln, economic differences between industrial North and agrarian South
- Identify the states and leaders associated with the Union and the Confederacy
- Explain the turning points and outcome of the Civil War
- Describe the Emancipation Proclamation and its significance
- Contrast the human and material costs of the war in the North and South
- Identify and explain the successes and failures of the Reconstruction effort
- Explain the provisions of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution
- Identify key events in the century between the 14th amendment and the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Key events: Sharecroppers, Ida B Wells, Plessy vs Ferguson, Brown vs Board of Education, the Green Book, and the civil rights protests of the 1950s and 1960s
- Analyze the purpose and effectiveness of the various civil rights protests of the early civil rights movement
- Contrast key events from the early civil rights movement with current events
- Evaluate and analyze the progress made in establishment and enforcing fundamental civil rights

3rd Interim: The Industrial Revolution and World War I

- Explain how industrial and technological breakthroughs transformed the economy, work processes, and domestic life in the United States
- Explain how geographical factors and rapid industrialization created different kinds of cities in diverse regions in the country
- Trace the migration of people from farm to city and the adjustment to urban life
- Evaluate the causes, objectives, and outcome of the Spanish-American War
- Explain the causes and alliances of World War I
- Analyze the importance of changing technology and methods of war on the outcome of World War I
- Explain the benefits and drawbacks of trench warfare
- Identify and describe major battles of World War I
- Evaluate Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points and the negotiations leading up to the Treaty of Versailles
- Analyze the impact of the Treaty of Versailles on European tensions and economic stability
- Evaluate the impact of continued technological advancement on the American free enterprise system
- Explain the impact of the increasing importance of radio, movies, newspapers, and magazines on the American way of life
- Analyze the causes and consequences of the stock market crash of 1929
- Evaluate the causes of the Great Depression
- Explain the effects of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl on American workers and families
- Explain how New Deal legislation and policies affected American workers and families

4th Interim: World War II and the Holocaust

- Describe the status of Europe at the end of World War I
- Analyze the effect of World War I on the lead up to World War II
- Explain the progression from patriotism to nationalism to fascism to Nazism
- Identify and describe the events involved in Hitler's rise to power
- Identify and analyze the events leading up to the beginning of World War II
- Identify the countries and leaders associated with the Allies and Axis powers
- Describe the escalation of persecution involved in the Holocaust including passage of anti-semitic laws, Kristallnacht, relocation to ghettos, concentration camps, and the final solution

- Analyze the impact of public reaction including bystanders, collaborators, and resistance movements on the events of the Holocaust
- Analyze the impact of international reaction to the Holocaust
- Describe the events leading to the entry of the United States into the war
- Identify and describe major battles of World War I
- Contrast concentration camps in Europe with Japanese internment camps in the US
- Explain how the war came to an end in the European theater
- Explain how the war came to an end in the Pacific theater
- Analyze the impact of World War II on American culture and way of life
- Analyze the continuing impact of World War II on modern warfare and globalization

6th Grade Humanities

In 6th-grade Humanities, students will explore Ancient Civilizations and their impact on modern society. Through historical texts, literary analysis, and interactive discussions, students will uncover the contributions of civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome to our contemporary world. This interdisciplinary approach enhances students' comprehension skills, critical thinking abilities, and understanding of the connections between past and present, preparing them for comprehensive learning across disciplines.

Social Studies Skills

- Use problem-solving and decision-making processes to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution
- Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including technology
- Analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, generalizing and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions
- Organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps
- Identify bias and points of view from the historical context surrounding an event that influenced the participants
- Evaluate the validity of a source based on corroboration with other sources and information about the author
- Support a point of view on an issue or event
- Create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information
- Use effective written communication skills, including proper citations and avoiding plagiarism

English Language Arts Skills

- Develop and sustain foundational language skills through active listening, speaking, and discussion, follow and give complex oral instructions, engage in meaningful discourse, and provide and accept constructive feedback from others
- Develop and sustain foundational language skills by using context and root words to clarify the meaning of words, reading grade-level text with fluency and comprehension, and self-selecting texts for sustained independent reading
- Develop and sustain comprehension skills while reading by generating and answering questions, making and confirming predictions, creating mental images and making personal connections, making inferences, and using evidence to support understanding
- Develop and sustain comprehension skills by evaluating details to determine key ideas, synthesizing information, and self-monitoring comprehension in order to make adjustments when understanding breaks down
- Write responses that demonstrate understanding of texts, including comparing sources within and across genres and using text evidence to support an appropriate response
- Paraphrase and summarize texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order
- Interact with sources in meaningful ways such as note taking, annotating, freewriting, or illustrating

- Discuss and write about the explicit or implicit meanings of text and then reflect on and adjust responses as new evidence is presented
- Demonstrate knowledge of literary genres and analyze setting, plot elements, characterization, character development, and plot development
- Infer multiple themes within and across texts using text evidence
- Explain the author's purpose and message within a text and analyze the use of text structure, print and graphic features, use of figurative language, and literary devices such as subjective and objective point of view
- Analyze mood, voice, and tone, rhetorical devices such as direct address and rhetorical questions, and logical fallacies such as loaded language and sweeping generalizations
- Plan a first draft by selecting a genre appropriate for a particular topic, purpose, and audience
- Develop drafts into a focused, structured, and coherent piece of writing through purposeful structure that includes an introduction, transitions, coherence within and across paragraphs, and a conclusion
- Develop drafts that include an engaging idea reflecting depth of thought with specific facts, details, and examples
- Revise drafts for clarity, development, organization, style, word choice, and sentence variety
- Edit drafts using standard English conventions, including complete complex sentences with subject-verb agreement, consistent, appropriate use of verb tenses, pronoun-antecedent agreement, correct capitalization and punctuation, and correct spelling
- Compose literary texts such as personal narratives, fiction, and poetry using genre characteristics and craft
- Compose informational texts, including multi-paragraph essays that convey information about a topic, using a clear controlling idea or thesis statement and genre characteristics and craft
- Compose multi-paragraph argumentative texts using genre characteristics and craft
- Compose correspondence that reflects an opinion, registers a complaint, or requests information in a business or friendly structure.
- Generate, develop, and refine a major research question, identify and gather relevant information from a variety of sources, synthesize information from a variety of sources, differentiate between paraphrasing and plagiarism when using source materials
- Examine sources for reliability, credibility, bias, and faulty reasoning such as hyperbole, emotional appeals, and stereotype
- Display academic citations and use source materials ethically

Speech Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of the communication process by making appropriate communication choices, using oral language standards appropriately, and using non-verbal communication appropriately
- Analyze how perception of self and others affects communication and the importance of assuming responsibility for communication decisions
- Analyze and develop techniques and strategies for building self-confidence and reducing communication apprehension
- Demonstrate understanding of communication in interpersonal situations such as the appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication skills, the use of reflective empathic listening skills to respond appropriately, and the importance of using tact, courtesy, and assertiveness, and the use of appropriate strategies for agreeing or disagreeing in interpersonal and group situations
- Make and acknowledge introductions and giving and accepting praise and criticism

- Use effective techniques to prepare, organize, and present a speech
- Use appreciative and critical-listening skills to analyze, evaluate, and respond appropriately to class, public, or media
- Use appropriate information and effective critical-thinking skills in group decision-making and problem-solving processes
- Plan, research, organize, prepare, rehearse, and present an informative speech
- Use notes, manuscripts, rostrum, and visual and auditory aids appropriately in speeches
- Recognize and develop skills for analyzing persuasive strategies such as propaganda devices and emotional appeals
- Demonstrate persuasive skills in informal or formal argumentation, discussions, or debates

1st Interim: Early Man: The Stone Age and Development of Mesopotamia

- Identify the key components inherent in the study of civilizations
 - Location, stable food source, government, economy, social structure, language, religion, arts, and technology
- Describe and contrast the paleolithic, mesolithic, and neolithic eras
- Identify and contrast the characteristics of hunter-gatherer societies and agrarian societies
- Analyze how the natural environments of the Tigris, Euphrates, and Nile Rivers and the Indus Valley shaped the early development of civilization
- Analyze ways the Mesopotamian culture adapted to and modified the physical environment
- Identify and describe factors that influence cultural change such as improvements in communication, transportation, and economic development
- Analyze the relationship between natural resources, labor, and entrepreneurship on the development of a culture
- Explain the fundamentals of bronze-making technology and assess the uses and significance of bronze tools, weapons, and luxury goods
- Identify problems that arise when one or more factors of production are in short supply
- Analyze the importance of trade in Mesopotamian civilization
- Analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on Mesopotamian culture
- Analyze the impact that written language had on Mesopotamian culture and political, legal, and religious life
- Describe the development of the arts in Mesopotamian culture
- Evaluate the impact of the characteristics of Mesopotamian culture on contemporary cultures
- Identify and describe the historical influence of individuals or groups from this time period on various contemporary societies

2nd Interim: Build-Up of Civilizations: Ancient Egypt and Ancient Israel

- Analyze how the natural environments of the Tigris, Euphrates, and Nile Rivers and the Indus Valley shaped the development of Ancient Egypt and Ancient Israel
- Analyze ways the Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Israeli culture adapted to and modified the physical environment
- Identify and describe factors that influence cultural change such as improvements in communication, transportation, and economic development
- Analyze the relationship between natural resources, labor, and entrepreneurship on the development of Ancient Egypt and Ancient Israel
- Identify problems that arise when one or more factors of production are in short supply

- Analyze the importance of trade in Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Israeli civilizations
- Analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Israeli cultures
- Analyze the impact that written language had on Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Israeli cultures and political, legal, and religious life
- Describe the development of the arts in Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Israeli cultures
- Compare the character of development in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus valley, including the emergence of social hierarchies and occupational specializations, as well as differences in the tasks that women and men performed
- Assess the importance of commercial, cultural, and political connections between Egypt and peoples of Nubia along the upper Nile
- Evaluate the impact of the characteristics of Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Israeli cultures on contemporary cultures
- Identify and describe the historical influence of individuals or groups from this time period on various contemporary societies
- Describe how new ideas, products, techniques, and institutions spread from one region to another and analyze conditions under which peoples assimilated or rejected new things or adapted them to prevailing cultural traditions
- Explain the patterns of Phoenician trade, political organization, and culture in the Mediterranean basin
- Explain the fundamental teachings and practices of Judaism
- Contrast Jewish monotheism with polytheistic religions

3rd Interim: Growth of Ideas and Innovation: Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China

- Analyze how the natural environment shaped the development of Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China
- Analyze ways the Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China cultures adapted to and modified the physical environment
- Identify and describe factors that influence cultural change such as improvements in communication, transportation, and economic development
- Analyze the relationship between natural resources, labor, and entrepreneurship on the development of Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China
- Identify problems that arise when one or more factors of production are in short supply
- Analyze the importance of trade in Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China civilizations
- Analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China cultures
- Analyze the impact that written language had on Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China cultures and political, legal, and religious life
- Describe the development of the arts in Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China cultures
- Analyze the character of development in Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China, including the emergence of social hierarchies and occupational specializations, as well as differences in the tasks that women and men performed
- Evaluate the impact of the characteristics of Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China cultures on contemporary cultures
- Identify and describe the historical influence of individuals or groups from this time period on various contemporary societies

- Describe how new ideas, products, techniques, and institutions spread from one region to another and analyze conditions under which peoples assimilated or rejected new things or adapted them to prevailing cultural traditions
- Describe the emergence of Greek city-states in the Aegean region and the political, social, and legal character of the polis
- Compare Athenian democracy with the military aristocracy of Sparta
- Explain hierarchical relationships within Greek society and analyze the civic, economic, and social tasks that men and women of different classes performed
- Identify the major characteristics of Hellenic architecture and sculpture and assess the ways in which architecture, sculpture, and painting expressed or influenced social values and attitudes
- Analyze the major events of the wars between Persia and the Greek city-states and the reasons why the Persians failed to conquer the Aegean region
- Assess Alexander's achievements as a military and political leader and analyze why the empire broke up into successor kingdoms
- Describe the life and teachings of the Buddha and explain ways in which those teachings were a response to the Brahmanic system
- Evaluate the achievements of the emperor Ashoka and assess his contribution to the expansion of Buddhism in India
- Describe fundamental features of the Hindu belief system
- Evaluate Gupta achievements in art, literature, and mathematics
- Assess the relationship between long-distance trade and the introduction of Hindu and Buddhist traditions
- Analyze the commercial and cultural significance of the trans-Eurasian trade routes in Ancient Chinese empires
- Compare the climate and geography of the Huang He (Yellow River) valley with the natural environments of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus valley
- Assess the policies and achievements of the Qin emperor Shi Huangdi in establishing a unified imperial realm
- Describe the life of Confucius and explain comparatively the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Daoism
- Analyze how religious or ethical systems contributed to cultural integration of Ancient Greece, Ancient India, and Ancient China civilizations
- Compare institutions of slavery or other forms of coerced labor in these civilizations

4th Interim: Rise and Fall of Civilizations Over Time: Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early Africa

- Analyze how the natural environment shaped the development of Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early Africa
- Analyze ways the Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early African cultures adapted to and modified the physical environment
- Identify and describe factors that influence cultural change such as improvements in communication, transportation, and economic development
- Analyze the relationship between natural resources, labor, and entrepreneurship on the development of Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early Africa
- Identify problems that arise when one or more factors of production are in short supply
- Analyze the importance of trade in Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early African civilizations

- Analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early African cultures
- Analyze the impact that written language had on Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early African cultures and political, legal, and religious life
- Describe the development of the arts in Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early African cultures
- Analyze the character of development in Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early Africa, including the emergence of social hierarchies and occupational specializations, as well as differences in the tasks that women and men performed
- Evaluate the impact of the characteristics of Ancient Rome, Ancient Islam, and Early African cultures on contemporary cultures
- Identify and describe the historical influence of individuals or groups from this time period on various contemporary societies
- Describe how new ideas, products, techniques, and institutions spread from one region to another and analyze conditions under which peoples assimilated or rejected new things or adapted them to prevailing cultural traditions
- Compare institutions of slavery or other forms of coerced labor in these civilizations
- Analyze possible causes of the decline and collapse of civilizations
- Assess the contributions of the Etruscans and the western Greek colonies to the development of Roman society and culture
- Describe the political and social institutions of the Roman Republic and analyze why Rome was transformed from republic to empire
- Analyze how Christianity spread widely in the Roman Empire
- Analyze the commercial and cultural significance of the trans-Eurasian trade routes in the period of the Roman empire
- Describe the life of Muhammad, the development of the early Muslim community, and the basic teachings and practices of Islam
- Analyze how Islam spread in Southwest Asia and the Mediterranean region
- Analyze the sources and development of Islamic law and the influence of law and religious practice on such areas as family life, moral behavior, marriage, inheritance, and slavery
- Assess how Islam won converts among culturally diverse peoples across wide areas of Afro-Eurasia
- Evaluate scientific, artistic, and literary achievements of Islamic civilization
- Analyze the importance of agriculture, gold production, and the trans-Saharan caravan trade in the growth of the Mali and Songhay empires
- Analyze the characteristics of the West African forest states of Ile-Ife and Benin
- Explain the rise of commercial towns on the East African coast and the significance of Swahili as a language of trade
- Account for the continuing spread of Islam and explain the importance of Muslims and Muslim civilization in mediating long-distance commercial, cultural, and intellectual exchange

7th Grade Humanities

In 7th-grade Humanities, students will explore the interconnected themes of innovation and conflict throughout history. Through literature, historical documents, and critical analysis, students will examine the challenges and advancements that arise as societies evolve. This interdisciplinary approach cultivates students' reading, writing, and analytical skills while deepening their understanding of the complexities of human progress and societal change.

Social Studies Skills

- Use problem-solving and decision-making processes to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution
- Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including technology
- Analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, generalizing and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions
- Organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps
- Identify bias and points of view from the historical context surrounding an event that influenced the participants
- Evaluate the validity of a source based on corroboration with other sources and information about the author
- Support a point of view on an issue or event
- Create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information
- Use effective written communication skills, including proper citations and avoiding plagiarism

English Language Arts Skills

- Develop and sustain foundational language skills through active listening, speaking, and discussion, follow and give complex oral instructions, engage in meaningful discourse, and provide and accept constructive feedback from others
- Develop and sustain foundational language skills by using context and root words to clarify the meaning of words, reading grade-level text with fluency and comprehension, and self-selecting texts for sustained independent reading
- Develop and sustain comprehension skills while reading by generating and answering questions, making and confirming predictions, creating mental images and making personal connections, making inferences, and using evidence to support understanding
- Develop and sustain comprehension skills by evaluating details to determine key ideas, synthesizing information, and self-monitoring comprehension in order to make adjustments when understanding breaks down
- Write responses that demonstrate understanding of texts, including comparing sources within and across genres and using text evidence to support an appropriate response
- Paraphrase and summarize texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order
- Interact with sources in meaningful ways such as note taking, annotating, freewriting, or illustrating
- Discuss and write about the explicit or implicit meanings of text and then reflect on and adjust responses as new evidence is presented

- Demonstrate knowledge of literary genres and analyze setting, plot elements, characterization, character development, and plot development
- Infer multiple themes within and across texts using text evidence
- Explain the author's purpose and message within a text and analyze the use of text structure, print and graphic features, use of figurative language, and literary devices such as subjective and objective point of view
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- Examine sources for reliability, credibility, bias, and faulty reasoning such as hyperbole, emotional appeals, and stereotype
- Display academic citations and use source materials ethically

Speech Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of the communication process by making appropriate communication choices, using oral language standards appropriately, and using non-verbal communication appropriately
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- Make and acknowledge introductions and giving and accepting praise and criticism
- Use effective techniques to prepare, organize, and present a speech

- Use appreciative and critical-listening skills to analyze, evaluate, and respond appropriately to class, public, or media
- Use appropriate information and effective critical-thinking skills in group decision-making and problem-solving processes
- Plan, research, organize, prepare, rehearse, and present an informative speech
- Use notes, manuscripts, rostrum, and visual and auditory aids appropriately in speeches
- Recognize and develop skills for analyzing persuasive strategies such as propaganda devices and emotional appeals
- Demonstrate persuasive skills in informal or formal argumentation, discussions, or debates

1st Interim: Mesoamerican History and Culture

- Identify and describe common traits that define Meso-American cultures and regions
 - Key cultures: Olmec, Zapotec, Toltec, Maya, Aztec, Inca, Anasazi
- Identify institutions basic to all societies, including government, economic, educational, and religious institutions
- Identify geographic factors in Meso-America such as location, physical features, transportation corridors and barriers, and distribution of natural resources that influence a society's political relationships
- Analyze how Meso-American cultures have been impacted by physical processes such as earthquakes and climate
- Analyze ways Meso-American cultures have adapted to the physical environment and have modified the physical environment such as mining, irrigation, and transportation infrastructure
- Identify and explain examples of conflict and cooperation between and among Meso-American cultures
- Identify and describe factors that influence cultural change such as improvements in communication, transportation, and economic development
- Identify and describe means of cultural diffusion such as trade, travel, and war
- Analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on Meso-American culture
- Analyze the factors and causes of the downfall of Meso-American cultures

2nd Interim: Texas History and Culture

- Compare the Mountains and Basins, Great Plains, North Central Plains, and Coastal Plains regions
- Analyze the effects of physical and human factors such as climate, weather, landforms, irrigation, transportation, and communication on major events in Texas
- Analyze ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive and negative consequences of the modifications
- Analyze ways in which geographic factors such as the Galveston Hurricane of 1900, the Dust Bowl, limited water resources, and alternative energy sources have affected the political, economic, and social development of Texas
- Analyze the influence of immigration and migration on Texas and the effects of the changing population distribution and growth
- Contrast Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo purposes for and methods of settlement in Texas
- Analyze Texas' role in the Mexican Revolution
- Analyze the individuals, events, and issues related to the Texas Revolution
- Analyze the causes of and events leading to Texas annexation and the issues during early statehood, including the U.S.- Mexican War, the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, slavery, and the Compromise of 1850

- Analyze Texas' role in the Civil War including slavery in Texas and significant battles such as the Battle of Galveston, the Battle of Sabine Pass, and the Battle of Palmito Ranch
- Analyze the effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas.
- Analyze significant individuals, events, and issues related to the development of the cattle industry, the growth of railroads, and development of the oil industry
- Compare the impact of reform movements in Texas in the 19th and 20th centuries such as progressivism, populism, women's suffrage, agrarianism, labor reform, and the conservative movement of the late 20th century
- Compare the civil rights and equal rights movements of various groups in Texas in the 20th century
 - Key leaders: James L. Farmer Jr., Hector P. Garcia, Oveta Culp Hobby, Lyndon B. Johnson, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Jane McCallum, and Lulu Belle Madison White
- Analyze the political, economic, and social impact of World War I, the Great Depression, World War II on Texas
- Analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of Texas in various industries such as agricultural, energy, medical, computer, and aerospace.
 - Key leaders: Walter Cunningham, Michael DeBakey, Denton Cooley, Benjy Brooks, Michael Dell, and Howard Hughes Sr.
- Analyze the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society
 - Key leaders: Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross, John Nance Garner ("Cactus Jack"), James A. Baker III, Henry B. González, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Barbara Jordan, Raymond L. Telles, Sam Rayburn, and Raul A. Gonzalez Jr.
- Analyze influence of other cultures and cultural diversity in Texas as reflected in cultural activities, celebrations, place names, architecture, food, and the arts
- Identify contributions to the arts by Texans
 - Key leaders: Roy Bedichek, Diane Gonzales Bertrand, J. Frank Dobie, Scott Joplin, Elisabet Ney, Amado Peña Jr., Walter Prescott Webb, and Horton Foote.

3rd Interim: The Cold War and the Space Race

- Contrast the ideological foundations of Capitalism and Communism
- Analyze causes and effects of events and social issues such as nativism, McCarthyism, and the Red Scare
- Describe U.S. responses to Soviet aggression after World War II, including the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airlift, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and John F. Kennedy's role in the Cuban Missile Crisis
- Analyze the role spies and espionage played in the Cold War
- Analyze how Cold War tensions were intensified by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), McCarthyism, the arms race, and the space race
- Describe the origins and milestones of the space race including the first satellites and probes, JFK's challenge, and the first animals and humans in space
- Describe the impact the space race had on the evolution of international space travel
- Analyze the factors and events leading to the end of the Cold War including detente and the Reagan era, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the fall of Communism

4th Interim: The Korean War and the Vietnam War

- Describe the status of Korea at the end of World War II

- Analyze the effect of the Cold War on the lead up to the Korean War
- Analyze reasons and outcomes for U.S. involvement in the Korean War and its relationship to the containment policy
- Analyze the role of the US in the major battles of the Korean War
- Describe the stalemate and armistice that preceded the end of the Korean War
- Analyze reasons and outcomes for U.S. involvement in foreign countries and their relationship to the Domino Theory, including the Vietnam War
- Analyze the major events of the Vietnam War, including the escalation of forces, the Tet Offensive, Vietnamization, and the fall of Saigon
- Describe the responses to the Vietnam War such as the draft, the 26th Amendment, the role of the media, the credibility gap, the silent majority, and the anti-war movement
- Describe the changes to warfare and technology throughout the Korean and Vietnam Wars

8th Grade Humanities

In 8th-grade Humanities, students will explore the intricate relationship between innovative thinking, artistic appreciation, and human development. The curriculum encompasses diverse topics, including the Middle Ages, Philosophy, Sociology, and a detailed look at the 20th century. Through literature, historical analysis, and critical discussion, students will deepen their understanding of the complexities of human progress, cultural evolution, and societal dynamics while honing their language arts skills. This interdisciplinary approach fosters critical thinking, empathy, and appreciation for the interplay between creativity, intellect, and societal change.

Social Studies Skills

- Use problem-solving and decision-making processes to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution
- Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including technology
- Analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, generalizing and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions
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English Language Arts Skills

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- Demonstrate persuasive skills in informal or formal argumentation, discussions, or debates

1st Interim: Medieval Times and The Renaissance

- Describe the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups from various societies during the Middle Ages and Renaissance
- Identify geographic factors such as location, physical features, transportation corridors and barriers, and distribution of natural resources that influence a society's political relationships during the Middle Ages and Renaissance
- Analyze the political, intellectual, artistic, economic, and religious impact of the Middle Ages
- Analyze how the Crusades, the Black Death, and the Hundred Years' War contributed to the end of medieval Europe
- Analyze the political, intellectual, artistic, economic, and religious impact of the Renaissance
- Analyze the political, intellectual, artistic, economic, and religious impact of the Reformation.

2nd Interim: Intro to Philosophy: The Growth of Ideas and Scientific Learning

- Study the contributions of the founders of Western Philosophy
 - Key figures: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
- Study the contributions of the founders of Eastern Philosophy
 - Key figures: Confucius, Siddarath Gutamma, Sun Tzu, Lao Tzu
- Recognize, explain, and contrast the important ideas of the major philosophical movements of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Enlightenment
 - Key figures: Kant, Descartes, Hume, Locke, Machiavelli, Voltaire, Bacon, Montesquieu
- Explore the influence of philosophy on artists of the Dark Ages, Renaissance, and Enlightenment Periods
- Compare and contrast the different ethical philosophic systems as applied to the Cynics, Stoics, Epicureans, and the Skeptics
- Identify and discuss the important ideas of the past 200 years
- Examine a variety of ethical questions to understand the moral dilemma associated with each

3rd Interim: Intro to Sociology: Collective Behavior, Social Movements, & Self-Expression Through the Arts

- Identify and contrast leading sociologists and interpret their contributions to the foundation of sociology
 - Key figures: Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and W. E. B. DuBois
- Identify the elements of culture to include language, symbols, norms, and values
- Compare cultural norms such as ethnicity, national origin, age, socioeconomic status, and gender among various U.S. subculture groups
- Define socialization and describe how the process of socialization is culturally determined

- Contrast the terms discrimination, prejudice, and bias and analyze the varying treatment patterns of minority groups
- Analyze social problems in selected U.S. subcultures
- Compare and contrast various types of collective behavior and social movements and how they affect society
- Examine counterculture movements and analyze their impact on society as a whole
- Analyze the use of art and music as a form of protest and self-expression
- Trace major developments in the history of mass media including propaganda

4th Interim: 20th Century Decade Study

- Analyze the major historical events, technological developments, and the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups in the 1920s
- Analyze the major historical events, technological developments, and the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups in the 1930s
- Analyze the major historical events, technological developments, and the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups in the 1940s
- Analyze the major historical events, technological developments, and the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups in the 1950s
- Analyze the major historical events, technological developments, and the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups in the 1960s
- Analyze the major historical events, technological developments, and the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups in the 1970s
- Analyze the major historical events, technological developments, and the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups in the 1980s
- Analyze the major historical events, technological developments, and the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups in the 1990s
- Explore cause and effect relationships between the decades
- Make connections between events from each decade with current events

Mathematics

The Middle School Mathematics objectives are based upon the principles and standards outlined by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Math.

NCTM recommends using the Problem Solving, Reasoning and Proof, Communication, Connections, and Representation to address the following standards:

- Numbers and Operations: Understand numbers, ways of representing numbers, relationships among numbers, and number systems; Understand meanings of operations and how they relate to one another; and Compute fluently and make reasonable estimates
- Algebra: Understand patterns, relations, and functions; Represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols; Use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships; and Analyze change in various contexts
- Geometry: Analyze characteristics and properties of two- and three-dimensional geometric shapes and develop mathematical arguments about geometric relationships; Specify locations and describe spatial relationships using coordinate geometry and other representational systems; Apply transformations and use symmetry to analyze mathematical situations; and Use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems
- Measurement: Understand measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems, and processes of measurement; and Apply appropriate techniques, tools, and formulas to determine measurements
- Data Analysis and Probability: Formulate questions that can be addressed with data and collect, organize, and display relevant data to answer them; Select and use appropriate statistical methods to analyze data; Develop and evaluate inferences and predictions that are based on data; and Understand and apply basic concepts of probability

State of Texas TEKS:

- Apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace
- Use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution
- Select tools, including real objects, manipulatives, paper and pencil, and technology as appropriate, and techniques, including mental math, estimation, and number sense as appropriate, to solve problems
- Communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations, including symbols, diagrams, graphs, and language as appropriate
- Create and use representations to organize, record, and communicate mathematical ideas
- Analyze mathematical relationships to connect and communicate mathematical ideas
- Display, explain, and justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication

5th Grade Mathematics

In 5th grade math, we prioritize individualized learning to meet students at their unique levels of understanding. Through a combination of personalized lesson plans and tailored resources employing traditional paper-and-pencil methods as well as technology-based resources, students engage in hands-on learning experiences to develop both content knowledge and practical skills. Each student receives targeted support to address their specific learning needs and challenges. Our approach ensures that every student can progress at their own pace, building confidence and fostering a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and promoting academic growth.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Mathematical Processes

- Apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace
- Use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution
- Select tools, including real objects, manipulatives, paper and pencil, and technology as appropriate, and techniques, including mental math, estimation, and number sense as appropriate, to solve problems
- Communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations, including symbols, diagrams, graphs, and language as appropriate
- Create and use representations to organize, record, and communicate mathematical ideas
- Analyze mathematical relationships to connect and communicate mathematical ideas
- Display, explain, and justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication

Number and Operations

- Understand the place value system and perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers
- Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division
- Fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm
- Divide whole numbers with and without remainders
- Understand and apply the concepts of prime and composite numbers
- Interpret fractions as division of the numerator by the denominator
- Identify and generate equivalent fractions
- Compare and order fractions and decimals
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals
- Perform operations with fractions, including mixed numbers
- Solve problems involving fractions and decimals to the hundredths place

- Use place value understanding to round decimals to any place
- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators
- Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators

Algebraic Reasoning

- Write and interpret numerical expressions
- Analyze patterns and relationships
- Use parentheses, brackets, or braces in numerical expressions
- Represent and solve multi-step problems involving the four operations
- Generate a numerical pattern when given a rule
- Determine if a given value makes an equation or inequality true
- Represent and analyze patterns and relationships using tables, graphs, and symbols
- Write and solve equations and inequalities to represent mathematical situations
- Understand the concept of variables and use them to express relationships
- Apply properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions

Geometry and Measurement

- Classify two-dimensional figures based on attributes and properties
- Understand and apply concepts of perimeter, area, and volume
- Solve problems related to perimeter and area of rectangles and other polygons
- Solve problems involving the circumference and area of a circle
- Identify and describe characteristics of three-dimensional shapes
- Understand concepts of volume and measure volumes by counting unit cubes
- Understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition
- Find the volume of a rectangular prism with whole number side lengths
- Understand the concept of volume and solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume
- Understand and apply the concepts of angles, including measuring and classifying them
- Use a protractor to measure angles
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean theorem
- Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems
- Understand the concept of measurement and convert between different units of measurement
- Use appropriate tools and units to measure objects accurately
- Use addition and subtraction to solve problems involving customary and metric measurement
- Convert among different-sized standard measurement units within a given measurement system
- Understand and apply concepts of time, including elapsed time and time conversions

Data Analysis and Probability

- Collect, organize, and represent data using tables, charts, and graphs
- Interpret and analyze data, including measures of central tendency and variability
- Understand and apply concepts of probability to make predictions and solve problems
- Understand and interpret statistical measures such as mean, median, mode, and range
- Represent and interpret data using line plots, bar graphs, and coordinate grids
- Represent and interpret data on a frequency table, dot plot, or stem-and-leaf plot
- Solve problems using data represented in bar graphs, dot plots, and stem-and-leaf plots
- Develop understanding of statistical variability

Financial Literacy

- Understand the value of different denominations of currency
- Practice counting and making change with money
- Identify the factors that influence income, such as education, skills, and experience
- Recognize the importance of education and lifelong learning for future earning potential
- Differentiate between needs and wants
- Develop a basic understanding of budgeting and financial planning
- Identify ways to save money, such as setting goals, creating a savings plan, and making choices to delay gratification
- Explore the concept of interest and understand how it affects savings and borrowing
- Recognize the consequences of financial decisions, both positive and negative
- Generate a financial plan, including a spending and savings plan for a future goal

6th Grade Mathematics

The 6th-grade math class continues our commitment to individualized learning, empowering students to progress at their own pace. Through personalized lesson plans and a blend of traditional and technology-based resources, students strengthen their mathematical skills while exploring more advanced concepts. This flexible approach enables students to transition seamlessly to pre-algebra when they demonstrate readiness, ensuring that each student receives the support they need to thrive academically and excel in mathematics.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Mathematical Processes

- Apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace
- Use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution
- Select tools, including real objects, manipulatives, paper and pencil, and technology as appropriate, and techniques, including mental math, estimation, and number sense as appropriate, to solve problems
- Communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations, including symbols, diagrams, graphs, and language as appropriate
- Create and use representations to organize, record, and communicate mathematical ideas
- Analyze mathematical relationships to connect and communicate mathematical ideas
- Display, explain, and justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication

Number and Operations

- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers
- Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers, decimals, and fractions
- Represent and use numbers in equivalent forms, including integers, fractions, decimals, and percents
- Perform operations with fractions and decimals, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Understand and apply the concepts of factors, multiples, and divisibility
- Understand and apply concepts of prime and composite numbers
- Determine common factors and multiples, including the least common multiple and the greatest common factor
- Use order of operations to simplify numerical expressions
- Solve problems involving ratios, proportions, and percentages

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems
- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems
- Compute unit rates associated with ratios of fractions, including ratios of lengths, areas, and other quantities measured in like or different units

Algebraic Reasoning

- Identify when two expressions are equivalent
- Write and evaluate numerical expressions involving whole-number exponents
- Understand and apply the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions
- Represent relationships between quantities using equations, inequalities, and verbal descriptions
- Use variables to represent unknown quantities and solve real-world problems
- Solve one-variable equations and inequalities involving whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Identify independent and dependent variables and make predictions based on data
- Analyze patterns and relationships using tables, graphs, and rules
- Extend understanding of arithmetic to algebraic expressions and equations

Geometry and Measurement

- Classify two-dimensional figures based on their properties
- Understand and apply concepts of area, perimeter, surface area, and volume
- Identify and describe characteristics of three-dimensional shapes
- Understand and apply the concepts of angles, including measuring and classifying them
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume
- Understand properties of polygons and use that knowledge to solve problems
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume
- Calculate area and perimeter of polygons and composite figures
- Calculate volume and surface area of prisms and cylinders
- Solve problems involving the circumference and area of circles
- Describe cross-sections of three-dimensional figures
- Use formulas to solve problems involving geometric figures
- Understand the concept of measurement and convert between different units of measurement
- Solve problems involving time, including elapsed time and time conversions
- Use appropriate tools and units to measure objects accurately
- Understand and apply concepts of rate, ratio, and unit rate in real-world contexts
- Solve problems involving scale drawings and models

Data Analysis and Probability

- Collect, organize, and represent data using tables, charts, and graphs
- Interpret and analyze data, including measures of central tendency and variability
- Understand and apply concepts of probability to make predictions and solve problems
- Understand and interpret statistical measures such as mean, median, mode, and range
- Use statistical reasoning to analyze and evaluate claims and arguments
- Develop understanding of statistical variability
- Summarize and describe distributions
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models

Financial Literacy

- Demonstrate proficiency in counting and making change with money

- Learn about different types of financial accounts, including checking accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit (CDs)
- Understand the concept of interest and its role in saving and borrowing money
- Understand the relationship between education, skills, and income potential
- Learn about the importance of career planning and setting goals for future employment
- Develop strategies for saving money and setting financial goals
- Understand the concept of investing and the potential benefits and risks associated with different investment options
- Explore basic investment vehicles, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real estate
- Learn about the importance of diversification and long-term planning in building wealth
- Learn about credit and debt management, including the responsible use of credit cards and loans
- Explore the consequences of financial decisions, including debt, bankruptcy, and foreclosure
- Apply critical thinking skills to analyze financial situations and make informed decisions
- Develop problem-solving strategies for managing financial challenges and achieving financial goals

7th Grade Foundations of Mathematics

The 7th-grade math class builds upon our commitment to individualized learning, providing targeted support for students who may not yet be ready for pre-algebra but have the potential to advance later. Through personalized lesson plans, varied instructional approaches, and ongoing assessment, students strengthen their foundational mathematical skills while gradually transitioning to more advanced concepts. This approach ensures that each student receives the support they need to progress academically and prepares them for future success in mathematics, including the opportunity to move up to pre-algebra when they demonstrate readiness.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Mathematical Processes

- Apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace
- Use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution
- Select tools, including real objects, manipulatives, paper and pencil, and technology as appropriate, and techniques, including mental math, estimation, and number sense as appropriate, to solve problems
- Communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations, including symbols, diagrams, graphs, and language as appropriate
- Create and use representations to organize, record, and communicate mathematical ideas
- Analyze mathematical relationships to connect and communicate mathematical ideas
- Display, explain, and justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication

Number and Operations

- Understand and apply operations with rational numbers (positive and negative integers, fractions, and decimals)
- Perform operations with rational numbers, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Solve problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with rational numbers
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples
- Apply the concepts of factors, multiples, and divisibility
- Apply the order of operations to evaluate algebraic expressions
- Solve problems involving ratios, proportions, and percentages
- Understand the relationship between ratios and fractions and decimals
- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems

- Compute unit rates associated with ratios of fractions, including ratios of lengths, areas, and other quantities measured in like or different units
- Use proportional reasoning to solve problems

Algebraic Reasoning

- Understand and apply the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions
- Solve equations and inequalities involving whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Use variables to represent unknown quantities and solve real-world problems
- Represent and analyze patterns and relationships using tables, graphs, and equations
- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations
- Represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols
- Model one-variable equations and inequalities using real-world problems
- Represent quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables
- Use variables to represent quantities in a real-world or mathematical problem, and construct simple equations and inequalities to solve problems by reasoning about the quantities

Geometry and Measurement

- Draw, construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them
- Understand and apply concepts of congruence and similarity to two-dimensional figures
- Understand and apply concepts of two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures
- Calculate area, surface area, and volume of geometric shapes
- Identify and describe characteristics of three-dimensional shapes
- Apply concepts of similarity and congruence to geometric figures
- Understand and apply concepts of angles, including measuring and classifying them
- Understand and use formulas to solve problems involving perimeter, circumference, area, and volume
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean theorem
- Understand the concept of measurement and convert between different units of measurement
- Understand and apply concepts of time, including elapsed time and time conversions
- Use appropriate tools and units to measure objects accurately

Data Analysis and Probability

- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data
- Collect, organize, and represent data using tables, charts, and graphs
- Interpret and analyze data, including measures of central tendency and variability
- Use data to solve problems involving frequency distributions and measures of central tendency
- Understand and apply concepts of probability to make predictions and solve problems
- Use statistical reasoning to analyze and evaluate claims and arguments

Financial Literacy

- Understand the importance of budgeting and tracking expenses
- Practice creating and maintaining a personal budget
- Identify sources of income and expenses and learn to balance income and expenditures
- Understand the relationship between education, skills, and earning potential

- Learn about factors influencing wages and salaries, such as experience, education, and demand for specific skills
- Discuss the importance of lifelong learning and skill development for career advancement
- Develop strategies for saving money and setting financial goals
- Understand the role of banks and other financial institutions in facilitating saving and investing
- Explore different types of savings and investment accounts, including interest-bearing accounts, stocks, bonds, and mutual funds
- Learn about the concept of risk and return in investing and the importance of diversification
- Learn about credit scores and how they are used by lenders to evaluate creditworthiness
- Discuss responsible borrowing practices and the consequences of defaulting on loans
- Explore strategies for managing debt, including repayment plans and debt consolidation
- Practice making informed decisions as a consumer, including comparing prices, reading product labels, and understanding warranties and return policies
- Apply critical thinking skills to analyze financial situations and make informed decisions
- Develop problem-solving strategies for managing financial challenges and achieving financial goals
- Understand the long-term consequences of financial decisions and the importance of planning for the future

8th Grade Foundations of Mathematics

The 8th-grade math class continues our commitment to personalized learning, providing tailored support for students who are not yet ready for pre-algebra but have the potential to advance later. Through individualized lesson plans, differentiated instruction, and ongoing assessment, students continue to strengthen their foundational mathematical skills while gradually preparing for more advanced concepts. This approach ensures that each student receives the necessary support to progress academically and fosters a supportive environment for their mathematical growth. Students are also encouraged to move up to pre-algebra when they demonstrate readiness, empowering them to reach their full potential in mathematics.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Mathematical Processes

- Apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace
- Use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution
- Select tools, including real objects, manipulatives, paper and pencil, and technology as appropriate, and techniques, including mental math, estimation, and number sense as appropriate, to solve problems
- Communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations, including symbols, diagrams, graphs, and language as appropriate
- Create and use representations to organize, record, and communicate mathematical ideas
- Analyze mathematical relationships to connect and communicate mathematical ideas
- Display, explain, and justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication

Number and Operations

- Understand the properties of rational and irrational numbers
- Understand and apply operations with rational numbers (positive and negative integers, fractions, and decimals)
- Apply the order of operations to evaluate algebraic expressions
- Perform operations with rational and irrational numbers, including fractions, decimals, and integers
- Solve problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with rational numbers
- Solve problems involving ratios, proportions, and percentages
- Apply the concepts of factors, multiples, and divisibility
- Understand and apply concepts of exponents and square roots
- Know that numbers that are not rational are called irrational
- Use rational approximations of irrational numbers to compare the size of irrational numbers and locate them approximately on a number line

Algebraic Reasoning

- Represent and analyze patterns and relationships using tables, graphs, and equations
- Understand and apply the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions
- Represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols
- Solve equations and inequalities involving whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers
- Use variables to represent unknown quantities and solve real-world problems
- Model one-variable equations and inequalities using real-world problems
- Solve linear equations and inequalities with one variable
- Understand and use the properties of real numbers to simplify expressions
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities
- Interpret the equation $y = mx + b$ as defining a linear function, whose graph is a straight line
- Work with radicals and integer exponents
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations

Geometry and Measurement

- Understand and apply concepts of two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures
- Understand and apply concepts of congruence and similarity to two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures
- Calculate area, surface area, and volume of geometric shapes
- Understand and use formulas to solve problems involving perimeter, circumference, area, and volume
- Understand and apply concepts of angles, including measuring and classifying them
- Identify and describe characteristics of geometric figures
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean theorem
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres
- Understand the concept of measurement and convert between different units of measurement
- Solve problems involving perimeter, area, surface area, and volume
- Understand and apply concepts of time, including elapsed time and time conversions
- Use appropriate tools and units to measure objects accurately

Data Analysis and Probability

- Understand that statistics can be used to gain information about a population by examining a sample of the population
- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data
- Collect, organize, and represent data using tables, charts, and graphs
- Interpret and analyze data, including measures of central tendency and variability
- Understand and apply concepts of probability to make predictions and solve problems
- Use statistical reasoning to analyze and evaluate claims and arguments
- Use data to solve problems involving frequency distributions and measures of central tendency

Financial Literacy

- Develop and implement a personal budget that accounts for income, expenses, and savings goals
- Understand the importance of tracking expenses and monitoring financial transactions
- Practice using financial tools and resources, such as budgeting apps and online banking platforms, to manage money effectively
- Explore strategies for avoiding overspending and living within one's means
- Explore career pathways and opportunities, including vocational training, higher education, and the trades
- Develop long-term saving and investment goals and create a plan to achieve them
- Understand the concept of risk and return in investing and the importance of diversification
- Understand the basics of credit, including credit scores, credit reports, and credit cards
- Explore strategies for managing debt, including debt repayment plans and debt consolidation
- Apply critical thinking skills to analyze financial situations and make informed decisions
- Develop problem-solving strategies for managing financial challenges and achieving financial goals
- Understand the long-term consequences of financial decisions and the importance of planning for the future

Pre-Algebra

In our middle school pre-algebra class, students have the freedom to work at their own pace and progress to algebra I concepts when they demonstrate readiness. Through personalized learning plans and self-paced activities, students strengthen their foundational math skills while gradually transitioning to more advanced algebraic concepts. This flexible approach ensures that each student receives the support they need to succeed academically and prepares them for the challenges of algebra I, empowering them to excel in mathematics.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Mathematical Processes

- Apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace
- Use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution
- Select tools, including real objects, manipulatives, paper and pencil, and technology as appropriate, and techniques, including mental math, estimation, and number sense as appropriate, to solve problems
- Communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations, including symbols, diagrams, graphs, and language as appropriate
- Create and use representations to organize, record, and communicate mathematical ideas
- Analyze mathematical relationships to connect and communicate mathematical ideas
- Display, explain, and justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication

Number and Operations

- Understand rational and irrational numbers and their properties
- Perform operations with rational numbers, including fractions and decimals
- Use properties of integer exponents to evaluate numerical expressions
- Recognize and generate equivalent forms of rational numbers
- Apply the order of operations to evaluate algebraic expressions
- Understand and apply concepts of exponents and square roots

Algebraic Reasoning

- Understand the concept of a variable and use variables to represent quantities in real-world and mathematical problems
- Write and evaluate expressions involving variables and arithmetic operations
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems using equations and inequalities
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables

- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Understand that a function is a rule that assigns to each input exactly one output
- Interpret and analyze linear functions and their graphs
- Represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols
- Model one-variable equations and inequalities using real-world problems
- Solve linear equations and inequalities with one variable
- Understand and use the properties of real numbers to simplify expressions

Geometry and Measurement

- Understand and apply concepts of two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures
- Calculate area, surface area, and volume of geometric shapes
- Apply concepts of similarity and congruence to geometric figures
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and use formulas to solve problems involving perimeter, circumference, area, and volume
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean theorem
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres

Data Analysis and Probability

- Collect, organize, and interpret data using tables, graphs, and charts
- Use measures of central tendency to analyze data sets
- Use data to solve problems involving frequency distributions and measures of central tendency
- Apply statistical concepts to analyze and interpret data
- Understand the concept of statistical variability and summarize and describe distributions
- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population
- Understand that statistics can be used to gain information about a population by examining a sample of the population

Algebra I

[High School Credit Granted]

The focus of the Algebra I class is to introduce the fundamental concepts in algebra, including equations, inequalities, functions, and basic operations with variables. Students will learn to solve equations, graph linear equations and inequalities, and manipulate expressions using properties of real numbers.

Number and Quantity

- Understand the concept of real numbers
- Represent and use real numbers in various forms
- Perform operations with real numbers, including irrational numbers
- Understand and apply the properties of exponents
- Perform operations with numbers, including radicals and exponents
- Perform operations with real numbers, including integer exponents
- Use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships
- Use mathematical models to model real-world situations
- Use properties of real numbers to simplify expressions and solve equations

Algebraic Reasoning

- Represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols
- Write, solve, and graph linear equations and inequalities
- Understand the concept of functions and use function notation
- Interpret and analyze relationships represented graphically, numerically, and symbolically
- Understand and apply the quadratic formula
- Graph quadratic functions and analyze their key features
- Factor polynomials
- Apply algebraic concepts to analyze and solve practical problems

Functions

- Understand the definition of a function and its key characteristics including notation
- Understand linear equations and inequalities in one variable
- Represent and analyze functions using multiple representations (tables, graphs, equations)
- Represent and analyze linear functions, including slope-intercept form
- Solve systems of linear equations and inequalities
- Solve problems involving linear, exponential, and quadratic functions
- Use functions to model real-world situations

Geometry and Measurement

- Solve problems involving area, volume, and surface area
- Apply geometric concepts to solve problems related to measurement

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Evaluate the reasonableness of a solution to a problem
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Make conjectures and build a logical argument to validate or refute them
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics

- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Science

The Middle School Science objectives are based upon the Next Generation Science Standards as outlined by the National Science Teachers Association and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for science.

NGSS SCIENCE EDUCATION DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1: Practices:** The practices describe behaviors that scientists engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world and the key set of engineering practices that engineers use as they design and build models and systems. Engaging in scientific investigation requires not only skill but also knowledge that is specific to each practice. Engineering design is similar to scientific inquiry, but there are significant differences. Scientific inquiry involves the formulation of a question that can be answered through investigation, while engineering design involves the formulation of a problem that can be solved through design. Strengthening the engineering aspects of the Next Generation Science Standards will clarify for students the relevance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (the four STEM fields) to everyday life.
- **Dimension 2: Crosscutting Concepts:** Crosscutting concepts have application across all domains of science. As such, they are a way of linking the different domains of science. They include: Patterns, similarity, and diversity; Cause and effect; Scale, proportion and quantity; Systems and system models; Energy and matter; Structure and function; Stability and change. The Framework emphasizes that these concepts need to be made explicit for students because they provide an organizational schema for interrelating knowledge from various science fields into a coherent and scientifically-based view of the world.
- **Dimension 3: Disciplinary Core Ideas:** Disciplinary ideas are grouped in four domains: the physical sciences; the life sciences; the earth and space sciences; and engineering, technology and applications of science. Disciplinary core ideas have the power to focus K–12 science curriculum, instruction and assessments on the most important aspects of science. To be considered core, the ideas should meet at least two of the following criteria and ideally all four:
 - Have **broad importance** across multiple sciences or engineering disciplines or be a **key organizing concept** of a single discipline;
 - Provide a **key tool** for understanding or investigating more complex ideas and solving problems;
 - Relate to the **interests and life experiences of students** or be connected to **societal or personal concerns** that require scientific or technological knowledge;
 - Be **teachable** and **learnable** over multiple grades at increasing levels of depth and sophistication.

NGSS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

SCIENTIFIC PROCESSES

- Demonstrate safe practice during investigations
- Make wise choices in conserving resources and recycling or reusing materials
- Choose testable questions and form hypotheses in planning investigations
- Observe and measure as part of collecting data
- Analyze and interpret data to arrive at a reasonable conclusion

- Communicate a valid conclusion to others both written and verbally
- Record and organize data by making graphs, tables, maps, and charts
- Analyze scientific explanations to discover the strengths and weaknesses of the conclusion
- Draw inferences based on data
- Use models to represent the natural world
- Evaluate research and its impact on thought, society, and the environment
- Research the history of science and contributions of scientists

SCIENTIFIC METHOD

- **Question:** Ask a question and then research your topic
- **Hypothesis:** Make your best guess about what will happen
- **Procedure:** Write out very specific directions for the experiment including materials you will need
- **Experiment:** Observe what happens when you test your hypothesis, then test your hypothesis several times and record your findings
- **Data Analysis:** Organize and evaluate your data
- **Conclusion:** What did you find out? Use your observations and the data you gathered to determine whether your hypothesis was correct
- **Abstract:** Summarize and explain your findings
- **Presentation:** Present your findings to others

ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS

- **Define the Problem:** The engineering design process starts when you ask the following questions about problems that you observe: What is the problem or need? Who has the problem or need? Why is it important to solve? [Who] need(s) [what] because [why]?
- **Do Background Research:** Learn from the experiences of others — this can help you find out about existing solutions to similar problems and avoid mistakes that were made in the past. Do background research in two major areas: Users or customers; Existing solutions.
- **Specify Requirements:** Design requirements state the important characteristics that your solution must meet to succeed. One of the best ways to identify the design requirements for your solution is to analyze the concrete example of a similar, existing product, noting each of its key features.
- **Brainstorm Solutions:** There are always many good possibilities for solving design problems. If you focus on just one before looking at the alternatives, it is almost certain that you are overlooking a better solution. Good designers try to generate as many possible solutions as they can.
- **Choose the Best Solution:** Look at whether each possible solution meets your design requirements. Some solutions probably meet more requirements than others. Reject solutions that do not meet the requirements.
- **Develop the Solution:** Development involves the refinement and improvement of a solution, and it continues throughout the design process, often even after a product ships to customers.
- **Build a Prototype:** A prototype is an operating version of a solution. Often it is made with different materials than the final version, and generally it is not as polished. Prototypes are a key step in the development of a final solution, allowing the designer to test how the solution will work.
- **Test and Redesign:** The design process involves multiple iterations and redesigns of your final solution. You will likely test your solution, find new problems, make changes, and test new solutions before settling on a final design.
- **Communicate Results:** To complete your project, communicate your results to others in a final report and/or a display board. Professional engineers always do the same, thoroughly documenting their solutions so that they can be manufactured and supported.

5th Grade Science

[Lithosphere - the study of the Earth's crust, mantle, and core]

In 5th-grade science, students will focus on studying the lithosphere. They will explore Earth's solid outer layer, including rocks, minerals, soil, and geological processes. Through hands-on activities and experiments, students will learn about the structure, composition, and dynamic changes of the Earth's crust, fostering a deeper understanding of our planet's physical features.

Crosscutting Concepts

- Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort, classify, communicate, and analyze simple rates of change for natural phenomena
- Events have causes that generate observable patterns
- Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions—such as inputs, processes, and outputs—and energy, matter, and information flows within systems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Develop and use a model to describe phenomena
- Plan and investigate collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence
- Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for phenomena
- Construct an explanation using models or representations
- Demonstrate safe practices during laboratory and field investigations
- Make wise choices in the use and conservation of resources and the disposal or recycling of materials
- Plan and implement comparative and descriptive investigations by making observations, asking well-defined questions, and using appropriate equipment and technology

Core Ideas

- Some events happen very quickly; others occur very slowly, over a time period much longer than one can observe
- Fossils provide important evidence of how life and environmental conditions have changed
- Earth's major systems are the geosphere (solid and molten rock, soil, and sediments), the hydrosphere (water and ice), the atmosphere (air), and the biosphere (living things, including humans)
- The geosphere is powered by energy from the Sun and the Earth's interior
- Maps of ancient land and water patterns, based on investigations of rocks and fossils, make clear how Earth's plates have moved great distances, collided, and spread apart
- The locations of mountain ranges, deep ocean trenches, ocean floor structures, earthquakes, and volcanoes occur in patterns

Introduction to the Lithosphere

- Investigate the fields of study related to the lithosphere: Ecology, Archeology, Geology, Pedology, Seismology, and Volcanology
- Identify and understand the components of the Earth system: lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere
- Explore how these systems interact with each other
- Define the lithosphere as the solid outer layer of Earth, including the crust and upper mantle
- Explain the importance of the lithosphere in supporting life and providing resources
- Investigate the composition and layers of the Earth's crust, mantle, and core
- Understand the theory of plate tectonics and continental drift

- Explore the types of plate boundaries (convergent, divergent, transform) and their associated landforms and geological features
- Explore how human activities, such as mining, construction, deforestation, urbanization, and pollution impact the lithosphere
- Investigate sustainable practices for using Earth's resources responsibly
- Explore strategies for sustainable land use and conservation practices
- Understand how fossils are formed and preserved
- Investigate how fossils provide evidence of past environments and the history of life on Earth

Rocks and Minerals

- Introduce the periodic table and explain how it organizes elements based on their properties
- Identify the properties and characteristics of rocks and minerals
- Identify the three main types of rocks (igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic) and their formation processes
- Classify rocks into three main types (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic) based on their origin and characteristics
- Investigate the processes involved in the formation of different types of rocks
- Investigate the properties of minerals and how they are used in everyday life

Landforms and Geography

- Explore how Earth's surface changes over time through processes such as weathering, erosion, and deposition
- Investigate the role of water, wind, and ice in shaping landforms
- Recognize how various landforms, such as deltas, canyons, and sand dunes are formed by the interaction of natural forces such as wind, water, and ice
- Investigate the geographical features of different regions and their significance
- Use models to simulate geological processes, such as erosion, weathering, and deposition
- Identify and classify Earth's renewable and nonrenewable resources and their importance to society
- Explore the concept of conservation and its role in preserving Earth's resources for future generations

Natural Disasters

- Investigate the distribution of volcanoes and earthquake zones around the world
- Explore the causes and effects of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes
- Investigate rapid changes in Earth's surface caused by natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and landslides
- Analyze the impact of these events on the environment and human communities
- Develop and use models to predict the effects of natural disasters on communities

1st Interim: Introduction to Scientific Practices and the Lithosphere

- Develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Identify and use proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Identify and employ science process skills
- Identify and employ the steps of the scientific method
- Identify and employ the steps of the engineering design process
- Demonstrate an understanding of metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Identify and explore the layers of the Earth
- Explore the elements and the periodic table
- Investigate and analyze the properties of magnetism
- Investigate and analyze the properties of density and buoyancy

- Develop map and globe skills related to the United States

2nd Interim: Regions, Landforms, and Plate Tectonics

- Continue to develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Continue to develop proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Continue to develop proficiency with metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Deepen understanding of the layers of the Earth
- Investigate landforms and Pangea
- Identify and explore natural disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis
- Further develop map and globe skills related to the United States including U.S. Capitals

3rd Interim: Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, and Soil

- Continue to develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Continue to develop proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Continue to develop proficiency with metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Introduce the periodic table and explain how it organizes elements based on their properties
- Identify and investigate rocks and minerals
- Identify and explain the rock cycle
- Investigate the causes of fossil formation
- Investigate and explore the causes and outcomes of weathering and erosion
- Investigate and explore the causes and process of soil formation
- Identify and describe the types of soil and their compositions
- Develop map and globe skills related to the oceans and continents
- Develop map and globe skills related to world geography

4th Interim: Earth Systems, Resources, and Conservation

- Demonstrate proficiency with note taking strategies
- Demonstrate proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Demonstrate proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- the scientific method and engineering design process
- Demonstrate proficiency with metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Explore and develop an understanding of agriculture
- Explore and develop an understanding of environmental science and conservation
- Explore and develop an understanding of natural resources
- Distinguish between renewable and nonrenewable resources
- Further develop map and globe skills related to the oceans and continents
- Further develop map and globe skills related to world geography

6th Grade Science

[Hydrosphere/Cryosphere - the study of the Earth's solid, liquid, and gaseous water]

In 6th-grade science, students will focus on studying the hydrosphere and cryosphere. They will explore Earth's water systems, including oceans, rivers, glaciers, and polar ice caps. Through hands-on activities and experiments, students will learn about the distribution, movement, and impact of water and ice on the environment, fostering a deeper understanding of Earth's aquatic and frozen regions.

Crosscutting Concepts

- Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions—such as inputs, processes, and outputs—and energy, matter, and information flows within systems
- Changes in Earth's hydrosphere and cryosphere can be observed at various time scales and have consequences for Earth's climate and ecosystems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Develop and use models to describe and predict phenomena
- Analyze data to provide evidence for phenomena
- Construct explanations using evidence to describe and predict interactions between the hydrosphere, cryosphere, and other Earth systems
- Demonstrate safe practices during laboratory and field investigations
- Make wise choices in the use and conservation of resources and the disposal or recycling of materials
- Plan and implement comparative and descriptive investigations by making observations, asking well-defined questions, and using appropriate equipment and technology

Core Ideas

- Water continually cycles among land, ocean, and atmosphere via transpiration, evaporation, condensation, and crystallization, and precipitation, as well as downhill flows on land
- Climate describes a range of an area's typical weather conditions and the extent to which those conditions vary over years

Introduction to the Hydrosphere and Cryosphere

- Investigate the fields of study related to the hydrosphere and cryosphere: Ecology, Limnology, Oceanography, Marine Biology, Botany, Zoology, and Agronomy
- Define the hydrosphere and its components, including oceans, rivers, lakes, and groundwater
- Identify and explain the components of the cryosphere including glaciers, ice caps, and ice sheets
- Explore the distribution of water on Earth and the characteristics of different bodies of water
- Explore the composition, properties, and distribution of Earth's freshwater and saltwater
- Investigate the importance of the hydrosphere and cryosphere in Earth's systems
- Investigate the interactions of Earth's hydrosphere and cryosphere
- Explain the importance of water in Earth's systems and the water cycle
- Analyze the impact of water on Earth's surface, including its role in weathering and erosion
- Investigate the unique properties of water, including cohesion, adhesion, surface tension
- Explain how these properties influence Earth's processes and climate
- Define glaciers, ice caps, and ice sheets and their distribution on Earth
- Explore the processes of glacial formation, movement, and erosion
- Investigate the relationship between the cryosphere and Earth's climate
- Analyze the impacts of melting ice on sea levels, weather patterns, and ecosystems

- Investigate natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and droughts and their impact
- Analyze strategies for disaster preparedness and mitigation

Water Cycle

- Identify and describe the processes involved in the water cycle: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, runoff, and infiltration
- Investigate the factors that influence the rate and distribution of precipitation
- Illustrate how energy from the sun and gravity drive the water cycle

Freshwater Systems and Oceanography

- Compare and contrast freshwater sources such as rivers, lakes, and groundwater
- Analyze the importance of freshwater resources and human impact on them
- Explore the characteristics of the oceans, including salinity, temperature, density, and buoyancy
- Explore the characteristics of oceans and their role in regulating Earth's climate
- Investigate the role of ocean currents in redistributing heat around the globe
- Investigate ocean currents, tides, and waves and their effects on marine ecosystems

Water Resources and Management

- Analyze the importance of freshwater resources and their distribution
- Evaluate human activities that affect water quality and quantity, including pollution, deforestation, and urbanization
- Investigate human impacts on water quality and quantity and explore strategies for water conservation and management
- Identify and explain solutions for sustainable water management and conservation

1st Interim: Introduction to Scientific Practices, the Hydrosphere, and the Cryosphere

- Develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Identify and use proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Identify and employ science process skills
- Identify and employ the steps of the scientific method
- Identify and employ the steps of the engineering design process
- Demonstrate an understanding of metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Identify and explore the Earth's water source
- Investigate and explain the water cycle
- Identify and explore natural disasters such as hurricanes, typhoons, flooding, blizzards, tornadoes, and monsoons
- Develop map and globe skills related to the United States

2nd Interim: The Polar Regions and Freshwater Systems

- Continue to develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Continue to develop proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Continue to develop proficiency with metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Explore and analyze the polar regions
- Research and investigate the Arctic and Antarctica
- Explore the properties and uses of freshwater
- Investigate freshwater ecosystems
- Further develop map and globe skills related to the United States including U.S. Capitals

3rd Interim: Saltwater Systems

- Continue to develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Continue to develop proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Continue to develop proficiency with metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Identify and explore the properties and uses of saltwater
- Compare and analyze land and water ecosystems
- Compare and analyze freshwater and saltwater
- Explore the purpose and methods of water purification
- Develop map and globe skills related to the oceans and continents
- Develop map and globe skills related to world geography

4th Interim: Climate and Weather

- Demonstrate proficiency with note taking strategies
- Demonstrate proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Demonstrate proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Demonstrate proficiency with metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Identify and explore the layers of the atmosphere
- Identify and explore the troposphere
- Analyze the relationship of the atmosphere and troposphere with weather and climate
- Investigate and explain wind and its related phenomena
- Investigate the impact and importance of wind and water in relation to weather and climate
- Further develop map and globe skills related to the oceans and continents
- Further develop map and globe skills related to world geography

7th Grade Science

[Biosphere - the study of the Earth's microorganisms, plants, and animals]

In 7th-grade science, students will focus on studying the biosphere. They will explore the various ecosystems, organisms, and interactions that make up Earth's living systems. Through hands-on activities, experiments, and field studies, students will learn about biodiversity, ecological relationships, and the impact of human activity on the natural world, fostering a deeper understanding of life on Earth.

Crosscutting Concepts

- Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions—such as inputs, processes, and outputs—and energy, matter, and information flows within systems
- Small changes in one part of a system might cause large changes in another part
- Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort, classify, communicate, and analyze simple rates of change for natural phenomena

Science and Engineering Practices

- Develop and use models to describe and predict phenomena
- Construct explanations using evidence to describe and predict interactions between the biosphere and other Earth systems
- Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support explanations for interactions within ecosystems
- Demonstrate safe practices during laboratory and field investigations
- Make wise choices in the use and conservation of resources and the disposal or recycling of materials
- Plan and implement comparative and descriptive investigations by making observations, asking well-defined questions, and using appropriate equipment and technology

Core Ideas

- Organisms, and populations of organisms, are dependent on their environmental interactions both with other living things and with nonliving factors
- The interdependent relationships in ecosystems can generate stable ecosystems, but these ecosystems can change over time in response to changing conditions
- Ecosystems are dynamic in nature; their characteristics can vary over time
- Ecosystems are resilient, but there are limits to their resilience
- Changes in biodiversity can influence humans' resources, such as food, energy, and medicines, as well as ecosystem services that humans rely on

Introduction to the Biosphere

- Investigate the fields of study related to the biosphere: Ecology, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, Meteorology
- Define the biosphere as the zone of Earth where life exists, including the interactions between living organisms and their environments
- Explore the levels of organization within the biosphere, from individual organisms to ecosystems
- Investigate how the structures and functions of organisms enable them to survive and reproduce in their environments
- Explore the concept of biodiversity and its importance in maintaining healthy ecosystems
- Investigate how organisms are adapted to their environments and how these adaptations influence their survival and reproduction

- Explore the diversity of living organisms, including bacteria, fungi, plants, and animals, and how they can be classified and compared scientifically
- Investigate the relationships between different groups of organisms and their evolutionary history
- Investigate how human activities, such as habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change, impact biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Explore strategies for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources
- Investigate how human activities, such as deforestation, pollution, and habitat destruction, impact biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Explore strategies for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources
- Explore how structures and functions of organisms allow them to survive and reproduce in their environments
- Investigate the diversity of living organisms and how they can be compared scientifically
- Investigate how organisms and populations in an ecosystem depend on and may compete for biotic and abiotic factors such as quantity of light, water, range of temperatures, or soil composition

Ecosystem Dynamics

- Investigate the interdependent relationships between organisms and their environment, including biotic and abiotic factors
- Explore how energy flows through ecosystems and the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers
- Describe how environmental changes, such as natural disasters or the introduction of nonnative species, can affect the diversity of living organisms in an ecosystem
- Explore the interactions between organisms and their biotic and abiotic environment, including competition, predation, and symbiosis
- Explore the resilience of ecosystems and how they can change over time in response to natural and human-induced disturbances
- Investigate how scientists use models to predict ecosystem responses to environmental changes
- Analyze ecological interactions within ecosystems, including competition, predation, symbiosis, and nutrient cycling
- Investigate how changes in one part of an ecosystem can impact other parts of the system
- Analyze how energy flows through ecosystems and the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers in nutrient cycling
- Investigate food webs and energy pyramids and their significance in ecosystem dynamics

Population Dynamics

- Investigate how populations of organisms in an ecosystem depend on and may compete for biotic and abiotic factors such as light, water, temperature, and soil composition
- Explore factors that influence population growth and density, including birth rates, death rates, immigration, and emigration
- Analyze how populations of organisms change over time in response to factors such as birth rates, death rates, immigration, and emigration
- Investigate how changes in population size and composition can impact ecosystem dynamics.

The Human Body

- Develop an understanding that living things are made up of cells or a variety of cells
- Investigate how cells function as a system
- Identify and describe the parts of a cell, including the nucleus, chloroplasts, mitochondria, cell membrane, and cell wall.

- Identify how cells form tissues, tissues form organs, and organs contribute to specialized body functions
- Develop an understanding of how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organism
- Explore how food moves through an organism and provides energy
- Explore the relationship between sensory receptors, brain stimuli, behavior, and memories

1st Interim: Introduction to Scientific Practices and the Biosphere

- Develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Identify and use proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Identify and employ science process skills
- Identify and employ the steps of the scientific method
- Identify and employ the steps of the engineering design process
- Demonstrate an understanding of metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Demonstrate proper use of tools and lab safety practices
- Identify and explore the Earth's spheres
- Explore and analyze interactions between the spheres
- Explore and explain the purpose, function, and relationships between ecosystems
- Engage in an in-depth exploration of plants and animals

2nd Interim: Ecosystems

- Continue to develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Continue to develop proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying the scientific method and engineering design process
- Research, analyze, and compare desert and savannah ecosystems
- Research, analyze, and compare rainforest and swamp ecosystems
- Research, analyze, and compare tundra and taiga ecosystems
- Research, analyze, and compare coniferous and deciduous forest ecosystems

3rd Interim: Cells and Simple Organisms

- Continue to develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Continue to develop proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying the scientific method and engineering design process
- Identify and analyze cell theory
- Investigate and analyze plant cell structures and functions
- Investigate and analyze animal cell structures and functions
- Compare and contrast plant and animal cells
- Identify and analyze plant and animal cell processes

4th Interim: The Human Body

- Demonstrate proficiency with note taking strategies
- Demonstrate proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Demonstrate proficiency in applying the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Investigate and explain bacteria and viruses
- Explore and analyze body system structures and functions
- Demonstrate an understanding of proper nutrition and strategies for staying healthy
- Investigate the career and findings of Gregor Mendel and his importance to modern genetics
- Explore and analyze dominant and recessive traits
- Develop proficiency with creating and interpreting Punnett Squares
- Investigate the causes and effects of mutations
- Explore and analyze the process and outcomes of natural selection

8th Grade Science

[Atmosphere - the study of the air in Earth's system]

In 8th-grade science, students will focus on studying the atmosphere and chemistry. They will explore atmospheric processes, weather patterns, and the composition of air, along with fundamental chemical principles and reactions. Through hands-on experiments and activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of the Earth's atmosphere and the basics of chemistry, preparing them for advanced scientific studies.

Crosscutting Concepts

- Different patterns may be observed at each of the scales at which a system is studied, and can provide evidence for causality in explanations of phenomena
- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change
- Observed patterns of forms and events guide organization and classification, and they prompt questions about relationships and the factors that influence them
- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems
- Matter is conserved because atoms are conserved in physical and chemical processes
- The transfer of energy can be tracked as energy flows through a designed or natural system

Science and Engineering Practices

- Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the current rise in global temperatures over different time scales
- Plan an investigation to determine the relationships among the energy transferred, the type of matter, the mass, and the change in the average kinetic energy of the particles as measured by the temperature of the sample
- Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings
- Develop models to predict and/or describe phenomena
- Construct an explanation of the cause of the phenomena
- Construct an explanation that includes qualitative or quantitative relationships between variables that describe phenomena
- Demonstrate safe practices during laboratory and field investigations
- Make wise choices in the use and conservation of resources and the disposal or recycling of materials
- Plan and implement comparative and descriptive investigations by making observations, asking well-defined questions, and using appropriate equipment and technology
- Plan and investigate individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, using fair tests
- Construct, use, and/or present an oral and written argument supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning

Core Ideas

- Weather and climate are influenced by interactions involving sunlight, the ocean, the atmosphere, ice, landforms, and living things
- The complex patterns of the changes and the movement of water in the atmosphere, determined by winds, landforms, and ocean temperatures and currents, are major determinants of local weather patterns

- Energy and fuels that humans use are derived from natural sources, and their use affects the environment in multiple ways
- Substances are made from different types of atoms, which combine with one another in various ways
- Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties
- Substances react chemically in characteristic ways
- In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules
- Mass is conserved in a chemical reaction
- A solution needs to be tested and then modified on the basis of the test results

Introduction to the Atmosphere

- Investigate the fields of study related to the biosphere: Ecology, Biology, Microbiology, Cytology, Genetics, Epidemiology, and Forensics
- Define the atmosphere as the layer of gases surrounding Earth
- Explore the composition and structure of the atmosphere, including the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, and exosphere
- Investigate the processes that drive weather and climate, including solar radiation, atmospheric circulation, and the water cycle
- Explore how interactions between air masses, pressure systems, and ocean currents influence weather patterns
- Explore the concept of air quality and factors that contribute to air pollution, such as vehicle emissions, industrial processes, and wildfires
- Investigate the impacts of air pollution on human health and the environment
- Investigate sources of energy derived from the atmosphere, such as solar and wind power
- Explore the environmental impacts of using renewable and nonrenewable energy sources
- Investigate the role of energy transfer between the sun and Earth's atmosphere in driving weather phenomena
- Explore how variations in solar radiation and atmospheric circulation patterns influence regional climate
- Explore how Earth's atmosphere changes with altitude, including its layers, weather, and the importance of the ozone layer

Weather and Climate

- Analyze the factors that contribute to different weather phenomena, such as temperature, humidity, air pressure, and wind
- Examine the causes of weather and climate using weather maps, charts, images, and other data
- Investigate how changes in these factors can result in weather events like thunderstorms, hurricanes, and tornadoes
- Analyze the properties of weather fronts and the resulting weather conditions
- Define climate and explore the factors that influence regional climate patterns, including latitude, altitude, proximity to water, and landforms
- Investigate the role of energy transfer that occurs between the sun and Earth and its atmosphere and the resulting weather phenomena
- Analyze global atmospheric circulation patterns, including the Hadley, Ferrel, and Polar cells, and their influence on weather and climate
- Investigate the relationship between atmospheric circulation and regional climate patterns

- Investigate evidence for climate change and the role of human activities in contributing to changes in Earth's climate

Introduction to Chemistry

- Define matter and explore its basic properties, including mass, volume, and density
- Differentiate between elements, compounds, and mixtures
- Investigate the structure of atoms, including protons, neutrons, and electrons
- Explore how atoms combine to form molecules and extended structures
- Introduce the periodic table and explain how it organizes elements based on their properties
- Explore the concept of groups and periods and their significance in predicting element behavior
- Investigate the signs of chemical reactions, such as color change, gas production, and temperature change
- Explore the concept of reactants and products in a chemical reaction
- Develop and use models to demonstrate how atoms are rearranged during chemical reactions
- Analyze and interpret data on the physical and chemical properties of substances
- Differentiate between physical changes and chemical changes
- Explore the law of conservation of mass in chemical reactions
- Develop models to describe how the total number of atoms remains constant in chemical reactions
- Investigate the effect of thermal energy on particle motion and the states of matter
- Develop models to predict and describe changes in states of matter when thermal energy is added or removed
- Explore exothermic and endothermic reactions
- Undertake design projects to construct, test, and modify devices that release or absorb thermal energy by chemical processes

Forces and Interactions

- Identify and explain Newton's Laws of Motion
- Explore and explain balanced and unbalanced forces
- Make comparisons of forces including mass and changes in motion
- Investigate factors affecting the strength of electric and magnetic forces
- Investigate the relationship between mass, speed, and kinetic energy
- Differentiate between kinetic and potential energy
- Explore ways to minimize or maximize thermal energy transfers
- Investigate and explain the relationship between kinetic energy and transfers of energy
- Demonstrate and understanding of the relationship between the amplitude of a wave and its energy
- Investigate how waves are reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through a variety of materials

1st Interim: Introduction to Scientific Practices and the Atmosphere

- Develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Identify and use proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Identify and employ science process skills
- Identify and employ the steps of the scientific method
- Identify and employ the steps of the engineering design process
- Demonstrate an understanding of metric and standard measurements and conversions
- Demonstrate proper use of tools and lab safety practices
- Identify and analyze the layers of the atmosphere and their characteristics
- Identify and explain the properties of air
- Differentiate between climate and weather
- Analyze the role of wind and water in climate and weather

- Explore and analyze the characteristics, causes, and impacts of climate change
- Explore and analyze different forms of energy including kinetic, potential, and thermal
- Explore and analyze light waves and thermal / radiant waves

2nd Interim: The Periodic Table

- Continue to develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Continue to develop proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying the scientific method and engineering design process
- Develop an understanding of the periodic table and its function
- Research and analyze atoms, elements, and compounds
- Explain and analyze the Bohr Model
- Investigate the states and properties of matter

3rd Interim: Introduction to Chemistry

- Continue to develop proficiency with note taking strategies
- Continue to develop proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Continue to develop proficiency in applying the scientific method and engineering design process
- Investigate and analyze the properties and characteristics of acids and bases
- Identify and explain the characteristics of mixtures and solutions
- Identify and investigate physical and chemical properties and characteristics
- Investigate and analyze physical and chemical changes
- Demonstrate proficiency in balancing equations

4th Interim: Space, Force and Motion

- Demonstrate proficiency with note taking strategies
- Demonstrate proficiency with proper journaling procedures related to the study of science
- Demonstrate proficiency in applying science process skills, the scientific method, and engineering design process
- Identify and analyze objects in space
- Research and explore space exploration and theories of space exploration
- Explore and analyze the relationship between work and energy
- Identify and analyze types of forces
- Demonstrate an understanding of Newton's Law

Spanish

The Middle School Spanish objectives are based upon the World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages as outlined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, guidelines set forth by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and the Guiding Principles of Learning Languages Other than English as set forth by the State of Texas.

State of Texas Guiding Principles:

1. All students are capable of and can benefit from learning other languages.
2. There are a great variety of factors that can influence how people learn languages.
3. Having a populace that is multilingual strengthens our society.
4. Early instruction benefits language learning and development of proficiency.
5. Maintaining and expanding the language of native speakers benefits the individual and society.
6. Students should have opportunities to develop proficiency in a variety of languages.
7. The discipline of Languages Other Than English connects to virtually every other subject matter, expanding the knowledge base available to its students.
8. Languages other than English enable students to better understand other cultures.

World-Readiness Standards:

1. **Communication.** Communicate effectively in more than one language in order to function in a variety of situations and for multiple purposes
 - **Interpersonal Communication:** Learners interact and negotiate meaning in spoken, signed, or written conversations to share information, reactions, feelings, and opinions.
 - **Interpretive Communication:** Learners understand, interpret, and analyze what is heard, read, or viewed on a variety of topics.
 - **Presentational Communication:** Learners present information, concepts, and ideas to inform, explain, persuade, and narrate on a variety of topics using appropriate media and adapting to various audiences of listeners, readers, or viewers.
2. **Cultures.** Interact with cultural competence and understanding
 - **Relating Cultural Practices to Perspectives:** Learners use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the cultures studied.
 - **Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives:** Learners use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the relationship between the products and perspectives of the cultures studied.
3. **Connections.** Connect with other disciplines and acquire information and diverse perspectives in order to use the language to function in academic and career-related situations
 - **Making Connections:** Learners build, reinforce, and expand their knowledge of other disciplines while using the language to develop critical thinking and to solve problems creatively.
 - **Acquiring Information and Diverse Perspectives:** Learners access and evaluate information and diverse perspectives that are available through the language and its cultures.
4. **Comparisons.** Develop insight into the nature of language and culture in order to interact with cultural competence

- Language Comparisons: Learners use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.
 - Cultural Comparisons: Learners use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.
5. **Communities**. Communicate and interact with cultural competence in order to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world
- School and Global Communities: Learners use the language both within and beyond the classroom to interact and collaborate in their community and the globalized world.
 - Lifelong Learning: Learners set goals and reflect on their progress in using languages for enjoyment, enrichment, and advancement.

5th Grade Spanish

In 5th-grade Spanish, students will formalize their journey into learning the Spanish language. Through interactive activities, games, and exercises, students will learn basic vocabulary, grammar structures, and essential communication skills. The focus will be on building a strong foundation in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish, while also exploring aspects of Hispanic culture and traditions. This course aims to ignite students' interest in language learning and lay the groundwork for further study in Spanish.

Vocabulary, Grammar, and Comprehension

- Introduce basic vocabulary related to everyday life, greetings, family, school, numbers, colors, hobbies, food, weather, and common activities
- Introduce basic grammatical concepts including pronouns, articles, present tense verb conjugation, gender, and number agreement
- Introduction to basic grammatical structures, including simple sentence construction
- Develop basic reading comprehension and writing skills through simple texts, labeling exercises, and short writing tasks such as writing greetings, descriptions, and simple sentences
- Develop reading comprehension and writing skills through exposure to a variety of texts
- Engage in projects that integrate multiple skills and knowledge areas
- Use age-appropriate technology resources to enhance language learning through interactive activities, multimedia presentations, and online language games
- Make connections between Spanish and other subject areas such as geography, social studies, and art to deepen understanding of cultural contexts and global perspectives
- Develop listening comprehension and speaking skills through interactive activities
- Develop listening comprehension and speaking skills through simple dialogues, vocabulary games, and pronunciation exercises
- Show evidence of becoming lifelong learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment

Communication

- Engage in opportunities for interpersonal communication
 - Engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions
 - Engage in oral and written exchanges to socialize, provide and obtain information, express preferences and feelings, and satisfy basic needs
- Engage in opportunities for presentational communication
 - Present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics
- Engage in opportunities for interpretive communication
 - Understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics

Cultural Understanding

- Promote an understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures through various cultural activities
- Explore basic cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking countries such as holidays, traditions, celebrations, and customs
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the Spanish culture

- Use the language to demonstrate an understanding of cultural practices and their relationship to the perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Use the language to demonstrate an understanding of cultural products and their relationship to the perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Use the language both within and beyond the school setting through activities such as participating in cultural events and using technology to communicate
- Participate in language clubs, attending cultural events, or connecting with pen pals or classrooms in Spanish-speaking countries
- Explore Spanish media, such as music, movies, and books, and to pursue opportunities to use Spanish in their daily lives

Connections and Comparison

- Use the language to make connections with other subject areas and to acquire information
- Use the language to acquire information and recognize distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures
- Reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language
- Acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures
- Engage in research projects on Spanish-speaking countries, comparing news articles from Spanish-language sources with those in English
- Compare grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structures between Spanish and English
- Compare cultural practices, holidays, and traditions in Spanish-speaking countries with those in their own culture
- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the student's own language and the language studied
- Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the student's own culture and the cultures studied

6th Grade Spanish

In 6th-grade Spanish, students will continue to build on the foundation laid in previous years. They will deepen their understanding of Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and communication skills through more advanced activities, conversations, and readings. Emphasis will be placed on expanding vocabulary, mastering verb conjugations, and developing more complex sentence structures. Additionally, cultural exploration remains an integral part of the curriculum, allowing students to gain a deeper appreciation for the Spanish-speaking world. This course aims to further students' proficiency in Spanish while fostering confidence in their language abilities.

Vocabulary, Grammar, and Comprehension

- Use the language both within and beyond the school setting through activities such as participating in cultural events and using technology to communicate
- Participate in language clubs, attending cultural events, or connecting with pen pals or classrooms in Spanish-speaking countries
- Show evidence of becoming lifelong learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment
- Focus on practical, everyday vocabulary related to topics such as family, school, hobbies, food, activities, travel, and weather
- Explore basic grammatical structures, including present tense verbs, verb conjugation, sentence structure, gender, number agreement, adjective agreement, and simple sentence construction
- Develop listening comprehension and speaking skills through interactive activities such as dialogues, role-plays, and presentations
- Develop reading comprehension and writing skills through exposure to authentic texts and writing exercises such as journal entries, letters, and short essays
- Use technology to enhance language learning through interactive online resources, multimedia presentations, and communication with native speakers
- Engage in projects that integrate multiple skills and knowledge areas

Communication

- Engage in opportunities for interpersonal communication
 - Engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions
 - Engage in oral and written exchanges to socialize, provide and obtain information, express preferences and feelings, and satisfy basic needs
- Engage in opportunities for presentational communication
 - Present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics
- Engage in opportunities for interpretive communication
 - Understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics

Cultural Understanding

- Use the language to demonstrate an understanding of cultural practices and their relationship to the perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Promote an understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures through exploration of cultural practices, holidays, traditions, and products

- Use technology to enhance language learning and cultural exploration

Connections and Comparison

- Reinforce and further knowledge of other disciplines through Spanish
- Acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the Spanish language and its cultures
- Research projects on Spanish-speaking countries, comparing news articles from Spanish-language sources with those in English
- Use the language to make connections with other subject areas and to acquire information
- Use the language to acquire information and recognize distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures
- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the student's own language and the language studied
- Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the student's own culture and the cultures studied
- Make connections between Spanish and other subject areas such as history, geography, and social studies to deepen understanding of cultural contexts and global perspectives

7th Grade Spanish

In 7th-grade Spanish, students will continue to build upon the foundation established in previous years. They will delve deeper into grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills through more complex activities, conversations, and readings. The focus will be on further refining pronunciation, expanding vocabulary, and mastering intermediate grammatical structures. Cultural exploration remains integral, providing students with a richer understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. This course aims to advance students' proficiency in Spanish while nurturing their confidence and fluency in the language.

Vocabulary, Grammar, and Comprehension

- Focus on practical, everyday vocabulary related to topics such as family, school, hobbies, food, weather, travel, activities, weather, and shopping
- Introduce basic grammatical concepts including verb conjugation, sentence structure, gender, and number agreement
- Introduce more complex grammatical structures, including verb conjugations in different tenses (present, past, future), reflexive verbs, and the use of adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions
- Develop listening comprehension and speaking skills through interactive activities such as dialogues, role-plays, and presentations
- Develop reading comprehension and writing skills through exposure to a variety of texts
- Develop reading comprehension and writing skills through exposure to authentic texts and writing exercises such as journal entries, letters, and short essays
- Engage in projects that integrate multiple skills and knowledge areas
- Use the language both within and beyond the school setting
- Use technology to enhance language learning through interactive online resources, multimedia presentations, and communication with native speakers
- Show evidence of becoming lifelong learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment

Communication

- Engage in opportunities for interpersonal communication
 - Engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions
 - Engage in oral and written exchanges to socialize, provide and obtain information, express preferences and feelings, and satisfy basic needs
- Engage in opportunities for presentational communication
 - Present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics
- Engage in opportunities for interpretive communication
 - Understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics

Cultural Understanding

- Use the language to demonstrate an understanding of cultural practices and their relationship to the perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Use the language to demonstrate an understanding of cultural products and their relationship to the perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Promote an understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures through various cultural activities
- Promote an understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures through exploration of

cultural practices, holidays, traditions, and products

Connections and Comparison

- Reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language
- Acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its culture
- Use the language to make connections with other subject areas and to acquire information
- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the student's own language and the Spanish language
- Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the student's own culture and the Spanish culture
- Compare cultural practices, holidays, and traditions in Spanish-speaking countries with those in their own culture, and discuss cultural values and beliefs
- Use the language both within and beyond the school setting through activities such as participating in cultural events and using technology to communicate
- Make connections between Spanish and other subject areas to enhance overall learning
- Make connections between Spanish and other subject areas such as history, geography, and social studies to deepen understanding of cultural contexts and global perspectives

8th Grade Spanish

In 8th-grade Spanish, students will continue to build upon their language skills from previous years. They will further develop their proficiency in grammar, vocabulary, and communication through challenging activities, discussions, and readings. Emphasis will be placed on mastering advanced grammar concepts, expanding vocabulary for diverse topics, and refining speaking and writing abilities. Cultural exploration will remain a key component, deepening students' appreciation for Hispanic cultures and traditions. This course aims to prepare students for more complex language tasks and real-world communication situations, fostering fluency and confidence in Spanish.

Vocabulary, Grammar, and Comprehension

- Focus on practical, everyday vocabulary related to topics such as family, school, hobbies, food, weather, travel, shopping, and technology.
- Explore more complex grammatical structures, including verb conjugations in various tenses (present, past, future), reflexive verbs, subjunctive mood, and the use of adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions
- Develop listening comprehension and speaking skills through interactive activities
- Developing reading comprehension and writing skills through exposure to a variety of text
Use the language both within and beyond the school setting
- Explore Spanish media, such as music, movies, and books, pursuing opportunities to use Spanish in their daily lives, participating in language immersion experiences
- Engage students in projects that integrate multiple skills and knowledge areas
- Use technology to enhance language learning and cultural exploration
- Show evidence of becoming lifelong learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment

Communication

- Engage in opportunities for interpersonal communication
 - Engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinion
 - Engage in oral and written exchanges to socialize, provide and obtain information, express preferences and feelings, and satisfy basic needs
- Engage in opportunities for presentational communication
 - Present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics
- Engage in opportunities for interpretive communication
 - Understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics

Cultural Understanding

- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Use the language at the novice level to demonstrate an understanding of the practices and how they are related to the perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Use the language at the novice level to demonstrate an understanding of the products and how they are related to the perspectives of the Spanish culture
- Promote an understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures through various cultural activities

Connections and Comparison

- Use the language to make connections with other subject areas and to acquire information
- Reinforce and further knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language
- Acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and Spanish culture
- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the student's own language and Spanish
- Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the student's own culture and the Spanish culture
- Use the language to acquire information and recognize distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the Spanish language and culture
- Use the language both within and beyond the school setting through activities such as participating in cultural events and using technology to communicate
- Make connections between Spanish and other subject areas to enhance overall learning

Technology

[In school years without a stand-alone Technology class, these objectives will be integrated into the content area classes]

The Middle School Technology objectives are based upon the standards outlined by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), the engineering design process standards set forth by the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA), and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for technology applications.

ISTE Standards

1. **Empowered Learner**: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.
2. **Digital Citizen**: Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act and model in ways that are safe, legal and ethical.
3. **Knowledge Constructor**: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
4. **Innovative Designer**: Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful or imaginative solutions.
5. **Computational Thinker**: Students develop and employ strategies for understanding and solving problems in ways that leverage the power of technological methods to develop and test solutions.
6. **Creative Communicator**: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.
7. **Global Collaborator**: Students use digital tools to broaden their perspectives and enrich their learning by collaborating with others and working effectively in teams locally and globally.

ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS

- ***Define the Problem***: The engineering design process starts when you ask the following questions about problems that you observe: What is the problem or need? Who has the problem or need? Why is it important to solve? [Who] need(s) [what] because [why]?
- ***Do Background Research***: Learn from the experiences of others — this can help you find out about existing solutions to similar problems, and avoid mistakes that were made in the past. Do background research in two major areas: Users or customers; Existing solutions.
- ***Specify Requirements***: Design requirements state the important characteristics that your solution must meet to succeed. One of the best ways to identify the design requirements for your solution is to analyze the concrete example of a similar, existing product, noting each of its key features.
- ***Brainstorm Solutions***: There are always many good possibilities for solving design problems. If you focus on just one before looking at the alternatives, it is almost certain that you are overlooking a better solution. Good designers try to generate as many possible solutions as they can.
- ***Choose the Best Solution***: Look at whether each possible solution meets your design requirements. Some solutions probably meet more requirements than others. Reject solutions that do not meet the requirements.

- ***Develop the Solution:*** Development involves the refinement and improvement of a solution, and it continues throughout the design process, often even after a product ships to customers.
- ***Build a Prototype:*** A prototype is an operating version of a solution. Often it is made with different materials than the final version, and generally it is not as polished. Prototypes are a key step in the development of a final solution, allowing the designer to test how the solution will work.
- ***Test and Redesign:*** The design process involves multiple iterations and redesigns of your final solution. You will likely test your solution, find new problems, make changes, and test new solutions before settling on a final design.
- ***Communicate Results:*** To complete your project, communicate your results to others in a final report and/or a display board. Professional engineers always do the same, thoroughly documenting their solutions so that they can be manufactured and supported.

5th-8th Grade Technology and Engineering

In technology and engineering class, students will focus on STEM principles, collaboration, and G-Suite tools. They will work together to design, build, and test models and structures, enhancing their problem-solving skills and critical thinking. This class will aim to foster a deeper understanding of technological concepts and inspire interest in STEM fields.

Digital Citizenship

- Understand and practice appropriate online behavior and interactions, including netiquette
- Advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology
- Recognize the importance of protecting personal information and privacy online
- Discuss the importance of online safety and privacy, including creating strong passwords and recognizing phishing attempts
- Explore topics such as cyberbullying, digital etiquette, and the responsible use of social media
- Promote responsible online behavior and effective digital collaboration
- Respect intellectual property by properly citing sources and using information responsibly
- Understand and adhere to copyright laws and fair use policies

Creativity and Innovation

- Apply creative thinking to develop innovative products and processes using technology
- Create original works as a means of personal or group expression
- Use digital tools to create multimedia projects such as digital art, animations, or presentations
- Develop a simple digital story or game using basic coding tools
- Develop digital presentations, create infographics, edit video, and create digital art

Communication and Collaboration

- Use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others
- Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others using a variety of digital environments and media
- Participate in online discussions or collaborative projects using digital tools, demonstrating effective communication and teamwork
- Create and share a group presentation or document using collaborative software like Google Docs, Microsoft Teams, or other cloud-based tools
- Use a variety of digital tools to create effective presentations, reports, and multimedia projects
- Combine text, images, audio, and video to produce engaging digital content
- Apply principles of visual design to enhance digital communication and presentations

Research and Information Fluency

- Develop and apply skills to gather, evaluate, and use information from digital sources
- Apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information
- Plan strategies to guide inquiry and locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media
- Conduct online research projects on a given topic, evaluating sources for credibility and relevance
- Create a digital presentation or report based on the research findings, properly citing all sources
- Develop and complete projects that involve research, critical thinking, and the use of digital resources

Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making

- Engage in creative problem solving using technology
- Engage in projects that require research, critical thinking, and the effective use of digital resources
- Use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources
- Use coding and robotics kits to solve a series of problems or complete a project
- Participate in digital simulations or games that require strategic thinking and problem solving skills
- Design thinking projects, creating digital solutions to real world problems, using digital tools for innovation, and participating in maker projects
- Collect, analyze, and interpret data using digital tools to make informed decisions and draw conclusions
- Critically evaluate the credibility, relevance, and bias of online information

Technology Operations, Concepts, and Application

- Develop and enhance skills to effectively use and understand a wide range of digital tools and resources
- Demonstrate understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations
- Explore different types of technology tools and their uses in various contexts
- Select and use applications effectively and productively
- Develop and practice basic keyboarding and computer skills, including file management and software application use
- Develop and deepen understanding of coding concepts and computational thinking

Foundations of Engineering

- Learn about the role of engineering in society and the impact of technology on our daily lives
- Integrate scientific and mathematical principles in the engineering design process
- Work effectively in teams to achieve common goals
- Develop skills to communicate ideas clearly and effectively
- Develop skills in identifying problems, brainstorming solutions, and iterative testing
- Engage in discussions to identify real-world problems and needs that can be addressed through engineering
- Conduct brainstorming sessions to generate various solutions for a given problem
- Develop sketches or prototypes to visualize different solutions
- Compare and contrast solutions and select the best option
- Design and conduct experiments to test prototypes or solutions.
- Analyze test data to identify strengths and weaknesses of the solutions
- Iterate on the design to optimize the solution based on test results
- Design fair tests to evaluate prototypes, ensuring controlled variables and clear criteria for success
- Record and analyze data from tests to determine how well each prototype meets the defined criteria
- Modify and improve prototypes based on test results and feedback, and conduct further testing to achieve an optimal design
- Understand the ethical implications of engineering solutions

Music

The Middle School Music objectives are based upon the music standards as outlined by the National Association for Music Education, the national core arts standards as outlined by the National Art Education Association, the national standards for music education as outlined by the Music Stand Foundation, and the TEKS established by the Texas Music Educators Association.

National Arts Standards for Music

Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.

1. Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
 - The creative ideas, concepts, and feelings that influence musicians' work emerge from a variety of sources.
2. Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
 - Musicians' creative choices are influenced by their expertise, context, and expressive intent.
3. Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.
 - Musicians evaluate, and refine their work through openness to new ideas, persistence, and the application of appropriate criteria.
 - Musicians' presentation of creative work is the culmination of a process of creation and communication

Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation, presentation, and sharing.

4. Anchor Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.
 - Performers' interest in and knowledge of musical works, understanding of their own technical skill, and the context for a performance influence the selection of repertoire.
 - Analyzing creators' context and how they manipulate elements of music provides insight into their intent and informs performance.
 - Performers make interpretive decisions based on their understanding of context and expressive intent.
5. Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
 - To express their musical ideas, musicians analyze, evaluate, and refine their performance over time through openness to new ideas, persistence, and the application of appropriate criteria.
6. Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.^[L]_[SEP]
 - Musicians judge performance based on criteria that vary across time, place, and cultures. The context and how a work is presented influence the audience response.

Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.

7. Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work Enduring Understanding: Individuals' selection of musical works is influenced by their interests, experiences, understandings, and purposes.
 - Response to music is informed by analyzing context (social, cultural, and historical) and how creators and performers manipulate the elements of music.
8. Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.^[L]_[SEP]
 - Through their use of elements and structures of music, creators and performers provide clues to their expressive intent.
9. Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
 - The personal evaluation of musical work(s) and performance(s) is informed by analysis, interpretation, and established criteria.

Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

10. Anchor Standard 10: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.
 - Musicians connect their personal interests, experiences, ideas, and knowledge to creating, performing, and responding.
11. Anchor Standard 11: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
 - Understanding connections to varied contexts and daily life enhances musicians' creating, performing, and responding.

Beginning Band

In beginning band, students will explore musical concepts and will be introduced to playing an instrument. They will learn basic music theory, rhythm, and notation while gaining hands-on experience with their chosen instrument, fostering a love for music and developing foundational skills.

Foundational Practices

- Explore and experiment with sounds and possibilities of chosen instrument
- Select and develop musical ideas for defined purposes and contexts
- Arrange and compose simple melodies or pieces for their instrument
- Evaluate and refine selected musical ideas to improve quality of compositions and arrangements
- Use teacher feedback and self assessment to refine performances and compositions
- Share creative musical work that conveys intent, demonstrates craftsmanship, and exhibits originality
- Perform original compositions or improvisations on their instrument
- Select varied musical works to present based on interest, knowledge, technical skill, and the context of the performance
- Choose pieces that are suitable for skill level and instrument
- Analyze selected music by considering the structure, context, and personal interpretations
- Understand the basics of reading music notation related to their instrument
- Develop personal interpretations that consider the context, expressive intent, and technical aspects of the music
- Explore dynamics, phrasing, and articulation specific to their instrument
- Use feedback from teachers and peers to improve the quality of performances
- Practice regularly to refine technical skills and musicality on instrument
- Perform expressively, with appropriate interpretation and technical accuracy, and in a manner appropriate to the audience and context
- Participate in solo and ensemble performances
- Choose music appropriate for a specific purpose or context
- Listen to and select music that features their instrument
- Analyze how the structure and context of musical works inform performances and the listener's response
- Understand the elements of music (such as melody, harmony, rhythm) as they apply to their instrument
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work
- Discuss how the music they play conveys emotions and ideas
- Evaluate musical works and performances, considering the context, craftsmanship, and use of musical elements
- Reflect on their own and others' performances to identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make music
- Draw connections between the music they play and their own lives or cultures
- Relate musical ideas and works to societal, cultural, and historical contexts
- Explore the history and cultural background of the pieces they are learning to play

Historical and Cultural Context

- Explore the historical and cultural background of the music being played
- Identify and describe music from various historical periods and cultures
- Perform and experience music from diverse cultures and historical periods
- Discuss the roles and impact of music in different cultures and historical periods

Developing Music Literacy

- Understand and perform various rhythms and meters, including simple and compound time signatures
- Practice rhythmic exercises and pieces that incorporate different note values and rests
- Practice rhythmic exercises and pieces that incorporate different time signatures
- Learn to read and perform simple melodies
- Explore basic harmonic concepts and the role of different instruments in creating harmony
- Read, write, and reproduce rhythmic patterns using standard notation, including whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and corresponding rests
- Read, write, and reproduce melodic patterns using a system (eg, solfège or numbers) and standard notation
- Read, write, and reproduce simple two part harmony

Instrumental Technique

- Develop proper playing technique for their chosen instrument
- Focus on correct posture, hand positions, breath control, and articulation appropriate to their instrument
- Develop the ability to tune the instrument correctly and maintain proper intonation
- Play simple melodies and harmonies on a chosen instrument
- Understand musical symbols, notes, and terminology specific to their instrument
- Develop music reading skills, including the ability to read standard notation and rhythmic symbols

Ensemble Skills

- Perform music with accurate pitch, rhythm, and expressive intent
- Participate in group performances
- Develop skills in listening, blending, and following a conductor
- Perform a varied repertoire of music, both alone and in groups, using proper technique and expressive qualities
- Compose simple pieces and arrangements, considering melody, harmony, and rhythm
- Experiment with dynamics, phrasing, and other expressive elements
- Learn to interpret music beyond the notes, adding personal expression to performances
- Experiment with creating music through improvisation

Critique and Feedback

- Apply criteria to evaluate musical performances and compositions
- Offer constructive feedback and accept feedback to improve musical skills and understanding
- Develop critical listening skills to identify strengths and areas for improvement in their own and others' performances

Intermediate Band

In intermediate band, students will learn to play a musical instrument, read music, and perform as part of an ensemble. The class will focus on developing basic instrumental techniques, music theory, and teamwork, fostering a strong foundation for future musical growth.

Foundational Practices

- Generate musical ideas for various purposes and contexts
- Experiment with different sounds, techniques, and improvisational ideas on their instruments
- Select and develop musical ideas to create simple compositions and arrangements
- Work collaboratively to create short pieces or arrangements
- Evaluate and refine their musical ideas to enhance their compositions and performances
- Use feedback from peers and the instructor to improve their musical ideas
- Share their musical creations in a way that demonstrates craftsmanship and conveys intent
- Perform original compositions or improvisations for peers or in a concert setting
- Select musical works that are appropriate for their skill level and the ensemble
- Choose pieces that represent a variety of styles and cultures
- Analyze the structure and elements of the music to understand its construction and expressive qualities
- Study the historical and cultural context of the pieces they perform
- Develop interpretations that reflect the expressive intent of the music
- Apply dynamic markings, phrasing, articulation, and other expressive elements in their performances
- Participate in individual and group rehearsals to improve technical skills and ensemble performance
- Use practice strategies and teacher feedback to refine their playing
- Perform music with technical accuracy, appropriate expression, and ensemble cohesion
- Participate in concerts and other performance opportunities
- Choose music for listening and performance based on interest and criteria for quality
- Listen to recordings of professional bands and analyze their performances
- Analyze how the elements of music (such as rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics) contribute to the overall effect of a piece
- Discuss the composer's intent and how it is conveyed through the music
- Interpret the expressive qualities of music and how they affect the listener
- Discuss personal and peer interpretations of musical works
- Evaluate musical works and performances based on specific criteria
- Reflect on their own performances and those of others to identify areas for improvement
- Connect their personal experiences and knowledge to the music they perform
- Explore how their own cultural background influences their musical preferences and performance
- Understand the historical and cultural contexts of the music they perform
- Explore the roles of musicians and the functions of music in different cultures and historical periods

Historical and Cultural Context

- Explore the historical and cultural background of the music being played
- Explore music from various cultures and time periods, understanding its role and impact
- Perform and experience music from diverse cultures and historical periods
- Discuss the roles and impact of music in different cultures and historical periods
- Relate music to other academic subjects and activities

Developing Music Literacy

- Develop a strong sense of pulse and rhythm
- Understand and perform various rhythms and meters, including simple and compound time signatures
- Practice rhythmic exercises and pieces that incorporate different note values and rests
- Practice playing and counting different rhythms and meters, including simple and compound time signatures
- Learn to read and play melodies accurately
- Learn to read and perform melodies in various keys
- Explore basic harmonic concepts and the role of different instruments in creating harmony
- Develop music reading skills, including the ability to read standard notation and rhythmic symbols
- Understand musical symbols including key signatures and time signatures, notes, and terminology specific to their instrument
- Develop music reading skills, including the ability to read standard notation and rhythmic symbols
- Read, write, and reproduce rhythmic patterns using standard notation, including whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and corresponding rests
- Read, write, and reproduce melodic patterns using standard notation, including treble and bass clefs
- Read, write, and reproduce basic harmonic patterns and chords

Instrumental Technique

- Develop proper playing techniques for chosen instrument
- Develop proper tone production techniques for the specific instruments
- Produce a characteristic tone on their instrument Focus on correct posture, hand positions, breath control (for wind instruments), embouchure, and articulation
- Develop the ability to tune the instrument correctly and maintain proper intonation
- Use a variety of practice techniques to improve technical skills and musicality
- Explore dynamics, phrasing, articulation, and other expressive elements in music
- Learn to interpret music beyond the notes, adding personal expression to performances
- Learn to convey the emotional and expressive intent of the music they perform
- Experiment with improvisation within given structures or frameworks
- Create simple compositions and arrangements, either individually or in groups
- Compose simple pieces and arrangements, considering melody, harmony, and rhythm

Ensemble Skills

- Engage in regular individual practice and participation in ensemble rehearsals
- Perform music with accurate pitch, rhythm, and expressive intent
- Perform a varied repertoire of music from different genres, styles, and cultures
- Play pieces that are appropriate for skill level and that challenge musical growth
- Participate in group performances, developing skills in listening, blending, and balance
- Follow a conductor and contribute to the overall sound and cohesion of the ensemble
- Practice playing in sections and as a full ensemble to achieve cohesive group performances
- Perform a varied repertoire of music, both alone and in groups, using proper technique and expressive qualities
- Play from memory and notation, alone and in an ensemble
- Participate in solo and ensemble performances, including concerts, recitals, and community events
- Participate in school and district-level music festivals and competitions

Critique and Feedback

- Apply criteria to evaluate musical performances and compositions

- Offer constructive feedback and accept feedback to improve musical skills and understanding
- Develop critical listening skills to identify strengths and areas for improvement in their own and others' performances

Advanced Band

In advanced band, students will build on their basic skills by learning more advanced techniques and musical concepts. They will perform increasingly challenging pieces, refine their ensemble playing, and deepen their understanding of music theory, preparing them for higher levels of musical performance.

Foundational Practices

- Generate and conceptualize musical ideas for various purposes and contexts
- Explore advanced techniques and creative possibilities on their instruments
- Select and develop musical ideas to create more complex compositions and arrangements
- Collaborate with peers to create multipart pieces or arrangements
- Evaluate and refine their musical ideas to enhance their compositions and performances
- Use detailed feedback from peers and the instructor to make specific improvements
- Share their musical creations with clarity and intent, demonstrating craftsmanship and originality
- Perform original compositions or improvisations in formal and informal settings
- Select a varied repertoire of music that challenges their skills and broadens their musical experience
- Choose pieces that represent different styles, cultures, and historical periods
- Analyze the structure, elements, and expressive qualities of the music to enhance understanding and performance
- Study the historical and cultural context of the pieces they perform to inform interpretation
- Develop nuanced interpretations that reflect the expressive intent of the music
- Apply advanced techniques such as subtle dynamics, articulation variations, and expressive phrasing
- Participate in individual and group rehearsals with a focus on improving technical skills and ensemble cohesion
- Use detailed practice strategies and constructive feedback to refine their playing
- Perform music with technical accuracy, expressive detail, and ensemble cohesion in various performance settings
- Engage in both solo and ensemble performances, including concerts and adjudicated events
- Choose music for listening and performance based on personal interest and established criteria for quality
- Listen to and critically evaluate recordings of professional bands and ensembles
- Analyze how the elements of music contribute to the overall effect of a piece and its emotional impact
- Discuss the composer's intent and how it is conveyed through musical elements and performance practices
- Interpret the expressive qualities of music and articulate how they affect the listener's experience
- Compare different performances and interpretations of the same piece
- Evaluate musical works and performances using specific criteria, including technical skill, expressiveness, and coherence
- Reflect on their own performances and those of others to identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Connect their personal experiences and broader knowledge to the music they perform and study
- Explore how their own cultural background and experiences influence their musical preferences and performance style
- Understand and discuss the historical and cultural contexts of the music they perform
- Explore the roles of musicians and the functions of music in various cultures and historical periods

Historical and Cultural Context

- Perform and experience music from diverse cultures and historical periods, understanding its context and significance
- Study the historical and cultural background of the pieces they perform in greater depth
- Understand the role of music in different societies and historical periods, and how it reflects and influences culture
- Identify and describe music from various historical periods and cultures, including major composers and their works
- Discuss the roles and impact of music in different cultures and historical periods
- Relate music to other academic subjects, such as history, mathematics, science, and literature

Developing Music Literacy

- Develop a strong sense of rhythm and pulse with more complex rhythmic patterns and meters
- Practice rhythmic exercises and pieces that incorporate advanced note values and rests
- Practice playing and counting advanced rhythms, including syncopation and irregular meters
- Read and perform more complex melodies and harmonic structures
- Read and perform more complex melodies in various key signatures
- Understand and apply concepts of harmony, including chord progressions and counterpoint
- Understand and apply complex key signatures, time signatures, and musical terminology
- Develop advanced music reading skills, including fluency in reading standard notation and rhythmic symbols
- Understand and perform complex rhythms and meters, including syncopation, dotted rhythms, and mixed meters
- Read, write, and reproduce complex rhythmic patterns using standard notation, including syncopation and dotted rhythms
- Read, write, and reproduce more advanced melodic patterns using standard notation, including the use of accidentals
- Understand and perform music in various key signatures and time signatures, including mixed meters

Instrumental Technique

- Demonstrate advanced instrumental technique, including proper posture, hand position, breath control (for wind instruments), and articulation
- Produce a characteristic tone quality across the full range of the instrument
- Develop advanced tone production techniques specific to their instruments
- Tune the instrument accurately and maintain intonation in individual and ensemble contexts
- Refine tone production techniques specific to their instruments
- Focus on advanced aspects of playing such as vibrato, breath control (for wind instruments), embouchure, fingerings, posture, and articulation
- Explore advanced dynamics, phrasing, articulation, and other expressive elements in music
- Develop the ability to interpret music expressively and convey the composer's intent
- Experiment with improvisation within more complex structures or frameworks
- Create more sophisticated compositions and arrangements, either individually or in groups
- Compose more sophisticated pieces and arrangements, considering melody, harmony, and rhythm
- Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments within given frameworks
- Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines, utilizing a variety of sound sources, including electronic and digital media

Ensemble Skills

- Participate in regular individual practice and in ensemble rehearsals
- Use a variety of practice techniques to improve technical skills and musicality
- Develop advanced ensemble skills, including listening, blending, balance, and following a conductor
- Practice playing in sections and as a full ensemble to achieve high levels of ensemble cohesion and musicality
- Perform music with accurate pitch, rhythm, and appropriate stylistic interpretation
- Play from memory and notation, both solo and in an ensemble, incorporating dynamics and phrasing
- Participate in solo and ensemble performances, including concerts, recitals, and community events
- Encourage participation in school and district level music festivals and competitions
- Perform a diverse repertoire of music from different genres, styles, and cultures that are appropriate for their skill level and that challenge their musical growth
- Perform a varied repertoire of music, both alone and in groups, demonstrating technical proficiency and musical expression
- Perform pieces that require advanced technical and expressive skills

Critique and Feedback

- Apply specific criteria to evaluate musical performances and compositions, including technical accuracy, expression, and interpretation
- Offer constructive feedback and accept feedback to improve musical skills and understanding
- Develop critical listening skills to identify strengths and areas for improvement in their own and others' performances

Art

The Middle School Visual Arts objectives are based upon the art standards as outlined by the National Art Education Association and the State of Texas TEKS for Fine Arts.

National Arts Standards for Visual Arts

Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.

1. Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
 - Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed.
 - Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative art making goals.
2. Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
 - Artists and designers experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches.
 - Artists and designers balance experimentation and safety, freedom and responsibility while developing and creating artworks.
 - People create and interact with objects, places, and design that define, shape, enhance, and empower their lives.
3. Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.
 - Artists and designers develop excellence through practice and constructive critique, reflecting on, revising, and refining work over time.

Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation, presentation, and sharing.

4. Anchor Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.
 - Artists and other presenters consider various techniques, methods, venues, and criteria when analyzing, selecting, and curating objects, artifacts, and artworks for preservation and presentation.
5. Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
 - Artists, curators and others consider a variety of factors and methods including evolving technologies when preparing and refining artwork for display and or when deciding if and how to preserve and protect it.
6. Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.^[L]_[SEP]
 - Objects, artifacts, and artworks collected, preserved, or presented either by artists, museums, or other venues communicate meaning and a record of social, cultural, and political experiences resulting in the cultivating of appreciation and understanding.

Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.

7. Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work
 - Individuals' selection of works is influenced by their interests, experiences, understandings, and purposes.
 - Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments.
 - Visual imagery influences understanding of and responses to the world.
8. Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.^[L]_[SEP]
 - People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
9. Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
 - People evaluate art based on various criteria.

Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

10. Anchor Standard 10: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.
 - Through art-making, people make meaning by investigating and developing awareness of perceptions, knowledge, and experiences.
11. Anchor Standard 11: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
 - People develop ideas and understandings of society, culture, and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.

5th Grade Art

In 5th-grade art, students will explore various art mediums, techniques, and styles while expressing their creativity. They will engage in hands-on projects that encourage experimentation, self-expression, and appreciation for visual arts. Through guided instruction and individual exploration, students will develop their artistic skills and cultivate a lifelong passion for art.

Foundational Practices

- Generate ideas and employ strategies to create art
- Experiment with different materials and techniques
- Engage in individual and group brainstorming sessions to generate multiple ideas and solutions for art-making
- Demonstrate an understanding of the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, space, form, and value) and principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, and unity)
- Create artwork that communicates an idea, feeling, or narrative using elements of art and principles of design
- Revise artwork based on feedback and self-reflection to improve the final product
- Demonstrate perseverance in revising and refining work to meet artistic goals
- Select personal artwork for display based on criteria and context
- Discuss and explain the choices made in the selection and presentation of their own artwork
- Prepare artwork for presentation by matting, framing, or other suitable methods
- Demonstrate proper care and handling of art materials and finished artwork for display
- Explain how the presentation of art influences how it is perceived by others
- Create displays that convey the message or meaning of the artwork
- Identify and describe how the elements of art and principles of design are used in various artworks
- Analyze how different elements and principles contribute to the overall effect and meaning of the artwork
- Interpret the meaning of artworks, considering the context in which they were created
- Discuss the artist's intent and how it is communicated through the use of materials, techniques, and subject matter
- Develop and apply criteria to evaluate their own artwork and the work of others
- Engage in constructive critique to offer and receive feedback that can enhance artistic practice
- Use personal experiences and knowledge to create meaningful artwork
- Reflect on how personal and external factors influence their artwork
- Explore how artworks from different cultures and historical periods convey ideas, beliefs, and values
- Create artwork inspired by cultural and historical contexts, understanding the influence of those contexts on the work

Art History and Theory

- Study significant artworks and movements in art history
- Identify specific artworks created by artists in various cultures, times, and places
- Analyze how art reflects cultural values, beliefs, and individual identity
- Compare the purpose and function of art in various cultures, times, and places
- Compare and contrast artworks from different cultures and times to understand their cultural and historical contexts

- Incorporate historical and cultural knowledge into personal artworks, reflecting an understanding of diverse artistic traditions
- Identify and illustrate principles of design such as emphasis, pattern, rhythm, balance, proportion, and unity in nature and in human-made environments
- Compare the use of the art elements of color, texture, form, line, space, and value to express ideas

Art Criticism and Aesthetics

- Develop criteria for evaluating personal and peer artworks, providing constructive feedback
- Critically analyze the use of elements and principles of design in various artworks
- Respond to and analyze artworks of self and others
- Evaluate the elements of art, principles of design, and expressive qualities in artworks of self, peers, and historical or contemporary artists
- Interpret ideas and moods in original artworks, portfolios, and exhibitions by peers and others
- Express ideas about personal artworks, portfolios, and exhibitions by peers and others
- Engage in discussions about the aesthetic qualities and meanings of artworks

Creative Expression

- Develop control over a range of art materials to produce drawings, paintings, prints, constructions, ceramics, and fiber art
- Practice and experiment with different techniques and materials
- Produce artworks using a variety of art materials and tools such as found objects, clay, watercolor, tempera, and acrylic paints, markers, colored pencils, pastels, charcoals, and digital tools
- Express ideas through original artworks, using a variety of media with appropriate skills
- Develop a sense of creativity and risk-taking in art-making
- Present work in classroom displays, school exhibitions, and digital galleries
- Participate in art shows and competitions when appropriate

Drawing and Painting

- Develop skills in various drawing techniques, such as shading, perspective, and proportion
- Experiment with different drawing materials like pencils, charcoal, pastels, and ink
- Create detailed drawings that explore concepts like perspective, shading, and texture
- Use drawing to express complex ideas, emotions, and narratives
- Explore painting techniques, including color mixing, brushwork, and composition
- Use different types of paint such as watercolor, tempera, and acrylics
- Create paintings that convey intricate themes and personal experiences

Sculpture

- Create three-dimensional works using materials like clay, paper mâché, wire, and found objects
- Construct three-dimensional forms using modeling, carving, and assembling techniques
- Develop sculptures that reflect personal ideas and cultural influences
- Understand basic sculptural techniques like modeling, carving, and assembling

Printmaking

- Experiment with creating prints using different surfaces and materials
- Experiment with printmaking methods such as stamping and relief printing
- Create detailed prints using various techniques and materials
- Produce prints that explore themes of personal and cultural significance

Textiles and Fiber Arts

- Learn and explore weaving, sewing, fabric dyeing, and embroidery techniques
- Create artworks using various fibers and textiles
- Design fiber art projects that integrate patterns and textures

Digital Art and Media

- Use digital tools and software to create artwork, including digital drawing and painting programs
- Explore concepts of digital composition, layering, and editing
- Explore digital composition, photo editing, and animation
- Develop digital artworks that communicate complex ideas and contemporary themes

6th Grade Art

In 6th-grade art, students will continue to explore and expand upon the artistic concepts introduced in previous years. They will delve deeper into different art mediums, techniques, and styles, while also focusing on developing their creativity and artistic expression. Through a combination of guided instruction and independent projects, students will refine their skills and explore more complex artistic concepts, building upon their foundation from previous years.

Foundational Practices

- Generate ideas and employ a variety of strategies to create art, expanding on prior experiences and knowledge
- Engage in individual and group brainstorming sessions to generate multiple ideas and solutions for artmaking, emphasizing originality and innovation
- Demonstrate a deeper understanding of the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, space, form, and value) and principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, and unity)
- Create artwork that communicates more complex ideas, feelings, or narratives using the elements of art and principles of design
- Refine artwork based on more detailed feedback and self reflection to improve the final product
- Demonstrate persistence in revising and refining work to achieve a higher level of artistic quality and meet artistic goals
- Select personal artwork for display based on refined criteria and context
- Analyze and explain the choices made in the selection and presentation of their own and others' artwork
- Prepare artwork for presentation by utilizing methods of matting, framing, or other suitable presentation techniques
- Demonstrate proper care and handling of art materials and finished artwork for display
- Explain how the presentation of art influences its interpretation and perception by others
- Create displays that effectively convey the intended message or meaning of the artwork
- Identify and describe how the elements of art and principles of design are used in various artworks, with increased sophistication
- Analyze how different elements and principles contribute to the overall effect and meaning of the artwork, including more complex works
- Interpret the meaning of artworks, considering broader contexts and multiple viewpoints
- Discuss the artist's intent and how it is communicated through the use of materials, techniques, and subject matter, with a deeper understanding
- Develop and apply more sophisticated criteria to evaluate their own artwork and the work of others
- Engage in constructive critique to offer and receive detailed feedback that can enhance artistic practice
- Use personal experiences and expanding knowledge to create more meaningful artwork
- Reflect on how personal and external factors influence their artwork, including cultural and societal influences
- Explore how artworks from various cultures and historical periods convey ideas, beliefs, and values, with a deeper analysis
- Create artwork inspired by more complex cultural and historical contexts, understanding the influence of those contexts on the work

Art History and Theory

- Study significant artworks and movements in art history with greater depth

- Investigate significant art movements, styles, and artists from various cultures and historical periods
- Identify and discuss specific artworks created by artists from various cultures, times, and places
- Analyze how artworks reflect cultural values, beliefs, and individual identity
- Compare and contrast the purposes and functions of art in different cultures, times, and places, including the role of the artist
- Compare and contrast artworks from different cultures and times to understand their cultural and historical contexts
- Incorporate historical and cultural knowledge into personal artworks, reflecting an understanding of diverse artistic traditions
- Explore the cultural and historical contexts of various artworks and understand how they reflect and influence the time and place in which they were created
- Demonstrate an understanding of art history and culture as records of human achievement

Art Criticism and Aesthetics

- Develop criteria for evaluating personal and peer artworks, providing constructive feedback
- Provide constructive feedback about personal artworks and the artworks of peers using art vocabulary and concepts learned
- Critically analyze the use of elements and principles of design in various artworks
- Engage in discussions about the aesthetic qualities and meanings of artworks
- Respond to and analyze artworks of self and others
- Evaluate the elements of art, principles of design, and expressive qualities in artworks of self, peers, and historical or contemporary artists
- Interpret ideas and moods in original artworks, portfolios, and exhibitions by peers and others

Creative Expression

- Use an expanded range of art materials and tools, such as found objects, clay, watercolor, tempera, acrylic paints, markers, colored pencils, pastels, charcoals, and digital tools to create original works of art
- Demonstrate increasing control and technical skill in the use of art materials and tools to express complex ideas and concepts
- Engage in regular practice and exploration of different techniques and materials to build advanced skills
- Identify and illustrate principles of design such as emphasis, pattern, rhythm, balance, proportion, and unity in artworks, nature, and in human made environments
- Compare and contrast the use of art elements such as color, texture, form, line, space, and value to express ideas in personal artworks and in the work of others
- Express ideas through original artworks, using a variety of media with appropriate skills
- Develop and communicate ideas drawn from life experiences, imagination, the environment, and direct observation
- Promote experimentation and risk taking in artmaking to discover new possibilities and develop creativity
- Participate in art competitions and collaborative projects

Drawing and Painting

- Develop advanced skills in various drawing media, including pencil, charcoal, pastels, and ink
- Create detailed drawings that explore perspective, shading, texture, and complex compositions
- Use drawing to express intricate ideas, emotions, and narratives
- Explore complex compositions and use drawing to express more nuanced ideas and narratives

- Explore painting techniques using watercolor, tempera, acrylics, and mixed media
- Apply advanced painting techniques, including color mixing, layering, and brushwork

Sculpture

- Create more complex three dimensional works using materials like clay, paper mâché, wire, and found objects
- Use modeling, carving, and assembling techniques to construct expressive and intricate sculptures
- Work with materials such as clay, wire, paper mâché, and found objects to create three dimensional forms
- Develop sculptures that reflect personal ideas and cultural influences

Printmaking

- Experiment with creating detailed prints using different surfaces and materials
- Experiment with printmaking methods such as stamping and relief printing
- Create detailed prints using various techniques and materials
- Produce prints that explore themes of personal and cultural significance

Textiles and Fiber Arts

- Learn advanced techniques in weaving, sewing, fabric dyeing, and embroidery
- Create textile artworks using advanced techniques and materials
- Design fiber art projects that integrate complex patterns, textures, and cultural motifs
- Create more intricate artworks using various fibers and textiles, incorporating patterns and textures

Digital Art and Media

- Utilize digital tools and software for creating art, including digital drawing and painting programs
- Explore digital composition, layering, and animation to express complex ideas
- Explore digital composition, photo editing, and animation
- Develop digital artworks that communicate complex ideas and contemporary themes

7th Grade Art

In 7th-grade art, students will further develop their artistic skills and knowledge, building upon the foundation laid in previous years. They will explore more advanced techniques, mediums, and artistic concepts while continuing to foster their creativity and self-expression. Through a combination of structured lessons and independent projects, students will refine their artistic abilities and deepen their understanding of art, preparing them for more advanced studies in the future.

Foundational Practices

- Generate multiple ideas for art-making using a variety of strategies, emphasizing originality and complex solutions
- Engage in individual and group brainstorming sessions to explore and expand on artistic ideas, considering different perspectives and approaches
- Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, space, form, and value) and principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, and unity)
- Create artwork that communicates complex ideas, emotions, or narratives using the elements of art and principles of design effectively
- Refine artwork based on detailed feedback and in-depth self-reflection to improve the final product
- Demonstrate advanced perseverance in revising and refining work to achieve a high level of artistic quality and meet challenging artistic goals
- Select personal artwork for display based on advanced criteria and context
- Analyze and explain the choices made in the selection and presentation of their own and others' artwork, considering the intended audience and purpose
- Prepare artwork for presentation by utilizing advanced methods of matting, framing, or other suitable presentation techniques
- Demonstrate proper care and handling of art materials and finished artwork for display, ensuring longevity and quality of presentation
- Explain how the presentation of art influences its interpretation and perception by others, considering different contexts and settings
- Create displays that effectively convey complex messages or meanings of the artwork, incorporating audience engagement strategies
- Identify and describe how the elements of art and principles of design are used in various artworks, with an emphasis on sophisticated and innovative applications
- Analyze how different elements and principles contribute to the overall effect and meaning of the artwork, including contemporary and historical works
- Interpret the meaning of artworks, considering broader contexts, multiple viewpoints, and the artist's personal intent
- Discuss the artist's intent and how it is communicated through the use of materials, techniques, and subject matter, with a deeper understanding of artistic choices and context
- Develop and apply more sophisticated criteria to evaluate their own artwork and the work of others, incorporating elements of technique, expression, and impact
- Engage in constructive critique to offer and receive detailed feedback that enhances artistic practice and fosters a deeper understanding of art
- Use personal experiences, knowledge, and cultural context to create meaningful and complex artwork
- Reflect on how personal and external factors influence their artwork, including societal, cultural, and historical influences

- Explore how artworks from various cultures and historical periods convey complex ideas, beliefs, and values
- Create artwork inspired by more intricate cultural and historical contexts, understanding the influence of those contexts on the work and how they inform contemporary practice

Art History and Theory

- Study significant artworks and movements in art history with greater depth and complexity
- Investigate significant art movements, styles, and artists from various cultures and historical periods
- Identify and discuss specific artworks created by artists from various cultures, times, and places
- Analyze how artworks reflect cultural values, beliefs, and individual identity
- Compare the purposes and functions of art in different cultures, times, and places, including the role of the artist
- Compare and contrast artworks from different cultures and times to understand their cultural and historical contexts
- Incorporate historical and cultural knowledge into personal artworks, reflecting an understanding of diverse artistic traditions
- Incorporate historical and cultural knowledge into personal artworks, reflecting an understanding of diverse artistic traditions
- Explore the cultural and historical contexts of various artworks and understand how they reflect and influence the time and place in which they were created
- Demonstrate an understanding of art history and culture as records of human achievement

Art Criticism and Aesthetics

- Develop criteria for evaluating personal and peer artworks, providing constructive feedback
- Provide constructive feedback about personal artworks and the artworks of peers using art vocabulary and concepts learned
- Critically analyze the use of elements and principles of design in various artworks
- Engage in discussions about aesthetics, the philosophy of art, and the role of art in society, considering multiple perspectives and interpretations
- Respond to and analyze artworks of self and others
- Evaluate the elements of art, principles of design, and expressive qualities in artworks of self, peers, and historical or contemporary artists
- Interpret ideas and moods in original artworks, portfolios, and exhibitions by peers and others

Creative Expression

- Use a variety of art materials and tools such as found objects, clay, watercolor, acrylic paints, markers, colored pencils, pastels, charcoals, and digital tools to produce artworks
- Demonstrate increasing technical skill and control in the use of art materials to express complex ideas and concepts
- Engage in regular practice and exploration of different techniques and materials to build advanced skills
- Illustrate the principles of design such as emphasis, pattern, rhythm, balance, proportion, and unity in both natural and constructed environments
- Compare and contrast the use of art elements like color, texture, form, line, space, and value to express ideas in personal artworks and the work of others
- Express ideas through original artworks, using a variety of media with appropriate skills
- Integrate ideas drawn from life experiences, imagination, and direct observation to create original works of art

- Engage in experimentation and risk-taking in art-making to discover new possibilities and develop creativity
- Participate in art competitions, collaborative projects, and public art installations where appropriate

Drawing and Painting

- Develop advanced skills using various drawing media, including pencil, charcoal, pastels, ink, and digital tools
- Develop advanced skills in various drawing techniques, including detailed shading, perspective, proportion, and use of mixed media
- Use drawing to express intricate ideas, emotions, and narratives
- Explore complex compositions and use drawing to express intricate ideas and narratives
- Create detailed drawings exploring perspective, shading, texture, and complex compositions
- Use different types of paint, such as watercolor and acrylics, to create more sophisticated pieces
- Explore advanced techniques using watercolor, acrylics, and mixed media
- Explore advanced painting techniques, including color theory, advanced brushwork, and mixed media composition
- Apply advanced painting techniques, including color mixing, layering, and brushwork
- Create paintings that convey intricate themes and personal experiences

Sculpture

- Create complex three-dimensional works using materials like clay, paper mâché, wire, found objects, and mixed media
- Use modeling and assembling techniques to construct expressive and intricate sculptures
- Apply advanced sculptural techniques such as modeling and assembling to create expressive and intricate forms
- Work with materials such as clay, wire, paper mâché, and found objects to create three-dimensional forms
- Develop sculptures that reflect personal ideas and cultural influences

Printmaking

- Experiment with creating detailed prints using various surfaces and materials, exploring multiple printmaking methods
- Experiment with printmaking methods such as stamping and relief printing
- Learn and apply advanced printmaking techniques such as etching, screen printing, collagraphy, and lithography
- Create detailed prints using various techniques and materials
- Produce prints that explore themes of personal and cultural significance

Textiles and Fiber Arts

- Learn advanced techniques in weaving, sewing, fabric dyeing, and embroidery
- Explore advanced textile techniques such as weaving, sewing, fabric dyeing, embroidery, and mixed media fiber arts
- Create textile artworks using advanced techniques and materials
- Design fiber art projects that integrate complex patterns, textures, and cultural motifs
- Create intricate artworks using various fibers and textiles, incorporating complex patterns, textures, and techniques

Digital Art and Media

- Utilize digital tools and software for creating art, including digital drawing and painting programs
- Explore digital composition, layering, and animation to express complex ideas and narratives
- Explore digital composition, photo editing, and animation
- Develop digital artworks that communicate complex ideas and contemporary themes

8th Grade Art

In 8th-grade art, students will build upon the skills and knowledge acquired in previous years to explore more complex artistic concepts and techniques. They will delve deeper into various mediums, styles, and art movements, while also refining their creativity and artistic expression. Through challenging projects and creative exploration, students will further develop their individual artistic voices and prepare for advanced studies in art or related fields.

Foundational Practices

- Generate innovative ideas for art-making using a variety of strategies, emphasizing originality and complex problem-solving
- Engage in advanced individual and group brainstorming sessions to explore and expand on artistic ideas, considering multiple perspectives and sophisticated approaches
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, space, form, and value) and principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, and unity)
- Create artwork that communicates intricate ideas, emotions, or narratives using the elements of art and principles of design effectively
- Refine artwork based on detailed feedback and in-depth self-reflection to achieve a high level of artistic quality
- Demonstrate persistence and advanced techniques in revising and refining work to meet complex artistic goals
- Select personal artwork for display based on advanced criteria and the intended context
- Analyze and explain the choices made in the selection and presentation of their own and others' artwork, considering the intended audience, context, and purpose
- Prepare artwork for presentation by utilizing advanced methods of matting, framing, or other suitable presentation techniques
- Demonstrate proper care and handling of art materials and finished artwork to ensure longevity and quality of presentation
- Explain how the presentation of art influences its interpretation and perception by others, considering different contexts and settings
- Create displays that effectively convey complex messages or meanings of the artwork, incorporating audience engagement strategies and thematic coherence
- Identify and describe how the elements of art and principles of design are used in various artworks, with an emphasis on sophisticated and innovative applications
- Analyze how different elements and principles contribute to the overall effect and meaning of the artwork, including contemporary and historical works
- Interpret the meaning of artworks, considering broader contexts, multiple viewpoints, and the artist's personal intent
- Discuss the artist's intent and how it is communicated through the use of materials, techniques, and subject matter, with a deeper understanding of artistic choices and context
- Develop and apply sophisticated criteria to evaluate their own artwork and the work of others, incorporating elements of technique, expression, and impact
- Engage in constructive critique to offer and receive detailed feedback that enhances artistic practice and fosters a deeper understanding of art

- Use personal experiences, knowledge, and cultural context to create meaningful and complex artwork
- Reflect on how personal and external factors influence their artwork, including societal, cultural, and historical influences
- Explore how artworks from various cultures and historical periods convey complex ideas, beliefs, and values
- Create artwork inspired by intricate cultural and historical contexts, understanding the influence of those contexts on the work and how they inform contemporary practice

Art History and Theory

- Study significant artworks and movements in art history with greater depth and complexity
- Identify and analyze significant artworks and artists from diverse cultures, historical periods, and artistic movements
- Explore the cultural and historical contexts of various artworks and understand how they reflect and influence the time and place in which they were created
- Evaluate how artworks reflect cultural values, beliefs, and individual identity, considering historical and social contexts
- Investigate the role of art in society and its impact on culture, politics, and personal expression
- Analyze connections between historical and contemporary art movements, identifying recurring themes, motifs, and techniques
- Explore complex themes and concepts in art history, including modernism, postmodernism, globalization, and cultural exchange
- Incorporate historical and cultural knowledge into personal artworks, drawing inspiration from diverse artistic traditions and cultural perspectives

Art Criticism and Aesthetics

- Engage in meaningful discussions about the role of art in society, ethical considerations in artmaking, and the evolving nature of artistic expression
- Develop advanced skills in critiquing art using specific, sophisticated criteria
- Develop and articulate personal criteria for evaluating artworks, considering both formal qualities and conceptual depth
- Critique artworks using advanced knowledge of the elements of art, principles of design, and expressive qualities
- Provide constructive and insightful feedback about personal artworks and the artworks of peers, demonstrating advanced art vocabulary and critical thinking skills
- Critically analyze artworks using advanced knowledge of art history, aesthetics, and cultural context
- Engage in discussions about aesthetics, the philosophy of art, and the role of art in society, considering multiple perspectives and interpretations
- Interpret complex ideas and emotions in original artworks, portfolios, and exhibitions by peers and established artists

Creative Expression

- Utilize a wide range of art materials and tools, including traditional and digital media, to produce artworks that demonstrate advanced technical skill and creative expression
- Demonstrate mastery in the use of art materials and techniques to express complex ideas and concepts effectively
- Engage in regular practice and exploration of different techniques and materials to build advanced skills

- Analyze and apply principles of design such as emphasis, pattern, rhythm, balance, proportion, and unity in both natural and constructed environments
- Compare and contrast the use of art elements such as color, texture, form, line, space, and value in personal artworks and the work of others to express ideas
- Express ideas through original artworks, using a variety of media with appropriate skills
- Integrate ideas drawn from life experiences, imagination, and direct observation to create original works of art with increasing complexity and sophistication
- Engage in experimentation and risk-taking in art-making to discover new possibilities and develop creativity
- Experiment with new techniques, materials, and ideas in their artmaking process
- Engage in independent exploration and guided experimentation in the studio
- Present their work in various settings, including school exhibitions, community art shows, and digital platforms
- Participate in art competitions, collaborative projects, and public art installations where appropriate

Drawing and Painting

- Explore advanced drawing techniques using various media such as graphite, charcoal, ink, and digital tools
- Develop advanced skills in various drawing techniques, including detailed shading, perspective, proportion, and use of mixed media
- Use drawing as a means to convey complex ideas, emotions, and narratives with depth and sophistication
- Explore complex compositions and use drawing to express intricate ideas and narratives
- Create detailed and expressive drawings that demonstrate mastery of perspective, composition, and visual storytelling
- Use different types of paint, such as watercolor and acrylics to create more sophisticated pieces
- Experiment with advanced painting techniques including glazing, impasto, and mixed media applications
- Explore advanced painting techniques, including color theory, advanced brushwork, and mixed media composition
- Create paintings that explore abstract concepts, personal experiences, and social commentary with skillful use of color, texture, and composition
- Develop a unique artistic voice through expressive and thought-provoking paintings that engage viewers on multiple levels

Sculpture

- Create complex three-dimensional works using materials like clay, paper mâché, wire, found objects, and mixed media
- Use advanced sculpting techniques including carving, modeling, and assemblage to convey complex ideas and themes
- Apply advanced sculptural techniques such as modeling, carving, and assembling to create expressive and intricate forms
- Work with a variety of sculptural materials such as clay and found objects to create three-dimensional forms
- Create sculptures that challenge traditional notions of form and function, exploring the intersection of art, technology, and culture

Printmaking

- Experiment with creating detailed prints using various surfaces and materials, exploring multiple printmaking methods
- Explore traditional and contemporary printmaking methods such as etching, lithography, and digital printing
- Learn and apply advanced printmaking techniques such as etching, collagraphy, and lithography
- Create prints that experiment with texture, layering, and color, pushing the boundaries of traditional printmaking processes
- Produce prints that address social, political, or environmental issues, using the medium as a tool for advocacy and expression

Textiles and Fiber Arts

- Expand skills in weaving, textile manipulation, dyeing, and surface design techniques
- Explore advanced textile techniques such as weaving, sewing, fabric dyeing, embroidery, and mixed media fiber arts
- Create intricate artworks using various fibers and textiles, incorporating complex patterns, textures, and techniques
- Create textile artworks that explore themes of identity, memory, and cultural heritage, incorporating symbolism and metaphor
- Use textiles as a medium for personal expression and storytelling, experimenting with non-traditional materials and techniques

Digital Art and Media

- Use advanced digital tools and software to create sophisticated digital artwork
- Develop proficiency in digital art tools and software, including digital painting, photo manipulation, and animation
- Explore digital composition, layering, and animation to express complex ideas and narratives
- Use digital media to explore contemporary issues, virtual identities, and the impact of technology on society and culture
- Create digital artworks that explore virtual space, interactivity, and multimedia integration, blurring the boundaries between traditional and digital art forms

Physical & Outdoor Education

The Middle School Physical and Outdoor Education objectives are based upon the National Physical Education Standards as outlined by the Society of Health and Physical Educators and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the outdoor education guidelines detailed by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and the North American Association for Environmental Education.

SHAPE America Guidelines

1. **STANDARD 1 Develops a variety of motor skills.** Through learning experiences in physical education, the student develops motor skills across a variety of environments. Motor skills are a foundational part of child development and support the movements of everyday life. The development of motor skills contributes to an individual's physical literacy journey.
2. **STANDARD 2 Applies knowledge related to movement and fitness concepts.** Through learning experiences in physical education, the student uses their knowledge of movement concepts, tactics, and strategies across a variety of environments. This knowledge helps the student become a more versatile and efficient mover. Additionally, the student applies knowledge of health-related and skill-related fitness to enhance their overall well-being. The application of knowledge related to various forms of movement contributes to an individual's physical literacy journey.
3. **STANDARD 3 Develops social skills through movement.** Through learning experiences in physical education, students develop the social skills necessary to exhibit empathy and respect for others and foster and maintain relationships. In addition, students develop skills for communication, leadership, cultural awareness, and conflict resolution in a variety of physical activity settings.
4. **STANDARD 4 Develops personal skills, identifies personal benefits of movement, and chooses to engage in physical activity.** Through learning experiences in physical education, the student develops an understanding of how movement is personally beneficial and subsequently chooses to participate in physical activities that are personally meaningful (e.g., activities that offer social interaction, cultural connection, exploration, choice, self-expression, appropriate levels of challenge, and added health benefits). The student develops personal skills including goal setting, identifying strengths, and reflection to enhance their physical literacy journey.

AFWA Guidelines

1. **STANDARD 1** Conservation and management of terrestrial and water resources are essential to sustaining fish and wildlife, the outdoor landscape, and the quality of our lives.
2. **STANDARD 2** Students should understand and actively participate in the stewardship and support of our natural resources.
3. **STANDARD 3** Students should understand the value of our fish and wildlife resources as a public trust.
4. **STANDARD 4** Students should understand and accept and/or lawfully participate in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, wildlife watching, shooting sports, and other types of resource-related outdoor recreation.
5. **STANDARD 5** Students should understand the need for, and actively support funding for fish and wildlife conservation.

NAAEE Guidelines

1. **STRAND 1 Questioning, Analysis and Interpretation Skills**
 - *Questioning*—Learners develop, modify, clarify, and explain questions that guide environmental investigations of various types. They describe criteria that influence the questions they pose and explain their reasoning.
 - *Designing investigations*—Learners design investigations to explore environmental questions, problems, issues, phenomena, and models. They explain their reasoning.
 - *Collecting information*—Learners use established protocols to locate and collect information for environmental investigations of many types. They use increasingly sophisticated methods and technology to access, gather, store, and display the information they collect.

- *Evaluating accuracy and reliability*—Learners apply logic and reasoning skills to evaluate the completeness and reliability of a range of environmental information and information sources.
 - *Organizing and analyzing information*—Learners organize, analyze, and display data and information from their environmental investigations for a variety of audiences and purposes.
 - *Working with models and simulations*—Learners create, use, test, and evaluate models to analyze environmental questions, problems, issues, or phenomena.
 - *Drawing conclusions and developing explanations*—Learners propose explanations that address their initial environmental questions using quantitative and qualitative data and evidence that has been collected and analyzed.
2. **STRAND 2 Environmental Processes and Systems**
- *Earth's physical and living systems*
 - *Earth's physical systems*—Learners describe the major processes and systems that form Earth and relate these processes, especially those that are large scale and long term to characteristics of Earth. They explain how changes in one system (hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere) result in changes to another. They describe how human sustainability depends on Earth systems.
 - *Earth's living systems*—Learners describe basic population dynamics, genetic mechanisms behind biological evolution, and the importance of diversity in living systems. They explain how changes in the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and geosphere affect the biosphere. They describe how human sustainability is dependent on the biosphere.
 - *Human systems*
 - *Individuals, groups, and societies*—Learners observe and describe ways that individual and group action affects the environment, and how each can work to promote the common good. They analyze differing beliefs and values within the same community and the larger society and explain how sustainable solutions rely on reconciling diverse perspectives.
 - *Culture*—Learners recognize and describe examples of different cultural perspectives and dynamics and apply their understanding to current and historical environmental situations.
 - *Political systems*—Learners analyze how political systems and political decision-making, from the local to international levels, impact environmental quality and long-term sustainability.
 - *Economic systems*—Learners analyze how economic systems and economic decision-making affect environmental quality and long-term sustainability at local, tribal, national, and global levels.
 - *Environment and society*
 - *Human-environment interactions*—Learners analyze ways that humans interact with their environment and how these interactions change with technological developments. Learners determine costs and benefits to different groups in society as well as unintended consequences.
 - *Resource distribution and consumption*—Learners analyze ways that the perceived value and use of natural resources change over time and vary under different economic, political, social, and technological systems.
 - *Places*—Learners describe “place” as humans endowing a location with meaning and that this meaning can be created through individual and group interactions with that environment.
 - *Change and conflict*—Learners analyze the functioning of public processes for promoting and managing change and conflict, and evaluate their effects on the environment, society, and the economy.
3. **STRAND 3 Skills for Understanding and Addressing Environmental Issues**
- *Skills for analyzing and investigating environmental issues*
 - *Identifying and investigating issues*—Learners apply their research and analytical skills to systematically investigate environmental issues ranging from local issues to those that are regional or global in scope.
 - *Sorting out the consequences of issues*—Learners evaluate the consequences of a broad range of environmental changes, conditions, and issues on environmental, social, and

economic sustainability. They identify environmental justice and social equity implications.

- *Identifying and critiquing alternative solutions and courses of action*—Learners identify and propose environmental action plans, including design solutions, and evaluate their likely effectiveness in specific environmental, cultural/social, and economic contexts. They identify ways that these action plans and design solutions might affect different groups of people, including possible environmental justice and social equity implications.
 - *Working with flexibility, creativity, and openness*—Learners engage each other in evidence-based peer review and work collaboratively and cooperatively in the spirit of open deliberation, especially in contexts that bring to the surface deeply held priorities and values.
 - *Decision-making and action skills*
 - *Forming and evaluating personal views*—Learners evaluate, justify, and communicate their own views on environmental issues and possible ways to address them.
 - *Evaluating the need for action*—Learners apply their research and analytical skills to systematically determine whether action is needed in specific environmental, cultural/social, and economic contexts and whether they should be involved.
 - *Planning and taking action*—Learners develop action strategies and design solutions based on their research and analysis of an environmental issue. If appropriate, they implement plans that are within the scope of their rights and consistent with their individual abilities and responsibilities as members of the community.
 - *Evaluating the results of actions*—Learners evaluate the intended and unintended consequences of design solutions, their own civic actions and actions taken by other individuals and groups, including implications for long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
4. **STRAND 4 Personal and Civic Responsibility**
- *Recognizing rights and responsibilities*—Learners describe the relationships between exercising their individual rights and responsibilities and addressing environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
 - *Recognizing efficacy and developing agency*—Learners exhibit personal agency by working independently and making choices to bring about change in their community that addresses environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
 - *Accepting personal responsibility*—Learners evaluate the broad environmental, social, and economic consequences of their actions. They accept responsibility for recognizing those effects and changing their actions when warranted.

5th Grade Physical Education

In 5th-grade physical education, students will engage in a variety of physical activities and sports to promote fitness, teamwork, and healthy habits. The focus will be on developing motor skills, coordination, and overall physical health through fun and structured exercises. This class will encourage active participation, cooperation, and a positive attitude towards lifelong physical activity.

Motor Skills and Movement

- Demonstrate proficiency in mature forms of basic locomotor skills such as running, hopping, skipping, jumping, galloping, and sliding
- Demonstrate proficiency in non-locomotor skills such as balancing, twisting, bending, and stretching
- Perform combinations of locomotor and non-locomotor skills in dynamic and complex settings
- Apply manipulative skills such as throwing, catching, dribbling, striking, kicking, and volleying
- Perform sequences that combine different skills such as dribbling and shooting
- Create and perform sequences that include a variety of motor skills and movement patterns
- Develop and refine basic motor skills and movement patterns
- Engage in activities such as skill drills, movement games, and practice sessions

Physical Fitness and Wellness

- Participate in activities that promote fitness such as running, circuit training, and stretching exercises
- Understand and apply principles of health-related fitness such as cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition
- Participate in activities that promote cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, and endurance
- Understand the importance of warm-up and cool-down exercises
- Set personal fitness goals and monitor progress through fitness assessments

Game Skills and Strategies

- Apply movement concepts and principles to develop game skills and strategies
- Engage in activities that enhance skill-related components of fitness such as agility, balance, coordination, power, reaction time, and speed
- Participate in a variety of sports involving game strategies and teamwork such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, tag games, and relay races
- Demonstrate offensive and defensive strategies in simple games and activities
- Demonstrate an understanding of rhythm, tempo, and patterns in movement
- Perform rhythmic activities and dance sequences
- Explore rhythmic movements and dance as a form of physical expression, including dance routines, rhythm games, cultural dances

Social Development and Interaction

- Follow rules and procedures, showing self-control, and accepting feedback
- Demonstrate positive communication and teamwork skills
- Work cooperatively with others in partner and group activities
- Work cooperatively with others, resolving conflicts peacefully, and encouraging peers
- Demonstrate self-control, respect for others, and responsible behavior in physical activity settings
- Demonstrate consistency in following safety practices
- Show respect for individual differences and abilities

Self-Realization and Building Individual Excellence

- Demonstrate an understanding of safety rules and injury prevention strategies for physical activities
- Engage in activities such as safety drills, proper use of equipment demonstrations, and warm-up and cool-down exercises
- Recognize and appreciate the benefits of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, and social interaction
- Encourage habits and activities that promote lifelong engagement in physical activity such as setting personal fitness goals, tracking progress, and exploring new physical activities
- Participate in outdoor physical activities and adventure-based learning, including activities such as hiking, orienteering, cooperative games, and team-building challenges
- Promote personal and social responsibility, self-management, and relationship skills through group activities, peer feedback sessions, and conflict resolution exercises
- Build friendships and engage in positive social interactions during physical activities

6th Grade Physical Education

In 6th grade physical education, students will build on their previous skills by engaging in more complex physical activities and sports. The focus will be on enhancing fitness, coordination, teamwork, and sportsmanship through diverse exercises and games. This class will aim to further develop students' physical abilities, encourage healthy habits, and promote a lifelong appreciation for physical activity.

Motor Skills and Movement

- Focus on the development and refinement of basic motor skills and movement patterns
- Perform combinations of locomotor and non-locomotor skills in dynamic and complex settings
- Create and perform complex movement sequences incorporating multiple skills
- Develop and refine manipulative skills with increased accuracy and control
- Apply principles of force, balance, and motion to improve performance
- Refine skills such as sprinting, agility movements, and dance steps
- Engage in activities such as skill drills, movement games, practice sessions
- Enhance skills like advanced dribbling, overhand throwing, and complex striking

Physical Fitness and Wellness

- Participate in a variety of physical activities that promote fitness and health
- Understand the long-term benefits of physical activity for overall health
- Seek out challenging activities that are enjoyable and promote lifelong engagement
- Demonstrate knowledge of the components of health-related fitness and the benefits of each
- Understand the FITT principles of training (frequency, intensity, time, and type)
- Participate in activities that promote cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, and endurance
- Understand the importance of warm-up and cool-down exercises
- Set personal fitness goals and monitor progress through fitness assessments
- Use fitness assessment results to set and adjust personal fitness goals
- Create and follow personal fitness plans that include a variety of activities

Game Skills and Strategies

- Apply movement concepts and principles to enhance game performance
- Engage in activities that enhance skill-related components of fitness such as agility, balance, coordination, power, reaction time, and speed
- Participate in a variety of sports involving game strategies and teamwork such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, tag games, and relay races
- Develop game strategies for team sports and understand positional play
- Develop and implement offensive and defensive strategies in a variety of games and sports
- Perform and create rhythmic activities and dance routines with an understanding of musicality and movement patterns
- Explore different cultural dances and rhythmic activities
- Explore rhythmic movements and dance as a form of physical expression, including dance routines, rhythm games, cultural dances

Social Development and Interaction

- Adhere to rules and demonstrate safe practices in all physical activities
- Demonstrate respect, fairness, and safety in physical activity settings
- Demonstrate personal and social responsibility, self-management, and relationship skills in activities such as group projects, peer feedback sessions, and conflict resolution exercises

- Demonstrate positive communication and teamwork skills
- Exhibit effective teamwork and communication skills in group activities
- Exhibit personal and social responsibility by showing respect for self and others
- Cooperate and work effectively with others in physical activity settings
- Demonstrate leadership and followership skills in group activities
- Show empathy and support for peers of all skill levels
- Recognize the importance of physical activity for building and maintaining social relationships

Self-Realization and Building Individual Excellence

- Demonstrate an understanding of safety rules and injury prevention strategies for physical activities
- Engage in activities such as safety drills, proper use of equipment demonstrations, and warm-up and cool-down exercises
- Engage in habits and activities that promote lifelong engagement in physical activity, including setting personal fitness goals, tracking progress, exploring new physical activities
- Understand and articulate the physical, emotional, and social benefits of regular physical activity
- Appreciate the role of physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and reducing stress
- Participate in outdoor physical activities and adventure-based learning, including activities such as hiking, orienteering, cooperative games, and team-building challenges

7th Grade Physical Education

In 7th-grade physical education, students will advance their physical skills and knowledge through more challenging activities and sports. The focus will be on improving fitness, agility, teamwork, and strategic thinking. This class will aim to further enhance students' physical abilities, promote healthy lifestyles, and foster a deeper understanding of sportsmanship and cooperative play.

Motor Skills and Movement

- Demonstrate competency in a variety of locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills
- Combine locomotor and non-locomotor skills in dynamic and complex settings
- Refine advanced locomotor skills such as running, jumping, skipping, and dodging in various activities and sports
- Enhance balance, twisting, turning, and other stability skills in dynamic settings
- Develop and Improve proficiency in manipulative skills such as throwing, catching, dribbling, striking, and kicking through practice and gameplay
- Combine different motor skills in sequences, drills, and gameplay scenarios
- Understand and apply concepts of speed, power, force, and leverage to improve performance

Physical Fitness and Wellness

- Participate in a variety of physical activities that promote fitness and health
- Recognize and appreciate the benefits of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, and social interaction
- Seek out challenging activities that are enjoyable and promote lifelong engagement
- Understand the importance of cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition
- Participate in a variety of fitness activities such as running, circuit training, strength training, and flexibility exercises
- Participate in activities that promote cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, and endurance
- Understand the FITT principles of training (frequency, intensity, time, and type)
- Understand the importance of warm-up and cool-down exercises
- Set personal fitness goals and monitor progress through fitness assessments
- Use fitness assessment results to set and adjust personal fitness goals
- Create and follow personal fitness plans that include a variety of activities

Game Skills and Strategies

- Apply movement concepts and principles to develop game skills and strategies
- Develop and apply offensive and defensive strategies in team sports and individual activities
- Engage in activities that enhance skill-related components of fitness such as agility, balance, coordination, power, reaction time, and speed
- Perform rhythmic activities and dance sequences
- Demonstrate understanding of rhythm, tempo, and patterns in movement

Social Development and Interaction

- Follow rules, procedures, and safety practices
- Work cooperatively with others in partner and group activities
- Work cooperatively with others, resolve conflicts peacefully, and encourage peers
- Demonstrate self-control, respect for others, and responsible behavior in physical activity settings

- Show respect for individual differences and abilities
- Demonstrate positive communication and teamwork skills
- Accepting and apply feedback in physical activity settings
- Build friendships and engage in positive social interactions through physical activities

Self-Realization and Building Individual Excellence

- Demonstrate an understanding of safety rules and injury prevention strategies for physical activities
- Engage in activities such as safety drills, proper use of equipment demonstrations, and warm-up and cool-down exercises
- Engage in habits and activities that promote lifelong engagement in physical activity, including setting personal fitness goals, tracking progress, exploring new physical activities
- Understand and articulate the physical, emotional, and social benefits of regular physical activity
- Appreciate the role of physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and reducing stress
- Participate in outdoor physical activities and adventure-based learning, including activities such as hiking, orienteering, cooperative games, and team-building challenges

8th Grade Physical Education

In 8th-grade physical education, students will refine their physical skills through advanced activities and sports. The focus will be on enhancing fitness, coordination, teamwork, and leadership. This class will aim to prepare students for high school athletics and promote lifelong healthy habits by fostering a deeper understanding of physical fitness and sportsmanship.

Motor Skills and Movement

- Demonstrate competency in more advanced locomotor and non-locomotor skills
- Develop and refine manipulative skills with increased accuracy and control
- Create and perform complex movement sequences that combine various motor skills
- Focus on developing and refining basic and advanced motor skills and movement patterns including activities such as skill drills, movement games, and sports practice sessions
- Master advanced locomotor skills such as sprinting, agility movements, and complex dance steps
- Enhance advanced manipulative skills like overhand throwing, advanced dribbling, and precision striking
- Create and perform complex movement sequences incorporating multiple skills
- Apply principles of biomechanics, such as balance, force, and motion, to improve performance

Physical Fitness and Wellness

- Understand and articulate the physical, emotional, and social benefits of regular physical activity
- Appreciate the role of physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and reducing stress
- Demonstrate knowledge of the components of health-related fitness and the benefits of each
- Participate in a variety of physical activities that promote fitness and health
- Understand the FITT principles of training (frequency, intensity, time, and type)
- Use fitness assessment results to set and adjust personal fitness goals
- Set realistic personal fitness goals and create plans to achieve them
- Design and follow personal fitness plans that include a variety of physical activities to enhance overall fitness

Game Skills and Strategies

- Engage in activities designed to improve agility, balance, coordination, power, reaction time, and speed
- Apply movement concepts and principles to enhance game performance
- Develop and implement offensive and defensive strategies in a variety of games and sports
- Developing advanced game strategies for team sports and understanding the roles and positions in different sports
- Perform and create rhythmic activities and dance routines with an understanding of musicality and movement patterns
- Explore different cultural dances and rhythmic activities

Social Development and Interaction

- Adhere to rules and demonstrate safe practices in all physical activities
- Exhibit personal and social responsibility by showing respect for self and others
- Demonstrate respect, fairness, and safety in all physical activity settings
- Exhibit effective teamwork, communication, and leadership skills in group activities and sports
- Apply conflict resolution strategies and demonstrating sportsmanship
- Cooperate and work effectively with others in physical activity settings

- Demonstrate leadership and followership skills in group activities
- Show empathy and support for peers of all skill levels

Self-Realization and Building Individual Excellence

- Demonstrate an understanding of safety rules and injury prevention strategies for physical activities
- Engage in activities such as safety drills, proper use of equipment demonstrations, and warm-up and cool-down exercises
- Engage in habits and activities that promote lifelong engagement in physical activity, including setting personal fitness goals, tracking progress, exploring new physical activities, and community sports events
- Demonstrate an understanding of the long-term benefits of physical activity for overall health and well-being
- Engage in challenging activities that are enjoyable and promote lifelong engagement in physical activity
- Participate in outdoor physical activities and adventure-based learning, including activities such as hiking, orienteering, cooperative games, and team-building challenges
- Recognize the importance of physical activity for building and maintaining social relationships and community engagement

Outdoor Education

The focus of the outdoor education class is to provide students with opportunities to learn and engage in outdoor activities, adventure sports, and environmental education. Through hands-on experiences such as hiking, camping, kayaking, rock climbing, and wilderness survival skills, students will develop teamwork, leadership, and outdoor recreation skills. Additionally, students will learn about environmental conservation, sustainability, and outdoor safety practices. The course aims to foster a deeper connection to nature, promote physical fitness, and develop a sense of stewardship for the environment.

Outdoor Recreation and Adventure

- Participate in a variety of outdoor recreational activities, such as backpacking, kayaking, rock climbing, orienteering, and archery
- Explore opportunities for adventure-based learning and experiential education in outdoor settings
- Explore opportunities for lifelong outdoor recreation and adventure pursuits
- Develop physical fitness through outdoor adventure challenges
- Develop teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills through outdoor adventure challenges and cooperative activities

Outdoor Skills and Safety

- Develop proficiency in outdoor skills such as hiking, camping, fishing, and orienteering
- Demonstrate knowledge of outdoor safety practices, including first aid, navigation, and survival skills
- Practice outdoor safety protocols and risk management strategies to ensure safe and responsible outdoor experiences
- Learn “Leave No Trace” principles and ethical outdoor practices to minimize environmental impact and promote sustainability
- Practice “Leave No Trace” principles and ethical outdoor behavior to minimize environmental impact

Ecological Knowledge and Awareness

- Understand fundamental ecological concepts, including ecosystems, habitats, biodiversity, and natural resource management
- Identify common plants, animals, and natural features found in local environments
- Recognize the interconnectedness of human society and the environment, including environmental issues and sustainability challenges
- Demonstrate awareness of human impacts on ecosystems and the importance of conservation and stewardship
- Demonstrate awareness of local and global environmental issues and their impacts on ecosystems and communities

Natural Resource Management

- Learn about the management and conservation of natural resources, including wildlife, forests, and waterways
- Explore issues related to land use, habitat restoration, and sustainable resource management
- Engage in hands-on activities and field experiences related to natural resource conservation
- Conduct field investigations and ecological surveys to observe and document natural phenomena
- Collect and analyze environmental data related to wildlife populations, habitat characteristics, and ecosystem health
- Use scientific inquiry skills to interpret field data, draw conclusions, and make informed decisions about environmental stewardship

Outdoor Ethics and Citizenship

- Develop a sense of personal responsibility and stewardship for the environment
- Practice ethical outdoor behavior and responsible use of natural resources
- Reflect on ethical dilemmas and moral responsibilities related to environmental decision-making and conservation action
- Engage in community service and conservation projects to contribute positively to the outdoor environment

Environmental Science and Inquiry

- Investigate real-world environmental issues and develop solutions through critical thinking and problem-solving
- Engage in hands-on experiments and investigations to explore environmental science concepts and principles
- Conduct scientific investigations and field studies to explore environmental issues and phenomena
- Apply scientific inquiry skills to conduct experiments, analyze data, and communicate findings related to environmental topics
- Collect and analyze data related to wildlife populations, water quality, and ecological processes
- Apply scientific inquiry skills to develop hypotheses, conduct experiments, and draw conclusions about the natural world

Cultural and Community Connections

- Explore the cultural and historical significance of outdoor environments, natural landmarks, and traditional ecological knowledge
- Learn about indigenous cultures, traditional ecological knowledge, and historical land use practices
- Foster appreciation for diverse cultural perspectives and connections to the land
- Foster connections between students, communities, and the natural world through cultural exchange and community-based projects

Outdoor Leadership, Collaboration, and Advocacy

- Develop leadership skills to facilitate outdoor experiences, lead group activities, and promote teamwork and cooperation
- Foster inclusive and supportive learning environments that empower students to take on leadership roles and contribute positively to group dynamics
- Collaborate with peers, mentors, and community partners to plan and implement outdoor education initiatives and environmental stewardship projects
- Advocate for outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, and access to public lands
- Serve as ambassadors for outdoor education and environmental stewardship within the community
- Engage in environmental advocacy and civic participation to promote sustainability and address environmental challenges in local and global contexts

Upper School Standards

English

The Upper School English objectives are based upon the standards outlined by the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English.

NCTE GUIDELINES

1. Students read a wide range of print and non-print texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.
2. Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience.
3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).
4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
5. Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
6. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print texts.
7. Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and non-print texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.
8. Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.
9. Students develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns, and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions, and social roles.
10. Students whose first language is not English make use of their first language to develop competency in the English language arts and to develop understanding of content across the curriculum.
11. Students participate as knowledgeable, reflective, creative, and critical members of a variety of literacy communities.
12. Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

English I

[American Literature / Composition / Latin Basics]

The English I class will focus on building fundamental reading, writing, and communication skills. Students will engage with significant works of American literature, exploring themes, characters, and historical contexts. In addition, students will develop foundational writing skills through composition exercises and essay assignments, and will also be introduced to basic Latin vocabulary, grammar, and syntax to enhance their understanding of English language structure and etymology. The course aims to foster critical thinking skills, effective communication, lay a strong foundation for literacy and an appreciation for American literary heritage, foster a love for reading and writing, and prepare students for future academic success in English and beyond.

Introduction to Latin Vocabulary

- Introduce foundational Latin vocabulary, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions
- Teach Latin pronunciation using classical pronunciation rules or ecclesiastical pronunciation
- Teach basic grammatical concepts such as noun declensions, verb conjugations, and sentence structure
- Provide practice exercises to reinforce vocabulary acquisition and grammatical understanding
- Compare Latin vocabulary, grammar, and word roots to those of modern languages to deepen understanding of linguistic connections
- Explore the enduring influence of Latin on modern languages, including English, Spanish, French, and Italian
- Investigate Latin phrases and expressions used in contemporary contexts, such as legal terminology, scientific nomenclature, and mottoes

Language and Conventions

- Understand and apply concepts of language and grammar in speaking, writing, and reading
- Use vocabulary effectively in speaking, writing, and reading tasks
- Expand vocabulary through reading, writing, and word study activities, including advanced vocabulary related to American literature and culture
- Analyze the meaning of words and phrases in context, including connotation, denotation, and figurative language
- Analyze the use of language in texts, including tone, style, and rhetorical devices specific to American literature
- Use language effectively to communicate ideas clearly and accurately
- Use language effectively for different purposes, audiences, and contexts, demonstrating awareness of linguistic variation and register
- Demonstrate mastery of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

Speaking and Listening Conventions

- Participate effectively in formal and informal discussions on a variety of topics, presenting ideas and information clearly and persuasively
- Use speaking and listening skills to engage in collaborative activities, such as group discussions, peer reviews, and presentations
- Present information and ideas clearly and persuasively, using appropriate language and visual aids
- Listen actively and critically to others, evaluating their arguments and responding thoughtfully
- Adapt speech to various contexts and tasks, including academic, personal, and professional settings, demonstrating command of formal English when appropriate
- Apply speaking and listening conventions in relation to American Literature studies

The Writing Process

- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences
- Understand and apply the stages of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
- Apply appropriate strategies at each stage of the writing process
- Use a variety of prewriting strategies, such as brainstorming, outlining, and clustering, to generate ideas for writing
- Develop strategies for generating ideas, organizing thoughts, and refining writing through multiple drafts
- Revise and edit written work for clarity, coherence, and effectiveness
- Use feedback from peers, teachers, and self-assessment to improve writing skills and produce polished final drafts
- Reflect on the writing process and set goals for improvement

Writing Conventions

- Write for a variety of purposes and audiences, including narrative, expository, argumentative, and analytical writing
- Develop a personal writing style that reflects individual voice and perspective
- Adapt writing style, tone, and language to suit different genres, formats, and contexts
- Understand the rhetorical situation and tailor writing strategies to meet specific rhetorical goals and objectives
- Demonstrate command of language conventions, including grammar, parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
- Demonstrate command of basic grammar concepts such as sentence structure, sentence variety, and paragraph structure
- Understand the conventions of different writing genres, styles, and formats, adapting writing accordingly
- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant evidence
- Use evidence and reasoning to support claims and arguments in writing
- Use technology tools effectively for writing, research, collaboration, and communication
- Use word processing software to draft, revise, and format written work
- Navigate online databases, search engines, and digital archives to find relevant information
- Explore multimodal forms of composition, including digital media, visual texts, and multimedia presentations
- Combine text, image, sound, and other elements to create effective multimodal compositions
- Understand principles of design, layout, and accessibility in multimodal composition
- Format written work according to standard academic conventions, including MLA or APA style
- Apply writing conventions to writing projects related to American Literature studies
- Use evidence and examples from American literary texts and historical sources to support claims and arguments in writing
- Use evidence from texts to support claims and arguments effectively, integrating quotes and citations seamlessly

Writing Genres

- Understand the conventions of different writing genres, styles, and formats, adapting writing accordingly
- Develop proficiency in various forms of writing, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and analytical writing
- Understand the characteristics and conventions of different writing genres and adapt writing style accordingly
- Practice writing for different purposes and audiences, using evidence and reasoning to support claims and arguments

- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences
 - Develop skills in writing narratives, including personal narratives, short stories, and memoirs
 - Develop narratives that engage and entertain readers
 - Explore narrative elements such as plot structure, character development, setting, and point of view
 - Create well-structured storylines with compelling characters, settings, and conflicts
 - Use narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, and figurative language effectively
- Engage in argumentative writing using effective technique, clear reasoning, and relevant evidence
 - Develop persuasive writing skills, constructing arguments and counterarguments effectively
 - Analyze and evaluate arguments presented in various texts
 - Develop and support claims with evidence from credible sources, using logical reasoning and persuasive techniques
 - Understand and apply logical fallacies and rhetorical strategies
 - Address opposing viewpoints and anticipate reader objections in argumentative essays
- Engage in expository writing using effective technique, clear reasoning, and relevant evidence
 - Master the conventions of expository writing, including informative essays, process analyses, and explanatory texts
 - Organize ideas logically and coherently, using appropriate transitions and textual features to guide readers
 - Present information clearly and concisely, supporting main ideas with relevant evidence and examples
- Engage in analytical writing using effective technique, clear reasoning, and relevant evidence
 - Analyze texts critically and synthesize information to develop insightful analyses
 - Identify main ideas, themes, and rhetorical strategies in texts, and evaluate their effectiveness
 - Write analytical essays that demonstrate understanding of complex texts and thoughtful interpretation

Research and Inquiry

- Practice appropriate note-taking strategies
- Conduct independent research using a variety of print and digital sources to gather information and evidence, including research on topics related to American literature and culture
- Gather, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources to develop a deeper understanding of a topic together with informed arguments and perspectives
- Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively
- Evaluate sources for credibility, relevance, and bias, and cite sources using appropriate citation styles
- Conduct research projects to answer a question or solve a problem and demonstrate an ability to narrow or broaden the inquiry when needed
- Integrate information from source material into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas and avoid plagiarism
- Cite sources accurately using appropriate citation styles and formats, such as MLA or APA
- Demonstrate understanding of the research subject under investigation

Media Literacy

- Critically analyze media texts, including advertisements, news articles, videos, and digital content
- Evaluate the credibility, bias, and purpose of media messages, considering their impact on individuals and society
- Create media texts that effectively communicate ideas and messages using appropriate tools and technologies

American Literature Reading Conventions

- Read and comprehend a variety of texts, including fiction, nonfiction, and multimedia sources

- Analyze and interpret various literary texts from American literature, including novels, short stories, poetry, drama, essays, and speeches
- Evaluate the significance of literary elements such as plot, character development, setting, theme, symbolism, and figurative language in American literature
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of American literary works, considering how they reflect and shape American identity, values, and beliefs
- Compare and contrast different American literary works from various time periods and cultural backgrounds
- Analyze and evaluate informational texts related to American history, culture, and society, including essays, speeches, historical documents, and multimedia sources
- Identify main ideas, supporting details, and rhetorical strategies used in informational texts
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to develop understanding of American identity, values, and experiences

Survey of American Literature

- Study major works and authors of American literature from different time periods, including colonial literature, the American Renaissance, realism and naturalism, modernism, and contemporary literature
- Analyze representative texts from different periods and genres, examining their cultural significance and literary contributions
- Understand how historical events, cultural movements, and social issues influence American literature and shape American identity
- Examine key themes, motifs, and styles in American literary traditions, such as the American Dream, identity, race, gender, class, and the frontier experience
- Explore the historical, cultural, and social contexts of American literary works, including the colonial period, the American Revolution, the Civil War era, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and contemporary America
- Analyze how issues of race, class, gender, and identity in American literature are represented and contested in literary texts
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of American literature, considering how literary works reflect and respond to historical events, social movements, and cultural trends
- Investigate the role of literature in shaping American identity, values, and beliefs, and its impact on society and culture

Analysis of American Literature

- Analyze and interpret American literature from various time periods, including colonial, romantic, realist, modernist, and contemporary periods
- Analyze various literary forms and genres in American literature, including novels, short stories, poems, essays, plays, and speeches
- Explore various approaches to literary criticism and theory as applied to American literature, including formalism, historicism, feminism, multiculturalism, and postcolonialism
- Analyze American literary texts from different critical perspectives and to engage in critical discussions about American literature and culture
- Evaluate the contributions of diverse American writers and voices to the literary canon
- Evaluate arguments, evidence, and perspectives presented in literary and informational texts
- Understand the characteristics and conventions of different American literary forms and genres, and how they reflect American culture and society
- Explore literary elements such as plot structure, character development, setting, theme, symbolism, and figurative language in depth
- Identify and interpret recurring themes, motifs, symbols, and archetypes in American literature, such as freedom, justice, individualism, the frontier, the city, nature, and the American hero
- Analyze how American authors use themes and symbols to convey ideas, values, and beliefs about American society and the human condition
- Investigate diverse perspectives and experiences represented in American literature, including those related to race, ethnicity, gender, class, and identity

- Develop skills in close reading, analysis, and interpretation of American literary texts
- Make connections between texts, ideas, and historical events, and draw conclusions based on evidence and reasoning
- Write analytical essays that demonstrate understanding and appreciation of American literary works

English II

[World Literature]

The English II class focuses on building foundational reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students will explore a variety of literary works from diverse cultures and regions around the globe that span different time periods, genres, and themes. They will gain insights into the human experience across cultures, and through analysis, discussion, and writing assignments, students will deepen their understanding of global perspectives, cultural diversity, and universal themes in literature. The course aims to foster a deeper appreciation for world literature, enhance language skills, and prepare students for more advanced studies in English.

Language and Conventions

- Understand and apply concepts of language and grammar in speaking, writing, and reading
- Use vocabulary effectively in speaking, writing, and reading tasks
- Expand vocabulary through reading, writing, direct instruction, context clues, and word study activities
- Expand vocabulary through reading world literary texts and studying world historical and cultural topics
- Analyze the meaning of words and phrases in context, including connotation, denotation, and figurative language
- Analyze the use of language in texts, including tone, style, and rhetorical devices, including those specific to world literature
- Expand vocabulary through reading, writing, and word study activities, including advanced vocabulary related to world literature and culture
- Use knowledge of language to understand and analyze world texts and to enhance writing and speaking about world literature and culture
- Use language effectively for different purposes, audiences, and contexts, demonstrating awareness of linguistic variation and register
- Use language effectively to communicate ideas, convey tone and style, and engage the reader or audience
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage

Speaking and Listening Conventions

- Engage in formal and informal discussions, debates, and presentations on a variety of topics, presenting ideas and information clearly and persuasively
- Develop oral communication skills through class discussions, presentations, and debates
- Use speaking and listening skills to engage in collaborative activities, such as group discussions, peer reviews, and presentations
- Demonstrate effective speaking and listening skills, including active listening, clear articulation, and appropriate use of visual aids
- Engage in collaborative activities, such as group discussions, debates, and presentations, to solve problems and deepen understanding of texts and ideas
- Collaborate with peers to discuss texts, analyze ideas, and solve problems
- Listen actively and critically to others, evaluating their arguments and responding thoughtfully
- Adapt speech to various contexts and tasks, including academic, personal, and professional settings, demonstrating command of formal English when appropriate
- Apply speaking and listening conventions in relation to world literature studies, culture, and history

The Writing Process

- Develop proficiency in the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
- Apply appropriate strategies at each stage of the writing process

- Use digital tools and resources for composing, revising, and publishing written work
- Write for a variety of purposes and audiences, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and analytical writing
- Plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish written work with attention to purpose, audience, and style
- Practice in crafting thesis statements, developing arguments, and supporting ideas with evidence
- Experiment with different writing techniques, styles, and genres, adapting writing strategies to specific purposes and audiences
- Develop a personal writing voice and style while also meeting the demands of academic and professional writing tasks
- Revise and edit writing for clarity, coherence, and effectiveness

Writing Conventions

- Write for different purposes and audiences, including narrative, expository, argumentative, and informative/explanatory writing
- Develop proficiency in various modes of writing, including narrative, expository, argumentative, and analytical
- Develop proficiency in various forms of writing, including literary analysis, argumentative essays, reflective essays, and creative writing
- Use appropriate language and tone for different purposes, audiences, and contexts
- Develop clear and coherent writing with appropriate organization, structure, and style
- Plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish written work with attention to purpose, audience, and style
- Use evidence and examples from world literary texts and cultural sources to support claims and arguments in writing
- Use evidence from texts to support claims and arguments effectively, integrating quotes and citations seamlessly
- Format written work according to standard academic conventions, including MLA or APA style
- Demonstrate command of language conventions, including grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
- Apply writing conventions to writing projects related to world literature studies

Writing Genres

- Understand the characteristics and conventions of different writing genres and adapt writing style accordingly
- Practice writing for different purposes and audiences, using evidence and reasoning to support claims and arguments
- Develop proficiency in various forms of writing, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and analytical writing

Research and Inquiry

- Practice appropriate note-taking strategies
- Conduct independent research on literary, historical, or cultural topics using a variety of print and digital sources
- Gather, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources to develop informed arguments and perspectives
- Evaluate sources for credibility, relevance, and bias, and cite sources using appropriate citation styles
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to develop informed arguments and perspectives
- Cite sources accurately using appropriate citation styles and formats, such as MLA or AP

Media Literacy

- Critically analyze media texts, including advertisements, news articles, films, and digital content
- Evaluate the credibility, bias, and persuasive techniques used in media messages, considering their impact on individuals and society
- Create media texts that effectively communicate ideas and messages using appropriate tools and technologies

World Literature Reading Conventions

- Analyze and interpret a variety of literary texts, including fiction, poetry, drama, and literary nonfiction
- Analyze and evaluate informational texts, including essays, articles, speeches, historical documents, and multimedia sources
- Compare and contrast literary works from various cultures, regions, and time periods
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of world literary works, considering how they reflect and shape cultural identities, values, and beliefs
- Analyze the universal human experiences as depicted in literature
- Evaluate the author's purpose, point of view, and use of rhetoric in persuasive texts
- Identify and analyze literary elements such as plot, setting, character development, theme, and symbolism
- Evaluate the impact of authorial choices on the meaning and effectiveness of literary works
- Evaluate the impact of cultural, historical, and social contexts on literature
- Develop strategies for comprehending complex texts across various genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama
- Engage in critical reading, making connections between texts, ideas, and personal experiences
- Identify main ideas, supporting details, and rhetorical strategies used in informational texts
- Evaluate arguments and evidence presented in informational texts related to global themes and topics
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to develop understanding of global issues, cultural perspectives, and contemporary debates
- Consider how historical events, social movements, and cultural traditions influence language, literature, and communication
- Examine issues of identity, diversity, equity, and social justice in literature and society

Survey of World Literature

- Explore the major literary traditions, themes, and authors in world literature, including works from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and other regions
- Analyze representative texts from different cultures and time periods, examining their cultural significance and literary contributions
- Analyze how world authors use themes and symbols to convey universal human experiences and insights across different cultures and traditions
- Explore cultural identities, values, and beliefs represented in world literature, analyzing how they are shaped by historical, geographical, and sociopolitical factors
- Investigate the role of literature in preserving cultural heritage, fostering intercultural understanding, and promoting global citizenship
- Investigate diverse perspectives and experiences represented in literature, including those related to race, ethnicity, gender, class, and identity
- Examine key themes, motifs, and styles in world literary traditions, such as love, fate, spirituality, colonization, globalization, the hero's journey, the quest for truth, the struggle for justice, and the search for identity
- Explore the historical, cultural, and social contexts of world literary works, including the rise and fall of civilizations, major historical events, religious movements, and cultural exchanges
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of world literature, considering how literary works reflect and respond to historical events, social movements, cultural traditions, global themes, and experiences
- Understand how historical, cultural, and social factors influence world literature and shape cultural identities and perspectives

Analysis of World Literature

- Analyze and interpret world literature from various cultures, regions, and time periods, including ancient, medieval, Renaissance, modern, and contemporary periods
- Analyze and interpret world literature from various genres, including

- Examine themes, motifs, and literary movements in world literature, and identify connections between texts and cultural contexts
- Analyzing various literary forms and genres in world literature, including novels, short stories, poems, epic poetry, drama, myth, folklore, and magical realism
- Understand the characteristics and conventions of different world literary forms and genres, and how they reflect cultural values, beliefs, and practices
- Examine the works of diverse authors and identify commonalities and differences in their perspectives and styles
- Evaluate the contributions of diverse world writers and voices to the global literary heritage
- Develop critical thinking skills through close reading, analysis, and interpretation of world literary texts
- Evaluate arguments, evidence, and perspectives presented in literary and informational texts
- Make connections between texts, ideas, real-world issues, and cultural contexts, and draw conclusions based on evidence and reasoning
- Explore literary elements such as plot structure, character development, setting, theme, symbolism, and figurative language in depth
- Identify literary techniques and devices used by authors to convey meaning and enhance the reader's experience
- Write analytical essays that demonstrate understanding and appreciation of world literary works
- Explore issues of translation and adaptation in world literature, considering how texts are translated, interpreted, and reimagined across languages, cultures, and media
- Analyze the impact of translation and adaptation on the reception and interpretation of literary works, examining questions of fidelity, equivalence, and cultural appropriation
- Engage in comparative analysis of original texts and their translations/adaptations, evaluating the strengths and limitations of different approaches
- Introduce students to various approaches to literary criticism and theory as applied to world literature, including postcolonialism, feminism, Marxism, structuralism, and psychoanalysis
- Encourage students to analyze world literary texts from different critical perspectives and to engage in critical discussions about world literature and culture

English III

[American Literature / Rhetoric]

The English III class focuses on American literature, exploring major literary works from diverse time periods and genres as well as emphasizes the study of persuasive language and communication techniques. Students will analyze themes, characters, and cultural contexts to deepen their understanding of the American experience, and will also analyze speeches, essays, advertisements, and other texts to understand how writers and speakers use rhetorical strategies to influence their audience. Through reading, discussion, and writing assignments, students will develop critical thinking skills, literary analysis abilities, and effective communication skills. The course aims to deepen students' understanding of language and communication, and foster appreciation for the richness and complexity of American literary traditions while preparing students for academic and professional endeavors.

Foundations of Rhetoric

- Define rhetoric and its purpose in communication
- Explore the history and evolution of rhetoric, from classical to contemporary approaches
- Identify key rhetorical terms and concepts, such as ethos, pathos, logos, rhetorical appeals, and rhetorical devices
- Define and understand key rhetorical concepts such as ethos, pathos, logos, audience, purpose, and context
- Explore the three rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos) and their applications in persuasive communication
- Identify examples of each appeal in rhetorical texts and analyze their impact on the audience
- Identify rhetorical devices such as repetition, parallelism, analogy, and irony, and analyze their effectiveness in persuasive communication
- Study classical rhetorical theories and concepts from ancient Greece and Rome, including the works of Aristotle, Plato, Cicero, and Quintilian
- Examine modern rhetorical theories and approaches, including contemporary scholarship on rhetoric and communication studies
- Explore how rhetorical theories have evolved and adapted to new media and communication technologies
- Practice using rhetorical appeals effectively in speaking and writing

Rhetorical Devices

- Study common rhetorical devices, such as metaphor, simile, analogy, hyperbole, and irony
- Analyze the use of rhetorical devices in literary and non-literary texts to enhance persuasion and create rhetorical effect
- Experiment with incorporating rhetorical devices into writing and speaking for different rhetorical purposes
- Consider the rhetorical context, including audience, purpose, and genre, when crafting persuasive messages
- Conduct audience analysis to tailor rhetorical strategies to the needs, interests, and beliefs of specific audiences
- Adapt rhetorical approaches based on the rhetorical situation and audience response

Rhetorical Analysis

- Identify rhetorical strategies employed by authors/speakers to achieve their intended purpose
- Analyze how different rhetorical strategies are used in various texts to achieve specific purposes and influence audiences
- Analyze and evaluate rhetorical strategies used in various forms of communication, including speeches, essays, advertisements, political cartoons, and visual media

- Analyze the effectiveness of rhetorical choices in influencing audience perception and response
- Identify rhetorical appeals, devices, and techniques employed by authors and speakers, and evaluate their persuasive effectiveness
- Develop skills in rhetorical analysis, including identifying rhetorical strategies, assessing their effectiveness, and evaluating their ethical implications
- Apply rhetorical analysis skills to interpret and critique written and spoken texts
- Analyze a variety of texts from different genres and media to understand how writers and speakers use language and persuasion to achieve their goals
- Analyze visual texts, including advertisements, political cartoons, infographics, and multimedia presentations, to understand how visual elements are used rhetorically to convey messages

Argumentation and Persuasion

- Understand the principles of argumentation and persuasion
- Learn strategies for constructing persuasive arguments, including thesis development, evidence selection, and logical reasoning
- Understand logical fallacies and errors in reasoning, and avoid them in constructing arguments
- Develop proficiency in constructing persuasive arguments using evidence, reasoning, and rhetorical appeals
- Use persuasive language and tone effectively to engage audiences and achieve rhetorical goals

Ethical Considerations in Rhetoric

- Understand the ethical responsibilities of writers and speakers, including issues of honesty, integrity, and respect for diverse perspectives
- Explore the role of rhetoric in shaping public discourse and civic engagement
- Reflect on personal and societal responsibilities as rhetoricians and consumers of rhetoric
- Evaluate the ethical implications of rhetorical choices made by writers and speakers in various contexts

Rhetorical Reading and Writing Conventions

- Analyze and evaluate written and spoken texts for rhetorical strategies, including purpose, audience, context, and language use
- Identify main ideas, supporting details, and rhetorical devices used in texts, and evaluate their effectiveness in achieving rhetorical goals.
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to develop informed responses and interpretations
- Analyze various rhetorical strategies used in informational texts, such as argumentative essays, speeches, and editorials
- Determine the author's purpose, point of view, and intended audience in persuasive texts
- Evaluate the effectiveness of rhetorical devices, such as ethos, pathos, and logos, in influencing readers' opinions and attitudes
- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasoning and relevant evidence, employing rhetorical techniques to persuade the audience
- Write informative/explanatory texts to convey complex ideas and information clearly and effectively, using rhetorical strategies to engage and inform readers
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Produce texts that effectively use rhetorical strategies to persuade, inform, entertain, or engage audiences.
- Experiment with different writing genres and styles, adapting rhetorical strategies to fit different rhetorical situations and purposes
- Produce visual texts that effectively use design principles, layout, and imagery to communicate ideas persuasively

Rhetorical Speaking, Listening, and Language Conventions

- Analyze and evaluate oral communication, including speeches, debates, and presentations, for clarity, coherence, and effectiveness

- Use speaking and listening skills to engage in formal and informal discussions, debates, and presentations
- Adapt oral communication to various contexts and audiences, using appropriate language and tone
- Analyze and evaluate oral communication for clarity, coherence, and effectiveness
- Develop skills in public speaking and oral communication, including delivery, voice, gesture, and nonverbal communication
- Prepare and deliver speeches that effectively use rhetorical strategies to engage and persuade audiences
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on topics related to rhetoric, including debates, Socratic seminars, and persuasive presentations
- Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically, using appropriate rhetorical strategies to engage and persuade listeners
- Evaluate a speaker's use of rhetoric in oral presentations and respond thoughtfully to arguments and evidence presented
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening

Language and Conventions

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage in writing and speaking about American literature and culture
- Understand and apply concepts of language and grammar in speaking, writing, and reading
- Demonstrate proficiency in standard English grammar, punctuation, and usage
- Use vocabulary effectively in speaking, writing, and reading tasks
- Expand vocabulary through reading, writing, direct instruction, context clues, and word study activities
- Expand vocabulary through reading, writing, and word study activities, including advanced vocabulary related to American literature and culture
- Analyze the meaning of words and phrases in context, including connotation, denotation, and figurative language
- Analyze the use of language in texts, including tone, style, and rhetorical devices specific to American literature
- Use knowledge of language to understand and analyze texts and to enhance writing
- Use knowledge of language to understand to enhance writing and speaking about American literature and culture
- Use language effectively to communicate ideas, convey tone and style, and engage the reader or audience
- Use language effectively for different purposes, audiences, and contexts, demonstrating awareness of linguistic variation and register

Speaking and Listening Conventions

- Participate effectively in formal and informal discussions on topics related to American literature and culture
- Engage in collaborative activities, such as group discussions, debates, and presentations, to deepen understanding of texts and ideas
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions, debates, and presentations, including those related to American literature, history, and culture
- Collaborate with peers to discuss texts, analyze ideas, and solve problems
- Engage effectively in debates by presenting ideas and information clearly and persuasively
- Use speaking and listening skills to engage in collaborative activities, such as group discussions, peer reviews, and presentations
- Demonstrate effective speaking and listening skills, including active listening, clear articulation, and appropriate use of visual aids
- Present information and ideas persuasively using appropriate language and visual aids

- Adapt speech to various contexts and tasks, including academic, personal, and professional settings, demonstrating command of formal English when appropriate
- Listen actively and critically to others, evaluating their arguments and responding thoughtfully
- Apply speaking and listening conventions in relation to American Literature studies

Writing Conventions

- Demonstrate mastery of language conventions, including grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage, in writing tasks
- Write for different purposes, audiences, and genres including narrative, expository, argumentative, and informative/explanatory writing
- Develop proficiency in various forms of writing, including narrative, expository, persuasive, creative, and analytical writing
- Develop proficiency in advanced forms of writing, including expository essays, argumentative essays, literary analyses, reflective essays, and research papers
- Understand the characteristics and conventions of different writing genres and adapt writing style accordingly
- Practice writing for different purposes and audiences, using evidence and reasoning to support claims and arguments
- Explore various forms of creative writing including short stories, poetry, and personal essays
- Develop proficiency in the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
- Use digital tools and resources for composing, revising, and publishing written work
- Plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish written work with sophistication, paying attention to purpose, audience, and style
- Use appropriate language and tone for different purposes, audiences, and contexts
- Develop clear and coherent writing with appropriate organization, structure, and style
- Develop clear thesis statements and supporting arguments or ideas
- Practice using descriptive language, dialogue, and imagery to evoke emotions and create vivid scenes in creative writing
- Revise and edit writing for clarity, coherence, and effectiveness
- Practice giving and receiving peer feedback and using that as a basis for making revisions
- Use evidence from texts to support claims and arguments effectively, integrating quotes and citations seamlessly
- Use evidence and examples from American literary texts and historical sources to support claims and arguments in writing
- Format written work according to standard academic conventions, including MLA or APA style
- Apply writing conventions to writing projects related to American literature and culture

Research and Inquiry

- Practice appropriate note-taking strategies
- Conduct independent research using a variety of print and digital sources, including research on topics related to American literature and culture
- Gather information from multiple sources to develop informed arguments and perspectives
- Gather information from multiple sources to support arguments or claims
- Evaluate sources for credibility, relevance, and bias
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to develop informed arguments and perspectives
- Cite sources accurately using appropriate citation styles and formats, such as MLA or APA

Media Literacy

- Examine how media influences society and shapes perceptions
- Critically analyze media texts, including advertisements, news articles, films, and digital content
- Evaluate the credibility, bias, and persuasive techniques used in media messages, considering their impact on individuals and society

- Create media texts that effectively communicate ideas and messages using appropriate tools and technologies

American Literature Reading Conventions

- Analyze and interpret a wide range of literary texts, including American literature from various time periods, genres, and cultural backgrounds
- Analyze and interpret a diverse range of American literary texts, including fiction, novels, short stories, poetry, drama, essays, speeches, and multimedia sources
- Analyze and evaluate informational texts related to American history, culture, and society, including essays, speeches, historical documents, biographies, and multimedia sources
- Identify and analyze elements such as plot, character development, setting, theme, and symbolism in American literary works
- Evaluate the significance of literary elements such as plot, character development, setting, theme, symbolism, and figurative language in American literature
- Identify main ideas, supporting details, and rhetorical strategies used in informational texts
- Evaluate arguments and evidence presented in informational texts related to American themes and topics
- Compare and contrast different American literary works from various time periods and cultural backgrounds
- Explore connections between literary texts and their historical, cultural, and social contexts
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of American literary works, considering how they reflect and shape American identity, values, and beliefs
- Evaluate the impact of historical, cultural, and social contexts on American literature
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to develop understanding of American identity, values, experiences, culture, and society

Survey of American Literature

- Read and comprehend a variety of texts, including fiction, nonfiction, and multimedia sources
- Examine the ways in which literature reflects and shapes American identity
- Explore the major literary movements, themes, and authors in American literature, including colonial literature, the American Renaissance, realism, modernism, and contemporary literature
- Analyze representative texts from different periods and genres, including novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and nonfiction essays
- Analyze representative texts from different periods and genres, examining their cultural significance and literary contributions
- Examining key themes, motifs, and styles in American literary traditions, such as the American Dream, identity, race, gender, class, and the frontier experience
- Understand how historical events, cultural movements, and social issues influence American literature and shape American identity
- Evaluate the contributions of diverse American writers and voices to the literary canon
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of American literature in order to
 - Consider how literary works reflect and respond to historical events, social movements, and cultural trends
 - Consider how they reflect and respond to American identity, values, and experiences
 - Analyze the impact of historical events, social movements, and cultural trends on literary production
- Investigate diverse perspectives and experiences represented in American literature, including those related to race, ethnicity, gender, class, and identity
- Explore issues of race, class, gender, and identity in American literature, analyzing how they are represented and contested in literary texts
- Consider how issues of race, class, gender, and identity are represented in American literature and how they reflect broader cultural and societal issues
- Investigate the role of literature in shaping American identity, values, and beliefs, and its impact on society and culture

Analysis of American Literature

- Develop skills in close reading, analysis, and interpretation of American literary texts
- Develop critical thinking skills through close reading, analysis, and interpretation of American literary and historical texts
- Use close reading strategies to understand complex texts and to analyze author's craft and purpose
- Analyze and interpret literary texts from various genres and time periods, including novels, short stories, poems, essays, plays, and speeches
- Analyze and interpret American literature from various time periods, including colonial, romantic, modernist, and contemporary periods
- Make connections between texts and their historical, cultural, and social contexts
- Understand the characteristics and conventions of different American literary forms and genres, and how they reflect American culture and society
- Examine themes, motifs, and literary movements in American literature, and identify connections between texts and historical contexts
- Identify and explore literary elements such as plot, character development, setting, theme, symbolism, and figurative language
- Identify and interpret recurring themes, motifs, symbols, and archetypes in American literature, such as freedom, justice, individualism, the frontier, the city, nature, and the American hero
- Analyze how American authors use themes and symbols to convey ideas, values, and beliefs about American society and the human condition
- Evaluate arguments, evidence, and perspectives presented in literary and informational texts
- Make connections between texts, ideas, and historical events, and draw conclusions based on evidence and reasoning
- Write analytical essays that demonstrate sophisticated understanding and appreciation of American literary works and their significance
- Identify and understand various approaches to literary criticism and theory as applied to American literature, including formalism, historicism, feminism, multiculturalism, and postcolonialism
- Apply literary theory to the analysis and interpretation of American literary texts, exploring different ways of reading and understanding literature
- Analyze American literary texts from different critical perspectives and engage in critical discussions about American literature and culture

English IV

[British Literature]

The English IV class focuses on advanced literary analysis, critical thinking, and writing skills. Students will delve into complex British literature texts from various genres and time periods, exploring themes, characters, and literary devices in depth. They will refine their writing abilities through essays, research papers, and creative projects. Through analysis of themes, characters, and historical contexts, students will gain insights into the evolution of British culture and society as reflected in its literature. The course emphasizes advanced literary analysis, critical thinking, and writing skills, preparing students for college-level studies and fostering appreciation for the diverse literary heritage of Britain.

Language and Conventions

- Demonstrate proficiency in standard English grammar, punctuation, and usage
- Understand and apply concepts of language and grammar in speaking, writing, and reading
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage in speaking, writing, and reading
- Use knowledge of language to understand and analyze British texts and to enhance writing and speaking about British literature and culture
- Use vocabulary effectively in speaking, writing, and reading tasks
- Expand vocabulary through reading, writing, direct instruction, context clues, and word study activities
- Expand vocabulary through reading, writing, and word study activities, including advanced vocabulary related to literature and culture
- Expand vocabulary through reading British literary texts and studying British historical and cultural topics
- Analyze the meaning of words and phrases in context, including connotation, denotation, and figurative language
- Analyze the use of language in texts, including tone, style, and rhetorical devices, including those specific to British literature
- Use language effectively for different purposes, audiences, and contexts, demonstrating awareness of linguistic variation and register
- Use language effectively to communicate ideas, convey tone and style, and engage the reader or audience

Speaking and Listening Conventions

- Engage in formal and informal discussions, debates, and presentations
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions and presentations
- Present information and ideas clearly and concisely, using appropriate language and visual aids
- Listen actively and respond thoughtfully to others' ideas and perspectives
- Demonstrate effective speaking and listening skills, including active listening, clear articulation, and appropriate use of visual aids
- Use speaking and listening skills to engage in collaborative activities, such as group discussions, peer reviews, and presentations
- Collaborate with peers to discuss texts, analyze ideas, and solve problems
- Participate effectively in formal and informal discussions on topics related to literature, culture, and society, presenting ideas and information clearly and persuasively
- Engage in collaborative activities, such as group discussions, debates, and presentations, to deepen understanding of texts and ideas
- Listen actively and critically to others, evaluating their arguments and responding thoughtfully
- Adapt speech to various contexts and tasks, including academic, personal, and professional settings

- Adapt speech to various contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when appropriate
- Apply speaking and listening conventions in relation to British Literature studies

Writing Conventions

- Demonstrate command of language conventions, including grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and usage in writing tasks
- Write for different purposes and genres, including narrative, expository, argumentative, and analytical writing
- Write for a variety of purposes and audiences, including narrative, expository, persuasive, argumentative, analytical, and informative/explanatory writing, including writing related to British literature and culture
- Develop proficiency in various forms of writing, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and analytical writing
- Engage in various forms of creative writing, such as poetry, short fiction, personal essays, and dramatic monologues
- Develop proficiency in various forms of writing, including literary analysis, argumentative essays, reflective essays, and creative writing
- Understand the characteristics and conventions of different writing genres and adapt writing style accordingly
- Practice crafting arguments, synthesizing sources, and writing research-based essays
- Experiment with different writing techniques, styles, and genres, developing a personal writing voice and style
- Engage in advanced study of rhetorical strategies, audience awareness, and persuasive writing techniques with an emphasis on sophistication and complexity in writing style
- Develop proficiency in the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
- Develop clear and coherent writing with appropriate organization, structure, and style
- Plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish written work with sophistication, paying attention to purpose, audience, and style
- Use appropriate language and tone for different purposes, audiences, and contexts
- Develop clear thesis statements and supporting arguments or ideas
- Revise and edit writing for clarity, coherence, and effectiveness
- Share and receive feedback on creative writing projects in a supportive workshop environment
- Use digital tools and resources for composing, revising, and publishing written work
- Practice writing for different purposes and audiences, using evidence and reasoning to support claims and arguments
- Use evidence from texts to support claims and arguments effectively, integrating quotes and citations seamlessly
- Format written work according to standard academic conventions, including MLA or APA style
- Apply writing conventions in relation to British Literature studies

Research and Inquiry

- Conduct independent research on literary, cultural, or global topics using a variety of print and digital sources, including research topics related to British literature and culture
- Gather, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources to develop informed arguments and perspectives
- Evaluate sources for credibility, relevance, and bias, and cite sources using appropriate citation styles
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to develop informed arguments, claims, and perspectives
- Cite sources accurately using appropriate citation styles and formats, such as MLA or APA

Media Literacy

- Examine how media influences society and shapes perceptions

- Critically analyze media texts, including advertisements, news articles, films, and digital content
- Evaluate the credibility, bias, and persuasive techniques used in media messages, considering their impact on individuals and society
- Create media texts that effectively communicate ideas and messages using appropriate tools and technologies

British Literature Reading Conventions

- Read and comprehend a variety of texts, including fiction, nonfiction, and multimedia sources
- Compare and contrast different British literary works from various time periods, authors, and genres
- Analyze and interpret various literary texts from British literature, including fiction, novels, poetry, drama, speeches and essays
- Analyze and interpret a variety of British literary texts from various time periods and genres
- Read and comprehend a range of informational texts related to British history, culture, and society, including essays, speeches, historical documents, biographies, and multimedia sources
- Analyze and evaluate informational texts related to British history, culture, and society, including essays, speeches, historical documents, biographies, and multimedia sources
- Explore connections between literary texts and their historical, cultural, and social contexts
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of British literary works, considering how they reflect and shape British identity, values, and beliefs
- Evaluate the impact of historical, cultural, and social contexts on British literature
- Use close reading strategies to understand complex texts and to analyze author's craft and purpose
- Identify and analyze elements such as plot, character development, setting, theme, and symbolism in British literary works
- Evaluate the significance of literary elements such as plot, character development, setting, theme, symbolism, and figurative language in British literature
- Identify main ideas, supporting details, and rhetorical strategies used in informational texts
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to develop understanding of British identity, values, and experiences
- Evaluate arguments and evidence presented in informational texts related to British themes and topics

Survey of British Literature

- Explore the major literary movements, themes, and authors in British literature, including medieval literature, Renaissance literature, Romanticism, Victorian literature, modernism, and contemporary literature
- Study major works and authors of British literature from different periods, including medieval literature, Renaissance literature, Enlightenment literature, Romantic literature, Victorian literature, and modernist literature
- Explore different genres of British literature, including epic poetry, drama, the novel, and the essay
- Analyze the characteristics and conventions of each genre, examining how they evolve over time and across literary movements
- Engage in comparative analysis of texts within and across genres, considering how genre influences meaning, structure, and style
- Analyze representative texts from different periods and genres, examining their cultural significance and literary contributions
- Analyze representative texts in depth, focusing on literary elements such as plot, character development, setting, theme, symbolism, and figurative language
- Examine key themes, motifs, and styles in British literary traditions, such as love, power, morality, identity, and social change
- Examine the works of diverse authors and identify commonalities and differences in their perspectives and styles
- Compare British literary traditions with those of other cultures

Analysis of British Literature

- Analyze and interpret British literature from various time periods, including medieval, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Romantic, Victorian, and modern periods
- Analyze and interpret various literary forms and genres in British literature including epic poetry, tragedy, comedy, satire, short stories, and novels
- Understand the characteristics and conventions of different British literary forms and genres, and how they reflect cultural values, beliefs, and practices
- Develop critical thinking skills through close reading, analysis, and interpretation of British literary texts
- Evaluate arguments, evidence, and perspectives presented in literary and informational texts
- Make connections between texts, ideas, and historical events, and draw conclusions based on evidence and reasoning
- Make connections between texts and their historical, cultural, and social contexts
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of literary texts, including their connections to broader cultural movements, intellectual trends, and historical events
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of British literature, considering how literary works reflect and respond to historical events, social movements, and cultural traditions
- Consider how literature reflects and shapes cultural identity, values, and beliefs, and how it can challenge prevailing norms and conventions
- Investigate the role of literature in preserving cultural heritage, fostering national identity, and challenging prevailing norms and conventions
- Explore cultural identities, values, and beliefs represented in British literature, analyzing how they are shaped by historical, geographical, and sociopolitical factors
- Explore issues of representation, diversity, equity, and social justice in literature and society
- Identify and analyze literary elements such as plot structure, character development, setting, theme, and symbolism, and figurative language
- Identify and interpret recurring themes, motifs, symbols, and archetypes in British literature, such as the quest for knowledge, the struggle for freedom, the conflict between tradition and modernity, and the nature of heroism
- Examine themes, motifs, and literary movements in British literature, and identify connections between texts and historical contexts
- Analyze how British authors use themes and symbols to convey universal human experiences and insights across different historical periods and cultural contexts
- Evaluate the contributions of diverse British writers and voices to the literary canon
- Identify and understand various approaches to literary criticism and theory as applied to British literature, including formalism, historicism, feminism, postcolonialism, and psychoanalysis
- Apply literary theory to the analysis and interpretation of British literary texts, examining different ways of reading and understanding literature
- Analyze British literary texts from different critical perspectives and engage in critical discussions about British literature and culture
- Write analytical essays that demonstrate understanding and appreciation of British literary works

Creative Writing

The creative writing class will offer students the opportunity to explore and develop their writing skills in a supportive and creative environment. Through prompts, exercises, workshops, and discussions, students will experiment with various forms of creative expression such as poetry, short stories, memoirs, scripts, and more. With guidance from the instructor and feedback from peers, students will refine their writing techniques, explore their unique voices, and cultivate their imaginations. The course aims to inspire creativity, self-expression, and appreciation for the art of storytelling.

Language, Speaking, and Listening Conventions

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening
- Expand vocabulary through reading, writing, and word study activities
- Experiment with figurative language, imagery, and symbolism to enhance creative writing
- Develop awareness of language conventions and stylistic choices in creative writing

Writing Conventions

- Demonstrate mastery of language conventions, including grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage
- Understand the conventions of different writing genres, styles, and formats, adapting writing accordingly
- Use appropriate language and tone for different audiences and purposes, demonstrating awareness of register and audience expectations
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events
- Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative
- Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome
- Identify and analyze literary elements and techniques used by published authors to craft creative works
- Apply insights gained from reading to inform and improve own creative writing
- Practice writing creatively in a variety of forms and styles, adapting language and tone to suit different purposes, audiences, and genres
- Understand and apply the stages of the writing process, including brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
- Develop strategies for generating ideas, organizing thoughts, and refining writing through multiple drafts
- Use the writing process to draft, revise, edit, and refine creative works
- Use feedback from peers, teachers, and self-assessment to improve writing skills and produce polished final drafts
- Seek and respond to feedback from peers and instructors to improve writing skills

Fiction Writing

- Analyze examples of narrative writing from various genres and authors to understand effective storytelling techniques

- Explore the elements of fiction, including plot, character development, setting, dialogue, and point of view
- Develop skills in crafting narratives, including short stories, personal essays, and fictional narratives
- Develop narrative skills through writing short stories, flash fiction, and microfiction pieces
- Create compelling characters, engaging plots, and vivid settings in original works of fiction

Creative Nonfiction Writing

- Explore the genre of creative nonfiction, including personal essays, memoirs, and autobiographical narratives
- Experiment with different forms of creative nonfiction, such as lyric essays, flash memoirs, and immersion journalism
- Engage in writing that blends factual information with narrative storytelling, such as memoir, personal essay, and literary journalism
- Develop skills in researching, interviewing, and incorporating research findings into personal narratives
- Understand the ethical considerations of writing creative nonfiction and accurately representing real-life experiences and events
- Write reflective and introspective pieces that explore personal experiences, observations, and insights

Poetry Writing

- Experiment with various poetic forms and structures, such as free verse, sonnets, haiku, narrative poetry, and slam poetry
- Explore the elements of poetry, including imagery, metaphor, simile, symbolism, rhyme, rhythm, and form
- Write original poems that convey emotion, evoke imagery, and explore themes and ideas
- Write original poems and revise them based on peer feedback and reflection

Drama and Scriptwriting

- Explore the conventions of scriptwriting for various mediums, including plays, screenplays, and radio dramas
- Explore elements such as dialogue formatting, scene structure, character development, and visual storytelling
- Study the conventions of dramatic writing, including dialogue, scene structure, characterization, and stage directions
- Write original scripts for stage plays, screenplays, radio dramas, or podcasts
- Collaborate with peers to write and revise scripts, and potentially produce staged readings or performances of original works

Creative Process

- Analyze and interpret literary texts, including works of published authors and classmates, to identify effective writing strategies and techniques
- Explore the creative process, including idea generation, drafting, revision, and publication
- Set personal writing goals and work towards achieving them through regular practice and reflection
- Experiment with different writing techniques, styles, and genres, developing a personal writing voice and style
- Explore various forms of creative writing, including poetry, short fiction, personal essays, and dramatic monologues
- Explore innovative and experimental forms of creative writing, such as visual poetry, hypertext fiction, interactive narratives, and digital storytelling
- Incorporate multimedia elements, such as images, audio, video, and interactive features, into creative writing projects
- Study narrative structures and plot development, including techniques for creating tension, conflict, and resolution
- Explore and experiment with various creative writing techniques, such as imagery, metaphor, simile, and personification

- Practice crafting vivid descriptions, engaging dialogue, and authentic characters in creative writing projects
- Push the boundaries of traditional writing genres and formats to create unique and engaging works of art
- Understand the importance of multiple drafts and revisions in the writing process to refine and improve creative work
- Develop strategies for revising and editing creative writing pieces for clarity, coherence, and impact
- Provide and receive constructive feedback from peers through writing workshops and peer review sessions
- Provide constructive feedback to classmates on their creative works, focusing on strengths and areas for improvement
- Reflect on feedback received and use it to revise and refine own creative writing
- Develop strategies for self-editing and revising creative writing independently

Publishing and Reflection

- Understand the role of audience and purpose in selecting and preparing creative work for publication or performance
- Explore avenues for sharing and publishing creative writing, such as literary magazines, online platforms, and public readings
- Prepare creative writing projects for publication or public presentation, including editing, formatting, and design
- Develop skills in presenting and sharing creative work with audiences through readings, performances, exhibitions, or digital platforms
- Participate in workshops, readings, and presentations to share and discuss creative writing with peers
- Understand the ethical considerations of publishing creative writing, including issues of copyright, attribution, and intellectual property rights
- Reflect on the impact of sharing creative writing with others and receiving feedback from diverse audiences
- Reflect on personal writing processes, experiences, and creative choices, considering strengths, challenges, and areas for growth

Genre Fiction Studies

The genre fiction class will focus on the study of specific literary genres such as science fiction, fantasy, mystery, romance, or horror. Students will explore the conventions, themes, and techniques unique to each genre through reading, analysis, and discussion of representative works. Through examining how genre fiction reflects cultural values, societal concerns, and human experiences, students will gain insights into the diversity and impact of popular literature. The course aims to foster critical thinking, appreciation for different storytelling traditions, and creative expression within the chosen genre.

Language, Speaking, and Listening Conventions

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage in writing and speaking about genre fiction
- Use knowledge of language to understand and analyze genre fiction texts and to enhance writing and speaking about genre fiction
- Experiment with language and tone appropriate to different genres, adapting style to suit specific audience expectations and narrative contexts
- Expand vocabulary through reading genre fiction texts and studying genre-specific terminology and techniques
- Expand vocabulary related to genre fiction through reading, writing, and analysis of exemplary texts
- Engage effectively in discussions about genre fiction, sharing insights, interpretations, and responses to texts
- Engage in group discussions, presentations, and debates about various genres of fiction, sharing insights and interpretations of assigned texts
- Present information and ideas about genre fiction clearly and persuasively, using appropriate language and examples from texts
- Listen actively and respond thoughtfully to others' ideas and perspectives on genre fiction, participating in collaborative analysis and critique
- Present oral summaries or analyses of genre fiction texts, demonstrating comprehension and critical thinking skills

Writing Conventions

- Write genre fiction narratives that demonstrate an understanding of genre conventions and effectively engage readers
- Practice writing creatively within specific genres, developing original stories that adhere to genre conventions while also incorporating personal voice and style
- Develop clear and coherent writing with appropriate organization, structure, and style for the chosen genre
- Use elements specific to the chosen genre, such as suspense in mystery, world-building in fantasy, or speculative concepts in science fiction
- Experiment with different narrative techniques, plot structures, plot twists, character archetypes, and character development strategies specific to various genres
- Practice writing exercises and workshops focused on honing genre-specific writing techniques and styles
- Apply the stages of the writing process to create original genre fiction stories, including brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
- Revise and edit creative works based on feedback and reflection, focusing on clarity, coherence, and effectiveness within the chosen genre
- Receive and provide constructive feedback during peer review workshops to improve writing skills and refine storytelling techniques
- Reflect on personal writing processes and experiences, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for growth as genre fiction writers

Reading Conventions

- Analyze and interpret various genres of fiction
- Identify and analyze common elements and conventions within each genre, such as plot structures, character archetypes, world-building, and thematic motifs
- Compare and contrast different genre fiction works within and across genres, examining common tropes, conventions, and innovations
- Evaluate the ways in which genre fiction reflects and shapes cultural values, beliefs, and societal concerns
- Read and comprehend informational texts related to the history, development, and criticism of genre fiction, including articles, essays, and literary criticism
- Determine main ideas and supporting details in informational texts about genre fiction, including historical context, authorship, and cultural influences
- Evaluate arguments and evidence presented in informational texts about genre fiction, analyzing different perspectives and interpretations

Genre Exploration

- Understand how genre conventions shape reader expectations and influence narrative choices in genre fiction
- Study and analyze the characteristics and conventions of different genres of fiction, including their historical development, key features, and subgenres
- Analyze common elements, structures, and tropes within each genre, such as plot devices, character archetypes, and thematic motifs
- Identify and analyze common narrative elements and techniques used in genre fiction, such as plot structure, pacing, suspense, and foreshadowing
- Examine the role of setting, atmosphere, and world-building in creating immersive and believable fictional worlds within specific genres
- Practice applying narrative techniques to create compelling stories within chosen genres, focusing on engaging readers and building suspense
- Explore character development strategies and archetypes commonly found in genre fiction, including heroes, villains, sidekicks, and mentors
- Analyze the ways in which character motivations, conflicts, and growth contribute to the development of plot and theme within specific genres
- Create and develop original characters that embody genre-specific traits and archetypes, considering their roles within the narrative structure
- Analyze examples of genre hybridization, blending elements from multiple genres to create new and innovative forms of fiction
- Experiment with incorporating and subverting genre conventions in creative writing projects, exploring the effects of deviation from or adherence to established norms
- Explore the appeal and popularity of genre fiction across different cultures and time periods, considering factors such as escapism, entertainment, and cultural commentary
- Investigate the role of genre fiction in popular culture, including film, television, video games, and other media
- Analyze adaptations of genre fiction texts across different media platforms, considering how narrative elements are translated and transformed
- Explore fan culture and fandom communities surrounding genre fiction, including fan fiction, fan art, and fan conventions

Genre Literary Analysis

- Analyze and interpret various genres of fiction
- Identify common elements, conventions, and tropes within each genre, and analyze how they contribute to the overall meaning and impact of the text
- Compare and contrast different works within the same genre, exploring similarities and differences in style, theme, and narrative structure

- Engage with critical theories and approaches to genre fiction, including formalist, structuralist, and reader-response theories
- Analyze genre fiction texts through a critical lens, considering themes, symbols, and cultural contexts within and across genres
- Examine the evolution of genre conventions over time and across different cultural and literary contexts
- Engage in critical analysis and reflection on genre fiction texts, considering their cultural, social, and historical contexts
- Evaluate the effectiveness of different storytelling strategies and literary devices in engaging readers and conveying meaning

Genre Specific Conventions

- Explore and analyze mystery fiction
 - Explore the conventions and characteristics of mystery fiction, including detective stories, whodunits, and police procedurals
 - Analyze elements such as plot twists, red herrings, clues, and resolutions, and examine how they create suspense and intrigue
 - Write original mystery fiction stories, incorporating elements of investigation, suspense, and revelation
- Explore and analyze science fiction and fantasy
 - Study the speculative elements of science fiction and fantasy genres, including futuristic technologies, alternate worlds, and supernatural phenomena
 - Analyze themes such as utopia/dystopia, exploration, identity, and power, and examine how they reflect contemporary societal concerns
 - Create original science fiction and fantasy stories, building immersive worlds, complex characters, and engaging plots
- Explore and analyze romance fiction
 - Examine the conventions and tropes of romance fiction, including love triangles, misunderstandings, conflicts, and happily-ever-afters
 - Analyze themes such as love, relationships, desire, and identity, and explore how they resonate with readers
 - Write original romance fiction stories, focusing on character development, emotional tension, and romantic conflict
- Explore and analyze thriller and suspense fiction
 - Investigate the elements of thriller and suspense fiction, including fast-paced plots, high stakes, and unexpected twists
 - Analyze techniques such as foreshadowing, pacing, and tension-building, and examine how they create a sense of urgency and anticipation
 - Write original thriller and suspense fiction stories, crafting gripping narratives and keeping readers on the edge of their seats
- Explore and analyze horror fiction
 - Explore the elements of horror fiction, including supernatural beings, psychological suspense, and macabre imagery
 - Analyze themes such as fear, mortality, and the unknown, and examine how they evoke a sense of dread and unease
 - Write original horror fiction stories, employing techniques such as atmosphere, suspense, and shock to elicit visceral reactions from readers

English Independent Study

The English independent studies class will provide students with the flexibility to explore literature, writing, and language arts on their own terms. Students will choose their own reading materials, writing projects, or literary analyses based on their interests and goals. With guidance from a teacher or mentor, students will develop critical reading, writing, and communication skills while pursuing topics that inspire and engage them. This format allows students to personalize their learning experience and take ownership of their literary exploration.

Language, Speaking, and Listening Conventions

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage in writing and speaking
- Use knowledge of language to understand and analyze reading selections and to enhance writing and speaking
- Experiment with language and tone, adapting style to suit specific audience expectations and narrative contexts
- Expand vocabulary through reading, writing, and analysis of exemplary texts
- Engage effectively in discussions about reading selections, sharing insights, interpretations, and responses to texts
- Engage in group discussions, presentations, and debates, sharing insights and interpretations of reading selections
- Present information and ideas clearly and persuasively, using appropriate language and examples from texts
- Listen actively and respond thoughtfully to others' ideas and perspectives, participating in collaborative analysis and critique
- Present oral summaries or analyses, demonstrating comprehension and critical thinking skills

Reading Conventions

- Demonstrate advanced reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills in English language arts
- Explore a variety of texts, genres, and media to broaden literary and cultural understanding
- Select and analyze literary texts, including fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction, relevant to chosen topics or themes
- Apply close reading strategies to analyze and interpret texts, identifying key literary elements, themes, and techniques
- Independently read and analyze a variety of literary texts, including fiction, poetry, drama, and literary nonfiction
- Demonstrate understanding of literary elements and techniques, such as plot, character development, theme, symbolism, and figurative language
- Independently analyze and evaluate texts, ideas, and arguments, developing their critical thinking skills through close reading and reflection
- Develop critical thinking skills by evaluating texts, arguments, and perspectives within English language arts
- Evaluate the relevance, quality, and complexity of texts chosen for independent study
- Identify biases, assumptions, and logical fallacies in texts and arguments, engaging in thoughtful critique and analysis
- Apply literary and rhetorical strategies to analyze and respond to complex texts and ideas
- Engage in deep exploration of themes, characters, literary devices, and authorial intent
- Independently read and analyze a range of informational texts, including articles, essays, speeches, and historical documents

- Determine the main ideas and supporting details of informational texts and evaluate the credibility and reliability of sources
- Synthesize information from multiple sources and draw evidence-based conclusions
- Make connections between texts and broader historical, cultural, and social contexts, drawing insights from independent research and analysis
- Develop skills in critical analysis and response by evaluating texts, arguments, and ideas from multiple perspectives
- Engage in critical discussions, debates, or reflections on literary works, contemporary issues, or social justice topics

Writing Conventions

- Engage in writing projects that align with individual interests and goals, such as creative writing, analytical essays, research papers, poetry, or personal reflections
- Independently produce various types of writing, including narratives, essays, arguments, and analyses
- Experiment with different techniques, writing styles, genres, and formats to develop voice and expression
- Independently engage in the writing process, from prewriting and drafting to revising and editing, to produce polished pieces of writing
- Demonstrate proficiency in planning, drafting, revising, and editing their writing independently
- Use evidence, reasoning, and appropriate citation methods to support their claims and arguments
- Revise and refine written work through feedback, revision, and editing
- Receive feedback from the teacher or mentor and revise writing based on constructive criticism and self-reflection
- Set personal writing goals and reflect on their writing processes and progress independently

Research and Inquiry

- Identify research topics and questions of interest related to literature, language, or literary theory related to topics of personal interest within the field of English language arts
- Conduct independent research using a variety of sources, including print and digital texts, databases, interviews, and primary sources
- Gather, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources to develop informed arguments and perspectives, create original works, and develop creative independent projects
- Evaluate sources for credibility, relevance, and bias, and cite sources using appropriate citation styles
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to develop informed arguments, claims, and perspectives
- Cite sources accurately using appropriate citation styles and formats, such as MLA or APA

Media Literacy

- Examine how media influences society and shapes perceptions
- Critically analyze media texts, including advertisements, news articles, films, and digital content
- Evaluate the credibility, bias, and persuasive techniques used in media messages, considering their impact on individuals and society
- Create media texts that effectively communicate ideas and messages using appropriate tools and technologies

Project Development and Presentation

- Take ownership of learning by conducting independent research, reading, and exploration of topics within English language arts
- Explore diverse literary genres, authors, periods, or themes based on personal interests and curiosities
- Utilize a variety of print and digital resources, including books, articles, websites, and multimedia, to deepen understanding of chosen topics
- Independently design and implement long-term projects or inquiries related to English language arts, such as creating a literary magazine, conducting author studies, or producing multimedia presentations
- Develop individualized learning goals and objectives in collaboration with the teacher or mentor
- Take responsibility for planning, organizing, and evaluating learning activities and projects

- Create a detailed plan outlining the topics, texts, and activities to be covered during the independent study course
- Develop skills in setting goals, managing time effectively, and maintaining motivation and focus in independent study
- Establish timelines and milestones for completing assignments and assessments
- Explore creative approaches to expressing ideas and communicating meaning through various forms of writing, multimedia, and artistic expression
- Experiment with different genres, styles, and techniques in literature, writing, and other forms of artistic expression
- Explore multimodal composition by integrating text, image, sound, and other media to create original projects
- Create multimedia presentations, digital stories, podcasts, or visual essays that explore literary themes, concepts, or authors
- Communicate ideas effectively through written and oral presentations, discussions, or multimedia projects
- Participate in peer feedback sessions and collaborative discussions to share insights and receive input on work in progress
- Present final projects or portfolios showcasing learning achievements and reflections on the independent study experience

Reflection and Evaluation

- Collaborate with the teacher or mentor to establish criteria and standards for assessing learning outcomes
- Participate in regular check-ins, conferences, or portfolio reviews to monitor progress and provide feedback
- Engage in reflective practices to assess learning progress, strengths, and areas for growth
- Reflect on learning processes and outcomes, identifying strengths, areas for growth, goal-setting, and strategies for improvement independently
- Synthesize learning experiences and insights gained from independent study to deepen understanding and inform future inquiries

Mathematics

The Upper School Mathematics objectives are based upon the principles and standards outlined by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Math.

NCTM recommends using the Problem Solving, Reasoning and Proof, Communication, Connections, and Representation to address the following standards:

- Numbers and Operations: Understand numbers, ways of representing numbers, relationships among numbers, and number systems; Understand meanings of operations and how they relate to one another; and Compute fluently and make reasonable estimates
- Algebra: Understand patterns, relations, and functions; Represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols; Use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships; and Analyze change in various contexts
- Geometry: Analyze characteristics and properties of two- and three-dimensional geometric shapes and develop mathematical arguments about geometric relationships; Specify locations and describe spatial relationships using coordinate geometry and other representational systems; Apply transformations and use symmetry to analyze mathematical situations; and Use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems
- Measurement: Understand measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems, and processes of measurement; and Apply appropriate techniques, tools, and formulas to determine measurements
- Data Analysis and Probability: Formulate questions that can be addressed with data and collect, organize, and display relevant data to answer them; Select and use appropriate statistical methods to analyze data; Develop and evaluate inferences and predictions that are based on data; and Understand and apply basic concepts of probability

State of Texas TEKS:

- Apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace
- Use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution
- Select tools, including real objects, manipulatives, paper and pencil, and technology as appropriate, and techniques, including mental math, estimation, and number sense as appropriate, to solve problems
- Communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations, including symbols, diagrams, graphs, and language as appropriate
- Create and use representations to organize, record, and communicate mathematical ideas
- Analyze mathematical relationships to connect and communicate mathematical ideas
- Display, explain, and justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication

Algebra I

The focus of the Algebra I class will be to introduce the fundamental concepts in algebra, including equations, inequalities, functions, and basic operations with variables. Students will learn to solve equations, graph linear equations and inequalities, and manipulate expressions using properties of real numbers.

Number and Quantity

- Understand the concept of real numbers
- Represent and use real numbers in various forms
- Perform operations with real numbers, including irrational numbers
- Understand and apply the properties of exponents
- Perform operations with numbers, including radicals and exponents
- Perform operations with real numbers, including integer exponents
- Use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships
- Use mathematical models to model real-world situations
- Use properties of real numbers to simplify expressions and solve equations

Algebraic Reasoning

- Represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols
- Write, solve, and graph linear equations and inequalities
- Understand the concept of functions and use function notation
- Interpret and analyze relationships represented graphically, numerically, and symbolically
- Understand and apply the quadratic formula
- Graph quadratic functions and analyze their key features
- Factor polynomials
- Apply algebraic concepts to analyze and solve practical problems

Functions

- Understand the definition of a function and its key characteristics including notation
- Understand linear equations and inequalities in one variable
- Represent and analyze functions using multiple representations (tables, graphs, equations)
- Represent and analyze linear functions, including slope-intercept form
- Solve systems of linear equations and inequalities
- Solve problems involving linear, exponential, and quadratic functions
- Use functions to model real-world situations

Geometry and Measurement

- Solve problems involving area, volume, and surface area
- Apply geometric concepts to solve problems related to measurement

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Evaluate the reasonableness of a solution to a problem
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Make conjectures and build a logical argument to validate or refute them
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics

- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Geometry

The focus of the Geometry class will be the study of shapes, sizes, and properties of geometric figures in two and three dimensions. Students will explore topics such as points, lines, angles, triangles, polygons, circles, and solid figures. They will learn geometric reasoning, proofs, and problem-solving techniques related to spatial relationships and measurements.

Geometric Properties and Relationships

- Recognize and use geometric properties of shapes and angles
- Understand and apply the properties of parallel lines and transversals
 - Understand the properties of parallel lines cut by a transversal
 - Solve problems involving transversals and angle relationships
 - Use the relationships between angles formed by parallel lines and a transversal
- Investigate congruence and similarity of triangles and other polygons
 - Classify triangles based on sides and angles
 - Apply the criteria for congruence and similarity of triangles
 - Understand and apply properties of special right triangles
 - Use the Triangle Inequality Theorem
 - Apply the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse to solve problems
- Investigate properties of quadrilaterals, including parallelograms and rectangles
 - Classify quadrilaterals based on properties
 - Analyze properties and classifications of polygons
 - Understand and apply properties of parallelograms, rhombuses, rectangles, and squares
- Analyze properties of circles and their components
 - Understand and apply properties of circles
 - Apply theorems related to circles and their components
 - Solve problems involving arcs, chords, and angles in circles

Euclidean Geometry

- Understand and apply basic postulates and theorems of Euclidean geometry
- Investigate the properties of points, lines, angles, and polygons
 - Define and identify points, lines, and planes
 - Understand basic concepts of geometry, including collinearity and coplanarity

Coordinate Geometry

- Use coordinate geometry to describe and analyze geometric shapes
- Use coordinate geometry to prove geometric theorems
- Apply transformations (translations, rotations, reflections) to geometric figures
- Apply midpoint and distance formulas
- Understand the relationship between algebraic and geometric representations

Geometric Modeling and Construction

- Use geometric models to represent and solve real-world problems
- Apply geometric concepts to modeling in various fields
- Construct geometric figures using a compass and straightedge
- Understand and apply constructions involving parallel and perpendicular lines
- Understand the constructions of various geometric figures

Measurement

- Apply measurement concepts to determine lengths, angles, areas, and volumes
- Use appropriate units and tools for measurement
- Apply the Pythagorean Theorem to find distances and solve problems

Reasoning and Proof

- Construct logical arguments and proofs
- Analyze and evaluate the validity of geometric arguments
- Develop geometric proofs using deductive reasoning

Spatial Visualization

- Visualize and manipulate three-dimensional shapes
- Understand and use cross-sections and perspectives
- Understand surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures
- Apply transformations (translations, rotations, reflections) to geometric figures
- Analyze symmetry in geometric shapes
- Understand and apply the concepts of congruence and similarity

Mathematical Practices

- Use mathematical reasoning to solve problems and make conjectures
- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Evaluate the reasonableness of solutions
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning
- Apply inductive reasoning
- Recognize and apply geometric concepts in other areas of mathematics and beyond
- Understand the interdisciplinary nature of geometry

Algebra II

The focus of the Algebra II class will be to reinforce and build upon the concepts introduced in Algebra I. Students will delve deeper into advanced topics such as quadratic equations, polynomial functions, logarithms, exponentials, matrices, and complex numbers. They will continue to develop their problem-solving skills, algebraic manipulation techniques, and critical thinking abilities in preparation for higher-level mathematics courses.

Number and Quantity

- Represent complex numbers in various forms
- Extend the properties of exponents to rational exponents
- Understand and use rational expressions
- Understand and perform operations with complex numbers
- Simplify and perform operations with radical expressions
- Understand the properties of logarithmic and exponential functions

Algebraic Relationships

- Understand and use the properties of real numbers
- Simplify and perform operations with algebraic expressions
- Understand polynomial identities and factor theorems
- Solve equations and inequalities involving polynomial, rational, radical, and exponential expressions
- Analyze and solve systems of equations and inequalities
- Solve and graph linear, quadratic, and absolute value equations and inequalities

Functions

- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Understand and apply the concepts of function composition and inverse functions
- Apply transformations to functions
- Understand and analyze linear functions
 - Understand and apply linear functions, equations, and inequalities
 - Analyze and interpret slope and y-intercept in linear equations
- Understand and analyze exponential and logarithmic functions
 - Understand and apply the properties of exponential and logarithmic functions.
 - Solve exponential and logarithmic equations
 - Analyze and graph exponential and logarithmic functions
- Understand and analyze quadratic functions
 - Understand and apply quadratic functions, equations, and inequalities
 - Analyze and graph quadratic functions
 - Solve quadratic equations using various methods
- Understand and analyze polynomial functions
 - Understand the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra
 - Apply polynomial operations and factor theorems
 - Analyze and graph polynomial functions
- Understand and analyze polynomial functions
 - Solve equations and inequalities involving rational and radical expressions
 - Analyze and graph rational and radical functions
- Analyze and graph functions, including piecewise and inverse functions

Matrices and Determinants

- Define and perform operations with matrices
- Solve systems of linear equations using matrices

Geometry

- Apply geometric concepts in modeling and problem-solving
- Analyze relationships between angles formed by parallel lines and a transversal
- Use coordinate geometry to analyze geometric shapes
- Understand and analyze conic sections (circles, ellipses, hyperbolas, and parabolas)

Mathematical Practices

- Make conjectures and build logical arguments to validate or refute them
- Construct and critique mathematical argument
- Evaluate the reasonableness of a solution to a problem
- Use appropriate tools, including technology, to solve mathematical problems
- Apply mathematical models, processes, and techniques to solve real-world problems
- Communicate mathematical ideas using appropriate terminology, symbols, and diagrams
- Use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships

Pre-Calculus

The focus of the Pre-Calculus class will be to serve as a bridge between Algebra II and Calculus, covering advanced topics such as trigonometry, functions, vectors, conic sections, and limits. Students will deepen their understanding of algebraic and graphical representations of functions, preparing them for the study of calculus concepts such as derivatives and integrals.

Functions and Their Properties

- Understand and analyze functions, including polynomial, rational, logarithmic, and exponential functions with a focus on graphing
- Investigate and apply properties of functions, including domain and range
- Investigate the properties of inverse functions

Geometry and Measurement

- Understand and apply trigonometric concepts, including angles, radians, and the unit circle
- Use coordinate geometry to represent and analyze geometric figures
- Understand and apply concepts of conic sections

Algebraic Practices

- Solve equations and inequalities involving polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions
- Apply algebraic methods to solve systems of equations and inequalities

Trigonometry

- Understand and apply basic trigonometric ratios
- Understand the unit circle and the six trigonometric functions
- Solve problems involving right triangles and trigonometric functions
- Use trigonometric identities
- Extend trigonometric functions to all real numbers
- Solve trigonometric equations and inequalities
- Analyze and graph trigonometric functions

Sequence and Series

- Analyze arithmetic and geometric sequences and series
- Apply the concepts of sigma notation and summation

Limits and Continuity

- Understand the concept of a limit
- Analyze and calculate limits algebraically and graphically
- Understand the concept of continuity calculus

Mathematical Practices

- Use mathematical models to represent and solve real-world problems
- Analyze and interpret models in various contexts
- Construct and critique mathematical arguments
- Evaluate the reasonableness of solutions to problems

Calculus I

The focus of the Calculus I class will be to introduce fundamental concepts of differential calculus, focusing on rates of change, limits, derivatives, and their applications. Students will learn to analyze functions, find slopes of curves, and solve problems related to optimization and motion. Calculus I lays the foundation for further exploration of calculus in higher education.

Limits and Continuity

- Understand the concept of a limit
- Analyze and calculate limits algebraically and graphically
- Explore continuity and differentiability

Derivatives

- Understand the concept of a derivative
- Calculate derivatives using various rules (power rule, product rule, quotient rule, chain rule)
- Apply derivatives to analyze functions, find critical points, and solve optimization problems

Application of Derivatives

- Analyze and interpret rates of change
- Solve related rates problems
- Use derivatives to analyze curves and solve applied problems

Integration and Antiderivatives

- Understand the concept of an integral
- Calculate definite and indefinite integrals
- Explore antiderivatives and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

Application of Integrals

- Apply integrals to analyze functions and solve problems
- Solve problems involving area under curves
- Apply integrals to solve problems in physics, economics, and other fields
- Use various techniques to evaluate integrals (substitution, integration by parts, partial fractions)

Differential Equations

- Understand and solve basic differential equations
- Analyze and interpret solutions to differential equations
- Explore applications of differential equations

Mathematical Practices

- Use mathematical models to represent and solve real-world problems
- Analyze and interpret models in various contexts
- Construct and critique mathematical arguments
- Evaluate the reasonableness of solutions to problems

Calculus II

The focus of the Calculus II class will be to extend the study of calculus beyond the basics introduced in Calculus I. Students will learn about integral calculus, exploring techniques for finding antiderivatives, computing definite integrals, and applications such as areas, volumes, and work. Additionally, students will delve into sequences, series, and their convergence properties. Calculus II will further develop students' problem-solving skills and prepare them for advanced mathematics and science courses.

Integration Techniques

- Understand and analyze integration by parts
- Understand and analyze trigonometric integrals and trigonometric substitution
- Understand and analyze partial fraction decomposition

Applications of Integration

- Understand and analyze the area between curves
- Understand and analyze volumes of revolution
- Understand and analyze the arc length and surface area
- Understand the application of calculus concepts to physics and engineering

Parametric Equations and Polar Coordinates

- Represent and analyze equations using parametric and polar forms
- Convert between parametric and rectangular forms
- Understand and analyze parametric curves, polar coordinates, and graphs

Infinite Series

- Understand and analyze infinite geometric series
- Explore convergence and divergence of infinite series
- Understand and analyze convergent and divergent infinite sequences and series
- Apply tests for convergence and divergence.
- Explore Power, Taylor, and Maclaurin series

Sequence and Series

- Understand and analyze sequences and their limits
- Understand and analyze series and convergence
- Understand and analyze integral and comparison tests
- Understand and analyze alternating series and absolute convergence

Differential Equations

- Understand and apply partial derivatives and multiple integrals
- Understand and apply first-order differential equations and second-order linear differential equations
- Understand and apply applications to modeling differential equations

Vectors and Vector Calculus

- Represent vectors and perform vector operations
- Understand, analyze, and integrate vector functions and their derivatives
- Analyze vector applications in geometry and physics
- Understand and apply the concepts of tangent and normal vectors, arc length and curvature, and vector fields and line integrals

- Understand and apply the Fundamental Theorem of Line Integral

Multivariable Calculus

- Analyze and interpret three-dimensional space and surfaces
- Explore applications in multivariable calculus
- Analyze and optimize functions of several variables
- Evaluate multiple integrals and their applications

Mathematical Practices

- Use mathematical models to represent and solve real-world problems
- Explore real world applications of calculus concepts
- Explore the interdisciplinary connection of calculus concepts
- Utilize problem solving and critical thinking skills

Statistics

The focus of the Statistics class will be to develop an understanding of data collection, analysis, interpretation, and inference. Students will learn to summarize data using descriptive statistics, explore probability concepts, and make predictions through inferential statistics. They will also gain skills in conducting experiments, designing surveys, and critically evaluating statistical claims and arguments.

Descriptive Statistics

- Summarize and describe the main features of a data set
- Calculate measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode) and measures of dispersion (range, variance, standard deviation)
- Construct and interpret graphical representations of data (histograms, box plots, scatterplots)

Probability

- Understand and apply basic probability concepts
- Calculate probabilities of simple and compound events
- Apply the concepts and rules of probability to solve problems

Inferential Statistics

- Understand the principles of hypothesis testing
- Conduct hypothesis tests for means and proportions
- Understand and calculate confidence intervals
- Understand and apply the concepts of sampling and sampling distributions
- Make inferences about population parameters based on sample data
- Understand and apply the Central Limit Theorem

Regression Analysis

- Perform regression analysis to model relationships between variables
- Interpret regression coefficients and correlation coefficients

Experimental Design

- Understand the principles of experimental design
- Design and conduct experiments and surveys
- Identify and control for confounding variables
- Construct and interpret confidence intervals for population parameters
- Formulate and test hypotheses about population parameters
- Understand the margin of error and level of confidence
- Understand the concepts of Type I and Type II errors
- Use critical values and p-values for hypothesis testing
- Analyze experimental results

Probability Distributions

- Understand and apply the concepts of probability distributions
- Calculate expected values and standard deviations for probability distributions
- Use probability distributions to solve problems

Sampling Distributions

- Understand the concept of a sampling distribution

- Calculate and interpret standard errors

Data Interpretation and Critical Thinking

- Analyze relationships between two quantitative variables using correlation
- Interpret and critically evaluate statistical information in various contexts
- Model and interpret linear relationships using regression analysis
- Apply statistical thinking to solve real-world problems
- AP Statistics - additional data interpretation
 - Understand and apply ANOVA to compare means of multiple groups
 - Interpret and draw conclusions from ANOVA results
 - Use chi-square tests for independence and goodness of fit
 - Analyze categorical data using contingency tables

Ethics in Statistics

- Understand and apply ethical considerations in statistical analysis and reporting
- Understand ethical considerations in statistical studies
- Develop statistical literacy and critical thinking skills.

Consumer Math

The focus of the Consumer Math class will be the practical application of mathematics in everyday life, such as budgeting, banking, taxes, loans, investments, and understanding personal finance concepts. Students will learn essential skills for managing money effectively, making informed financial decisions, and navigating economic challenges they may encounter as consumers and individuals.

Mathematics in Everyday Life

- Review of fundamental arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)
- Review of decimal and percent operations
- Applying mathematical concepts to solve real-life problems
- Using mathematics in everyday financial decision-making
- Problem-solving related to consumer decisions
- Analyzing and interpreting data relevant to personal finance

Personal Finance and Financial Literacy

- Understand budgeting and financial planning
- Understand spreadsheet tools and apps used for budgeting
- Understand income and expenses
- Understand banking services, financial institutions, and managing accounts
- Understand online banking and financial apps
- Understand the relationship between income and taxes
 - Understand and calculate income tax
 - Understand how and when to file tax returns
 - Understand payroll deductions and paycheck calculations
- Understand the relationship between cost of living and expenses
- Understand how personal finances relate to career planning
 - Understand salary and compensation packages
 - Evaluate job benefits

Credit and Debt

- Understand credit cards and loans
- Understand how to manage debt and interest rates
- Understanding credit scores
- Understand the concept and process of loans and borrowing
- Understand and be able to calculate simple and compound interest

Consumer Awareness

- Understand ethical and responsible consumer behavior
- Understand how to make informed purchasing decisions
- Understand product pricing and discounts
- Understand the benefits of comparison shopping
- Understand the rights and responsibilities as a consumer
- Understand how to recognize and avoid financial scams and fraud

Insurance

- Understand the purpose of different types of insurance (auto, health, home)
- Understand insurance premiums

- Understand the terms of insurance policies and coverage

Investments and Savings

- Understand the basic principles of investing
- Understand saving for short-term and long-term goals
- Introduction to retirement savings

Financial Decision Making

- Understand and analyze financial choices
- Evaluate risks and benefits of financial choices
- Analyze financial situations and make informed decision
- Develop critical thinking skills in financial contexts

Intro. to College Algebra

The focus of the Intro to College Algebra class will be to provide students with foundational skills and concepts needed for success in college-level algebra courses. Students will broaden their understanding of equations, inequalities, functions, graphing, and basic algebraic operations. In this class they will continue to build their algebraic reasoning, problem-solving abilities, and readiness for higher-level mathematics in college.

Algebraic Operations

- Review the properties of real numbers
- Review operations with real numbers
- Review order of operations
- Understand how to simplify algebraic expressions
- Solve linear equations and inequalities

Functions and Their Properties

- Understand the definition and classification of functions
- Analyze functions including domain, range, function operations, and function composition

Linear and Quadratic Functions

- Solve linear equations
- Understand and graph linear functions
- Solve quadratic equations by factoring, completing the square, and using the quadratic formula
- Graph quadratic equations and inequalities

Polynomial and Rational Functions

- Understand operations with polynomials and factoring polynomials
- Graphing polynomial and rational functions
- Simplify rational expressions

Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

- Understand exponential growth and decay
- Understand the properties of logarithms
- Solve exponential and logarithmic equations
- Graph exponential and logarithmic functions

Systems of Equations and Inequalities

- Solve systems of linear equations
- Solve systems of nonlinear equations
- Understand graphical and algebraic methods

Matrices and Determinants

- Understand and apply basic operations with matrices
- Solve systems of linear equations using matrices
- Understand determinants and their properties

Coordinate Geometry

- Understand the transformation of functions

- Graph equations in the coordinate plane
- Understand and apply distance and midpoint formulas
- Understand symmetry and intercepts
- Analyze graphs

Mathematical Practices

- Application of algebraic concepts to real-world problems
- Constructing and interpreting mathematical arguments
- Interpret and analyze mathematical models
- Utilize problem solving and critical thinking skills

Science

The Upper School Science objectives are based upon the Next Generation Science Standards as outlined by the National Science Teachers Association and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Science.

NGSS SCIENCE EDUCATION DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1: Practices:** The practices describe behaviors that scientists engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world and the key set of engineering practices that engineers use as they design and build models and systems. Engaging in scientific investigation requires not only skill but also knowledge that is specific to each practice. Engineering design is similar to scientific inquiry, but there are significant differences. Scientific inquiry involves the formulation of a question that can be answered through investigation, while engineering design involves the formulation of a problem that can be solved through design. Strengthening the engineering aspects of the Next Generation Science Standards will clarify for students the relevance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (the four STEM fields) to everyday life.
- **Dimension 2: Crosscutting Concepts:** Crosscutting concepts have application across all domains of science. As such, they are a way of linking the different domains of science. They include: Patterns, similarity, and diversity; Cause and effect; Scale, proportion and quantity; Systems and system models; Energy and matter; Structure and function; Stability and change. The Framework emphasizes that these concepts need to be made explicit for students because they provide an organizational schema for interrelating knowledge from various science fields into a coherent and scientifically-based view of the world.
- **Dimension 3: Disciplinary Core Ideas:** Disciplinary ideas are grouped in four domains: the physical sciences; the life sciences; the earth and space sciences; and engineering, technology and applications of science. Disciplinary core ideas have the power to focus K–12 science curriculum, instruction and assessments on the most important aspects of science. To be considered core, the ideas should meet at least two of the following criteria and ideally all four:
 - Have **broad importance** across multiple sciences or engineering disciplines or be a **key organizing concept** of a single discipline;
 - Provide a **key tool** for understanding or investigating more complex ideas and solving problems;
 - Relate to the **interests and life experiences of students** or be connected to **societal or personal concerns** that require scientific or technological knowledge;
 - Be **teachable** and **learnable** over multiple grades at increasing levels of depth and sophistication.

NGSS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

SCIENTIFIC PROCESSES

- Demonstrate safe practice during investigations
- Make wise choices in conserving resources and recycling or reusing materials
- Choose testable questions and form hypotheses in planning investigations
- Observe and measure as part of collecting data
- Analyze and interpret data to arrive at a reasonable conclusion

- Communicate a valid conclusion to others both written and verbally
- Record and organize data by making graphs, tables, maps, and charts
- Analyze scientific explanations to discover the strengths and weaknesses of the conclusion
- Draw inferences based on data
- Use models to represent the natural world
- Evaluate research and its impact on thought, society, and the environment
- Research the history of science and contributions of scientists

SCIENTIFIC METHOD

- **Question:** Ask a question and then research your topic
- **Hypothesis:** Make your best guess about what will happen
- **Procedure:** Write out very specific directions for the experiment including materials you will need
- **Experiment:** Observe what happens when you test your hypothesis, then test your hypothesis several times and record your findings
- **Data Analysis:** Organize and evaluate your data
- **Conclusion:** What did you find out? Use your observations and the data you gathered to determine whether your hypothesis was correct
- **Abstract:** Summarize and explain your findings
- **Presentation:** Present your findings to others

ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS

- **Define the Problem:** The engineering design process starts when you ask the following questions about problems that you observe: What is the problem or need? Who has the problem or need? Why is it important to solve? [Who] need(s) [what] because [why]?
- **Do Background Research:** Learn from the experiences of others — this can help you find out about existing solutions to similar problems, and avoid mistakes that were made in the past. Do background research in two major areas: Users or customers; Existing solutions.
- **Specify Requirements:** Design requirements state the important characteristics that your solution must meet to succeed. One of the best ways to identify the design requirements for your solution is to analyze the concrete example of a similar, existing product, noting each of its key features.
- **Brainstorm Solutions:** There are always many good possibilities for solving design problems. If you focus on just one before looking at the alternatives, it is almost certain that you are overlooking a better solution. Good designers try to generate as many possible solutions as they can.
- **Choose the Best Solution:** Look at whether each possible solution meets your design requirements. Some solutions probably meet more requirements than others. Reject solutions that do not meet the requirements.
- **Develop the Solution:** Development involves the refinement and improvement of a solution, and it continues throughout the design process, often even after a product ships to customers.
- **Build a Prototype:** A prototype is an operating version of a solution. Often it is made with different materials than the final version, and generally it is not as polished. Prototypes are a key step in the development of a final solution, allowing the designer to test how the solution will work.
- **Test and Redesign:** The design process involves multiple iterations and redesigns of your final solution. You will likely test your solution, find new problems, make changes, and test new solutions before settling on a final design.
- **Communicate Results:** To complete your project, communicate your results to others in a final report and/or a display board. Professional engineers always do the same, thoroughly documenting their solutions so that they can be manufactured and supported.

Biology

The focus of biology will be to explore the study of living organisms, their structure, function, evolution, and interactions with their environment. Students will learn about cellular biology, genetics, ecology, physiology, and biodiversity through a combination of lectures, laboratory experiments, and hands-on activities. The course aims to provide students with a foundational understanding of the principles and processes of life sciences.

Cell Structure and Function

- Understand cellular structure and function and the relationship between structure and function in biological systems
- Compare the structures and functions of different types of biomolecules, including carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids
- Investigate and explain cellular processes, including homeostasis, energy transformations, transport of molecules, and synthesis of new molecules
- Demonstrate and explain the cycling of matter within living systems, including water, carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus
- Describe the flow of energy through living systems, including ecosystems, photosynthesis, and cellular respiration.

Molecular Biology

- Investigate and explain the components of the scientific theory of cells (cell theory):
 - All organisms are composed of cells (single-celled or multicellular)
 - The cell is the basic unit of structure and function in organisms
 - All cells come from pre-existing cells
- Investigate and explain cellular processes, including homeostasis, energy transformations, transport of molecules, and synthesis of new molecules

Mechanisms of Genetics

- Understand the variation of traits in populations
- Investigate and predict the outcome of various genetic combinations such as monohybrid crosses, dihybrid crosses, and non-Mendelian inheritance
- Identify and illustrate changes in DNA and evaluate the significance of these changes
- Investigate and explain the inheritance of traits
- Understand and explore the molecular basis of heredity, including patterns of inheritance, genetic variation, and evolution

Biological Evolution and Classification

- Understand the concepts of unity and diversity
- Analyze evidence of common ancestry and diversity of life
- Understand the process of natural selection and adaptation
- Understand and explain evolutionary processes
- Analyze and evaluate the evidence regarding formation of simple organic molecules and their organization into long complex molecules having information such as the DNA molecule for self-replicating life

Biological Processes and Systems

- Compare and contrast prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells
- Investigate and explain cellular processes, including homeostasis, energy conversions, transport of molecules, and synthesis of new molecules
- Investigate and explain the relationships among living organisms in ecosystems

- Investigate and explain the relationships between organisms and biotic and abiotic components of their environments
- Identify the significance of meiosis to sexual reproduction and genetic variation.

Organisms and Environments

- Understand and explain the concept of conservation of biodiversity
- Investigate and explain the effects of human activities on the environment and its ecosystems
- Investigate and explain the interactions in an ecosystem including food chains, food webs, and food pyramids
- Analyze the flow of matter and energy through trophic levels using various models, including food chains, food webs, and ecological pyramids
- Distinguish between biotic and abiotic factors

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in biological phenomena
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in biological systems
- Considering scale and proportion in biological contexts
- Understanding biological systems and constructing models to represent them
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in biological systems
- Understanding the relationship between structure and function in biological entities
- Investigating stability and change in biological systems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating scientific questions and defining problems related to biology
- Developing and using models to represent biological systems and processes
- Designing and conducting experiments to investigate biological phenomena
- Analyzing and interpreting biological data to draw conclusions
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to biological problems
- Constructing explanations based on evidence and designing solutions to biological problems
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from biology
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating biological information

Chemistry

The focus of chemistry is the study of matter, its composition, properties, and reactions. Students will learn about atomic structure, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, acids and bases, and thermodynamics. Through laboratory experiments and theoretical concepts, students will explore the fundamental principles of chemistry and gain practical skills in observation, measurement, and analysis.

Matter and Energy

- Investigate and identify the conservation of matter
- Investigate and identify the law of conservation of mass
- Investigate and identify the law of definite proportions
- Investigate and identify the law of multiple proportions
- Investigate and identify chemical and physical properties of matter
- Investigate and identify changes in matter, including physical changes, chemical changes, and changes in states
- Investigate and identify the types of energy
- Investigate and identify the conservation of energy within a system
- Investigate and identify the concepts of kinetic and potential energy
- Investigate and identify energy in chemical processes and everyday life

Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table

- Investigate and explain the use of the spectroscope in identifying elements
- Investigate and describe the characteristics of chemical elements
- Investigate and identify the origins of modern atomic theory
- Investigate and identify the contributions of scientists to our understanding of the atom
- Investigate and identify the development of the modern periodic table

Chemical Bonding and Reactions

- Investigate and describe the types of chemical bonds
- Investigate and describe the types of chemical reactions
- Investigate and explain the rates of reactions and factors affecting reaction rates
- Investigate and describe the effects of temperature, catalysts, and inhibitors on chemical reactions
- Investigate and identify the law of definite proportions and the law of multiple proportions
- Investigate and identify the properties of solutions and gases
- Investigate and identify changes in matter, including physical changes, chemical changes, and changes in states of solutions and gases
- Investigate and identify the concepts and properties of chemical kinetics and thermodynamics
- Identify the concepts and properties of nuclear chemistry and radioactive decay
- Investigate and identify the concepts and properties of biochemistry

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in chemical phenomena
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in chemical systems
- Considering scale and proportion in chemical contexts
- Understanding chemical systems and constructing models to represent them
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in chemical systems
- Understanding the relationship between structure and function of chemical entities
- Investigating stability and change in chemical systems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating scientific questions and defining problems related to chemical phenomena
- Developing and using models to represent chemical structures and processes

- Designing and conducting experiments to investigate chemical phenomena
- Analyzing and interpreting data from chemical experiments
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to solve chemical problems
- Constructing explanations based on evidence and designing solutions to chemical problems
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from chemistry
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating chemical information

Physics

The focus of physics is to build an understanding of the fundamental principles that govern the natural world. Students will learn about motion, forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism, and modern physics concepts. Through experimentation, problem-solving, and mathematical analysis, students will explore the laws of physics and their applications to real-world phenomena. This course emphasizes critical thinking, analytical skills, and the scientific method.

Forces and Interactions

- Analyze and investigate types of forces such as gravity, electromagnetic, and friction
- Investigate and demonstrate the relationship between force and motion
- Investigate and demonstrate the relationship between work and energy
- Investigate and demonstrate the relationship between force, mass, and acceleration
- Investigate and demonstrate the relationship between the force exerted on an object and the object's resulting motion
- Investigate and demonstrate the relationship between the force exerted on an object and the object's resulting motion

Energy

- Analyze and investigate types of energy
- Analyze and investigate energy transformations
- Investigate and identify the law of conservation of energy
- Investigate and identify the law of conservation of linear momentum
- Investigate and demonstrate the relationship between the speed of an object and the energy of that object

Waves, Sound, and Light

- Analyze and understand the characteristics of waves
- Analyze and understand the electromagnetic spectrum
- Investigate and demonstrate the relationship between the wavelength and frequency of light and the pitch of sound

Electricity and Magnetism

- Analyze and understand electric circuits, magnetism, and electromagnetism
- Investigate and explain the photoelectric effect

Modern Physics and Nuclear Processes

- Investigate and explain special relativity
- Investigate and explain wave-particle duality
- Introduction to radioactivity and nuclear reactions
- Introduction to the properties and behavior of nuclear and subatomic particles

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in physical phenomena
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in physical systems
- Considering scale and proportion in physical contexts
- Understanding physical systems and constructing models to represent them
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in physical systems
- Understanding the relationship between structure and function of physical entities
- Investigating stability and change in physical systems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating scientific questions and defining problems related to physical phenomena
- Developing and using models to represent physical structures and processes
- Designing and conducting experiments to investigate physical phenomena
- Analyzing and interpreting data from physical experiments
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to solve physical problems
- Constructing explanations based on evidence and designing solutions to physical problems
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from physics
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating physics related information

Environmental Science

The focus of environmental science is to examine the interrelationships between humans and the natural world, focusing on topics such as ecosystems, biodiversity, conservation, pollution, and sustainability. Students will explore the scientific principles underlying environmental issues and learn about the impacts of human activities on the environment. Through inquiry-based learning and hands-on investigations, students will develop an understanding of environmental challenges and explore potential solutions for a more sustainable future.

Earth's Systems

- Investigate and analyze interactions within Earth's systems
- Investigate and analyze climate and weather
- Investigate and analyze the Earth's subsystems (geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere)

Ecosystems

- Investigate and analyze energy flow in ecosystems
- Analyze and explain biotic and abiotic factors
- Analyze and explain ecosystem dynamics
- Investigate and describe the interdependence of organisms within an ecosystem
- Investigate and describe the flow of energy through trophic levels
- Investigate and explain the interactions in an ecosystem, including food chains, food webs, and food pyramids

Natural Resources

- Investigate and identify the distribution of renewable and nonrenewable resources
- Investigate and identify the use and conservation of renewable and nonrenewable resources
- Investigate and identify components of air and the natural processes that affect the quality of air
- Investigate and identify components of water and the natural processes that affect the quality of water
- Investigate and identify components of soil and the natural processes that affect the quality of soil
- Investigate and explain the effects of human activities on the quality of air, water, and soil

Human Sustainability

- Analyze and understand the human impact on ecosystems and the environment
- Analyze and understand the conservation of biodiversity
- Analyze and understand sustainable practices
- Investigate and describe the effects of natural events on the environment
- Investigate and describe the effects of population growth on the environment
- Investigate and describe environmental decisions that are made at the local, state, national, and international levels
- Investigate and explain the impact of environmental decisions on various populations

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in environmental phenomena
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in environmental systems
- Considering scale and proportion in environmental contexts
- Understanding environmental systems and constructing models to represent them
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in environmental systems
- Understanding the relationship between structure and function of environmental entities
- Investigating stability and change in environmental systems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating scientific questions and defining problems related to environmental science

- Developing and using models to represent environmental systems and processes
- Designing and conducting experiments to investigate environmental phenomena
- Analyzing and interpreting data from environmental experiments
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to solve environmental problems
- Constructing explanations based on evidence and designing solutions to environmental problems
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from environmental science
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating environmental information

Astronomy

The focus of astronomy is the study of celestial objects and phenomena beyond Earth's atmosphere. Students will learn about the solar system, stars, galaxies, and the universe as a whole. Topics may include planetary motion, celestial mechanics, stellar evolution, cosmology, and the search for extraterrestrial life. Through observation, inquiry, and scientific inquiry, students gain an understanding of the vastness and complexity of the cosmos.

Earth's Place in the Universe

- Analyze and understand the scale of the universe
- Analyze and understand celestial bodies and their motions
- Analyze and understand gravity and the structure of the solar system

Earth and Space

- Investigate and explain the life cycle of a star
- Investigate and explain the nature of galaxies
- Investigate and explain the effects of the relative positions of the Earth, Moon, and Sun
- Investigate and explain the effects of objects in space
- Investigate and explain the effects of the positions of celestial bodies
- Investigate and explain the formation of the solar system

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in astronomical phenomena
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in celestial systems
- Considering scale and proportion in the context of the universe
- Understanding celestial systems and constructing models to represent them
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in celestial systems
- Understanding the relationship between structure and function of celestial entities
- Investigating stability and change in celestial systems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating scientific questions and defining problems related to astronomical phenomena
- Developing and using models to represent celestial bodies and their interactions
- Designing and conducting experiments or observations to investigate astronomical phenomena
- Analyzing and interpreting data from astronomical observations
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to analyze astronomical phenomena
- Constructing explanations based on evidence related to celestial phenomena
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from astronomy
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information related to astronomy

Anatomy and Physiology

The focus of the anatomy and physiology is to provide an in-depth exploration of the structure and function of the human body. Students will learn about the various systems of the body, including the skeletal, muscular, nervous, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, and reproductive systems. Through hands-on activities, dissections, and laboratory experiments, students will gain an understanding of how these systems work together to maintain homeostasis and support human life.

Structures and Processes

- Analyze and understand cellular structure and function
- Analyze and understand the structure and function of tissues and organs
- Analyze and understand homeostasis
- Analyze and understand systems in multicellular organisms

The Human Body - Structure & Function

- Investigate and explain the structure and function of cells
- Investigate and explain the structure and function of tissues
- Investigate and explain the structure and function of organs
- Investigate and explain the structure and function of organ systems

The Human Body - Homeostasis

- Investigate and explain the maintenance of homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of feedback mechanisms in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the integumentary system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the skeletal system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the muscular system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the nervous system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the endocrine system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the circulatory system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the respiratory system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the excretory system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the immune system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the digestive system in maintaining homeostasis
- Investigate and explain the role of the reproductive system in maintaining homeostasis

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in biological structures and processes
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in physiological systems
- Considering scale and proportion in the context of biological entities
- Understanding biological systems and constructing models to represent them
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in biological systems
- Understanding the relationship between structure and function of biological entities
- Investigating stability and change in biological systems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating scientific questions and defining problems related to anatomy and physiological processes
- Developing and using models to represent biological structures and processes
- Designing and conducting experiments or observations to investigate biological phenomena
- Analyzing and interpreting data from biological experiments
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to solve biological problems
- Constructing explanations based on evidence related to anatomy and physiology

- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from biological studies
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information related to anatomy and physiology

Comparative Anatomy

The focus of comparative anatomy is a comparison of the anatomical structures of different organisms to identify similarities and differences in their evolutionary relationships. Students will explore the diversity of life through the study of vertebrate and invertebrate anatomy, examining adaptations for different environments and lifestyles. Through dissections, observations, and comparative analysis, students will gain insights into the evolutionary processes that have shaped the biological world.

Structures and Processes

- Analyze and understand cellular structure and function
- Analyze and understand structure and function of tissues and organs
- Analyze and understand relationships between structure and function in biological systems

Inheritance and Variation of Traits

- Analyze and understand the genetic basis of traits
- Analyze and explain inheritance patterns
- Analyze and explain variation in populations

Unity and Diversity

- Analyze and explain evidence of common ancestry and diversity of life
- Analyze and explain natural selection and adaptation
- Analyze and explain analogous structures of differing organisms

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in anatomical structures and evolutionary relationships
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in anatomical and evolutionary changes
- Considering scale and proportion in the context of biological entities and evolutionary timelines
- Understanding biological systems and constructing models to represent comparative anatomy
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in biological systems, considering how they relate to anatomical structures
- Understanding the relationship between structure and function of biological entities in a comparative context
- Investigating stability and change in biological systems, including how anatomical features change over evolutionary time

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating scientific questions and defining problems related to comparative anatomy
- Developing and using models to represent anatomical structures and evolutionary relationships
- Designing and conducting investigations to compare anatomical features across different species
- Analyzing and interpreting anatomical data to draw conclusions about evolutionary relationships
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to analyze comparative anatomical data
- Constructing explanations based on evidence related to comparative anatomy and evolutionary patterns
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from comparative anatomy studies
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information related to comparative anatomy and evolutionary biology

Earth Science

The focus of earth science is the study of the Earth's processes, including geology and meteorology. Students will learn about the Earth's structure, the dynamics of its atmosphere, the movement of its oceans, and the interactions between these systems. Through hands-on activities, laboratory experiments, and field studies, students will investigate natural phenomena such as weather patterns and geological formations, gaining an understanding of the interconnectedness of Earth's systems.

Earth's Place in the Universe

- Analyze and understand the scale of the universe
- Analyze and understand Earth's position in the solar system
- Analyze and understand patterns of motion in the sky

Earth's Systems

- Investigate and explain Earth's materials and systems (geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere)
- Investigate and explain interactions within Earth's systems

Earth and Human Activity

- Investigate and explain human impact on Earth's systems
- Investigate and explain natural resources and sustainability
- Investigate and explain human-induced changes to the atmosphere

Earth's Structures and Processes

- Investigate and analyze rock layers and the fossil record
- Investigate and analyze the Earth's structure
- Investigate and analyze plate tectonics
- Investigate and analyze the rock cycle
- Investigate and analyze external and internal geologic processes
- Investigate and analyze natural resources

Earth's Atmosphere

- Investigate and analyze characteristics of the Earth's atmosphere
- Investigate and analyze factors affecting weather and climate
- Investigate and analyze the interactions between the Earth's atmosphere and geosphere
- Investigate and analyze the impact of humans on the Earth's atmosphere
- Investigate and predict weather patterns

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in Earth Science phenomena
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in Earth's systems
- Considering scale and proportion in the context of Earth Science processes
- Understanding Earth's systems and constructing models to represent them
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in Earth's systems
- Understanding the relationship between structure and function of Earth's components
- Investigating stability and change in Earth's systems over various time scales

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating scientific questions and defining problems related to Earth Science phenomena
- Developing and using models to represent Earth's systems and processes
- Designing and conducting experiments or field investigations related to Earth Science
- Analyzing and interpreting data from Earth Science experiments and observations

- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to analyze Earth Science data
- Constructing explanations based on evidence related to Earth Science phenomena
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from Earth Science studies
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information related to Earth Science

Chemical Impact on History

The focus of the chemical impact on history is to examine the role of chemical discoveries, technologies, and innovations in shaping historical events, civilizations, and societal developments. Students will explore how chemicals, such as gunpowder, fertilizers, medicines, and synthetic materials, have influenced warfare, agriculture, medicine, industry, and environmental policies throughout history. Through case studies and analysis, students will gain insights into the profound impact of chemistry on human history and its continued relevance in contemporary society.

Historical Context

- Analyze and explain historical developments in understanding the structure of matter
- Analyze and explain the impact of chemical discoveries on technology and industry
- Analyze and explain historical examples of chemical reactions and their impact
- Analyze and explain contributions of scientists to our understanding of chemical reactions
- Analyze and explain chemical pollutants and their historical impact on the environment
- Analyze and explain historical events related to chemical waste disposal and cleanup
- Investigate the impact of key chemical advancements on technological, economic, and social aspects of historical periods
- Explore the societal attitudes towards chemical innovations during different historical periods

Case Studies and Environmental Impact

- Analyze case studies where chemical discoveries influenced historical events
- Explore how chemical innovations have shaped warfare, medicine, industry, and agriculture throughout history
- Investigate the historical and environmental consequences of chemical processes and pollution
- Examine the role of chemical advancements in environmental conservation and degradation throughout history
- Analyze the ethical considerations and societal impacts of chemical discoveries on diverse communities

Interdisciplinary Connections

- Integrate historical and scientific research methods to investigate the chemical impact on history
- Collaborate on interdisciplinary projects that examine the connections between chemistry, history, and other fields.

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing patterns in historical events related to chemical impacts
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships between chemical processes and historical outcomes
- Considering the scale of chemical processes and their historical significance
- Understanding chemical systems and their role in historical events
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in historical contexts involving chemicals
- Understanding the structure and function of chemicals and their impact on historical events
- Investigating stability and change in systems affected by chemical processes over time

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating scientific questions about historical events related to the impact of chemicals
- Developing models to represent chemical processes and their historical consequences
- Investigating historical case studies related to the impact of chemicals on society
- Analyzing historical data to understand the chemical impact on events and societies
- Applying mathematical thinking to analyze historical data related to chemical processes
- Constructing explanations for the historical impact of specific chemicals
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using historical evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information about the historical impact of chemicals

Cellular Biology and Genetics

The focus of cellular biology and genetics is the study of cells, their structures, functions, and processes, as well as the principles of heredity and genetic variation. Students will learn about cellular organelles, cellular metabolism, cellular communication, and the molecular basis of genetics. Through laboratory investigations and theoretical concepts, students will explore topics such as DNA replication, gene expression, Mendelian genetics, genetic disorders, and biotechnology applications. This class aims to provide students with a foundational understanding of the fundamental concepts in cellular biology and genetics.

Structures and Processes

- Investigate and analyze cell division and reproduction
- Analyze and understand homeostasis
- Analyze and explain the structure and function of DNA
- Investigate and explain the structure and function of cells
- Investigate and explain the structure and function of cell organelles
- Investigate and explain the structure and function of biological macromolecules
- Investigate and analyze cellular processes, including energy conversions
- Investigate and analyze the cell cycle and its regulation
- Investigate and analyze cellular transport mechanisms
- Investigate and analyze cell communication

Heredity and Genetics

- Analyze and explain the structure and function of genes
- Investigate and analyze patterns of inheritance
- Investigate and analyze genetic variation and natural selection
- Investigate and analyze the principles of genetics
- Investigate and analyze the processes of meiosis and mitosis
- Investigate and analyze genetic variations and adaptations
- Investigate and analyze the impact of DNA technologies

Unity and Diversity

- Investigate and analyze evidence of common ancestry
- Analyze and explain mechanisms of evolution
- Analyze and explain biodiversity and adaptation

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in cellular and genetic processes
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in cellular biology and genetics
- Considering scale and proportion in the context of cellular structures and genetic phenomena
- Understanding cellular and genetic systems and constructing models to represent them
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in cellular processes
- Understanding the relationship between the structure and function of cellular and genetic entities
- Investigating stability and change in cellular and genetic systems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating questions about cellular processes and genetic phenomena
- Developing models to represent cellular structures, genetic processes, and evolutionary concepts
- Designing and conducting experiments to investigate cellular and genetic phenomena
- Analyzing and interpreting data from cellular and genetic experiments
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to analyze genetic patterns and data

- Constructing explanations for cellular and genetic phenomena and designing genetic solutions
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from cellular biology and genetics
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information related to cellular biology and genetics

Neurology

The focus of neurology is an introduction to the study of the nervous system, including its structure, function, and disorders. Students will learn about the anatomy of the brain and spinal cord, as well as the mechanisms underlying sensation, movement, cognition, and behavior. Through discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on activities, students will explore topics such as neurons, synapses, neurotransmitters, brain development, and the relationship between the brain and behavior. This class will provide students with a basic understanding of the principles of neurology and its significance in understanding human physiology and health.

Neurobiology and Nervous System

- Investigate and explain the structure and function of neurons
- Investigate and analyze the structure and function of the nervous system, including its role in communication
- Explore the organization of the human brain
- Investigate and analyze the transmission of nerve impulses
- Investigate and analyze the genetic basis of traits related to the nervous system

Brain Function and Health

- Investigate and analyze brain functions related to sensory perception
- Explore the role of the brain in motor control and coordination
- Investigate and analyze the impact of drugs and substances on the nervous system
- Explore brain health and factors affecting cognitive function

Disorders and Diseases

- Investigate and analyze common neurological disorder
- Explore the impact of genetic and environmental factors on neurological health
- Investigate and analyze the inheritance of neurological disorders
- Investigate and analyze treatments and interventions for neurological disorders

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in neurological processes and structures
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in neurological functions
- Considering scale and proportion in the context of neurological structures and processes
- Understanding the nervous system as a complex system and constructing models to represent it
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in neurological processes
- Understanding the relationship between the structure and function of neurological entities
- Investigating stability and change in neurological systems

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating questions about the structure and function of the nervous system
- Developing models to represent neurological structures and processes
- Designing and conducting experiments or investigations related to neurology
- Analyzing and interpreting data from experiments or observations related to neurology
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to analyze neurological data
- Constructing explanations based on evidence related to neurology concepts
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from neurology studies
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information related to neurology

Neuropsychopharmacology

The focus of neuropharmacology is the study of drugs and their effects on the nervous system. Students will learn about the mechanisms of action of various drugs, including neurotransmitter interactions, receptor binding, and physiological responses. Topics may include the classification of drugs, drug abuse, addiction, and therapeutic applications. Through discussions, case studies, and laboratory experiments, students will gain insights into the complex interactions between drugs and the brain, as well as the societal implications of drug use and treatment.

Neuroscience and Pharmacology

- Investigate and explain cellular structure and function, including neurons and synapses
- Investigate and explain the nervous system and its role in communication
- Investigate and explain the structure and function of neurons
- Investigate and explain the genetic basis of traits related to neurological processes
- Explore the principles of pharmacology and drug classifications
- Explore and analyze the mechanisms of action of psychoactive drugs
- Analyze the impact of drugs on neurotransmission

Effects of Drugs on the Nervous System

- Analyze and explain the effects of drugs on the central nervous system
- Analyze and explain the impact of drugs on mental health and behavior
- Analyze and explain the potential for substance abuse and addiction

Medication and Health

- Investigate and analyze the use of medications in mental health treatment
- Explore ethical considerations in prescribing and using psychoactive medications
- Analyze the impact of medications on overall health and well-being
- Explore and analyze the inheritance of susceptibility to neuropsychopharmacological effects

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in the effects of neuropsychopharmacological substances on neurological processes
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in the impact of pharmacological substances on the nervous system
- Considering scale and proportion in the context of neurological processes affected by pharmacological substances
- Understanding the nervous system as a complex system and constructing models to represent its response to pharmacological substances
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in neurological processes influenced by neuropsychopharmacological substances
- Understanding the relationship between the structure and function of neurological entities affected by pharmacological substances
- Investigating stability and change in neurological systems under the influence of pharmacological substances

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating questions about the impact of neuropsychopharmacological substances on the nervous system
- Developing models to represent neurological structures and processes affected by pharmacological substances
- Designing and conducting experiments or investigations related to neuropsychopharmacology
- Analyzing and interpreting data from experiments or observations related to neuropsychopharmacology

- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to analyze data related to the effects of pharmacological substances on neurological processes
- Constructing explanations based on evidence related to neuropsychopharmacological concepts
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from neuropsychopharmacology studies
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information related to neuropsychopharmacology

Science of Vector-Borne Diseases

The focus of science of vector-borne diseases is the study of diseases transmitted by vectors such as mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas. Students will learn about the biology of vectors, the pathogens they carry, and the epidemiology of vector-borne diseases. Topics may include malaria, dengue fever, Lyme disease, Zika virus, and other emerging infectious diseases. Through investigations, data analysis, and discussions on prevention and control strategies, students will gain an understanding of the factors contributing to the spread of vector-borne diseases and the importance of public health interventions.

Structures and Processes

- Investigate and explain interactions within and between organisms in ecosystems
- Investigate and explain disease transmission and the role of vectors
- Investigate and explain interactions among organisms and their environment
- Investigate and explain the role of vectors in the spread of diseases within ecosystems

Vectors and Pathogens

- Investigate and analyze the life cycles and habitats of disease vectors
- Explore the biology and behavior of common disease vectors (e.g., mosquitoes, ticks)
- Investigate and analyze the transmission of pathogens by vectors
- Explore the diversity of pathogens causing vector-borne diseases

Disease Ecology

- Investigate the ecological factors influencing the prevalence of vector-borne diseases
- Analyze the impact of climate and environmental changes on vector-borne diseases
- Investigate the role of wildlife in the maintenance and transmission of vector-borne diseases
- Investigate human impact on ecosystems and the spread of diseases

Prevention and Control

- Explore strategies for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases
- Investigate the role of public health measures in controlling vector-borne diseases
- Analyze the challenges and ethical considerations in vector-borne disease control

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in the spread and transmission of vector-borne diseases
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in disease transmission and vector interactions
- Considering scale and proportion in the context of disease prevalence and vector populations
- Understanding ecological systems and constructing models to represent disease dynamics and vector interactions
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in ecological systems affected by vector-borne diseases
- Understanding the relationship between the structure and function of vectors and their role in disease transmission
- Investigating stability and change in ecosystems under the influence of vector-borne diseases

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating questions about the transmission and prevention of vector-borne diseases
- Developing models to represent ecological systems and disease transmission dynamics
- Designing and conducting investigations related to vector-borne diseases and their impact
- Analyzing and interpreting data from experiments or observations related to vector-borne diseases
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to analyze data on disease transmission and vectors
- Constructing explanations based on evidence related to vector-borne diseases and designing solutions for disease prevention

- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from vector-borne disease studies
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information related to vector-borne diseases and their impact

Aero-Astro

The focus of aero-astro is to explore the principles of aerospace engineering and astronautics. Students will learn about the design, construction, and operation of aircraft and spacecraft. Topics may include aerodynamics, propulsion systems, orbital mechanics, space exploration, and the challenges of space travel. Through hands-on projects, simulations, and theoretical concepts, students will gain insights into the science and engineering behind aerospace technologies and their impact on society and exploration beyond Earth.

Aerospace Fundamentals

- Investigate and analyze the principles of aerodynamics
- Explore the fundamentals of flight and spacecraft propulsion
- Investigate the principles of orbital mechanics and space navigation
- Analyze the properties and behavior of materials used in aerospace engineering
- Analyze and explain forces in the context of aerospace engineering

Spacecraft Design and Systems

- Explore spacecraft design principles
- Investigate and analyze the components and systems of spacecraft
- Explore the principles of space exploration and satellite technology
- Analyze and explain energy transformations in rockets and spacecraft
- Analyze and explain criteria and constraints in aerospace design projects
- Explore applications of waves in communication systems for aerospace technology

Astronautics and Spaceflight

- Investigate the physiological and psychological challenges of human spaceflight
- Explore the history and future of human space exploration
- Analyze the principles of life support systems in space
- Analyze and explain the types of energy and their applications in aerospace systems
- Explore engineering practices in designing and testing aerospace systems

Crosscutting Concepts

- Recognizing and using patterns in aerospace systems and their behaviors
- Understanding cause-and-effect relationships in the context of aerospace engineering
- Considering scale and proportion in the design and analysis of aerospace systems
- Understanding aerospace systems and constructing models to represent them
- Tracing the flow of energy and matter in aerospace systems
- Understanding the relationship between the structure and function of aerospace components
- Investigating stability and change in aerospace systems under different conditions

Science and Engineering Practices

- Formulating questions and defining problems related to aerospace engineering challenges
- Developing models to represent aerospace systems and their components
- Designing and conducting investigations related to aerodynamics and aerospace technologies
- Analyzing and interpreting data from experiments or observations related to aerospace engineering
- Applying mathematical and computational thinking to solve problems in aerospace engineering
- Constructing explanations based on evidence related to aerospace concepts and designing solutions for engineering challenges
- Engaging in scientific argumentation using evidence from aerospace engineering studies
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information related to aerospace technologies

Social Studies

The Upper School Social Studies objectives are based upon the standards and thematic strands as outlined by the National Council for the Social Studies, the Historical Thinking Standards as outlined by the UCLA Public History Initiative, and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Social Studies.

NCSS GUIDELINES

1. **Culture:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity. This should be addressed in units dealing with geography, history, sociology, and anthropology, as well as multicultural topics across the curriculum and place.
2. **Time, Continuity, and Change:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.
3. **People, Places, and Environments:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments. This should be addressed in units dealing with geography, regional studies, and world cultures.
4. **Individual Development and Identity:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of individual development and identity.
5. **Individuals, Groups, and Institutions:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions. This should be addressed in units dealing with sociology, anthropology, psychology, political science, and history.
6. **Power, Authority, and Governance:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create, interact with, and change structures of power, authority, and governance. This should be addressed in units dealing with government, politics, political science, civics, history, law, and other social sciences.
7. **Production, Distribution, and Consumption:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. This should be addressed in units dealing with concepts, principles, and issues drawn from the discipline of economics.
8. **Science, Technology, and Society:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of relationships among science, technology, and society. This should be addressed in units dealing with history, geography, economics, and civics and government.
9. **Global Connections:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of global connections and interdependence. This should be addressed in units dealing with geography, culture, economics, history, political science, government, and technology but may also draw upon the natural and physical sciences and the humanities, including literature, the arts, and languages.
10. **Civic Ideals and Practice:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic. This should be addressed in units dealing with civics, history, political science, cultural anthropology, and fields such as global studies and law-related education, while also drawing upon content from the humanities.

PUBLIC HISTORY INITIATIVE HISTORICAL THINKING STANDARDS

1. **Chronological Thinking**
 - Distinguish between past, present, and future time.
 - Identify the temporal structure of a historical narrative or story.
 - Establish temporal order in constructing historical narratives of their own.
 - Measure and calculate calendar time.
 - Interpret data presented in time lines and create timelines.
 - Reconstruct patterns of historical succession and duration; explain historical continuity and change.
 - Compare alternative models for periodization.
2. **Historical Comprehension**
 - Identify the author or source of the historical document or narrative and assess its credibility.
 - Reconstruct the literal meaning of a historical passage.

- Identify the central question(s) the historical narrative addresses.
 - Differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretations.
 - Read historical narratives imaginatively.
 - Appreciate historical perspectives.
 - Draw upon data in historical maps.
 - Utilize visual, mathematical, and quantitative data.
3. **Historical Analysis and Interpretation**
- Compare and contrast differing sets of ideas.
 - Consider multiple perspectives.
 - Analyze cause-and-effect relationships and multiple causation, including the importance of the individual, the influence of ideas.
 - Draw comparisons across eras and regions in order to define enduring issues.
 - Distinguish between unsupported expressions of opinion and informed hypotheses grounded in historical evidence.
 - Compare competing historical narratives.
 - Challenge arguments of historical inevitability.
 - Hold interpretations of history as tentative.
 - Evaluate major debates among historians.
 - Hypothesize the influence of the past.
4. **Historical Research Capabilities**
- Formulate historical questions.
 - Obtain historical data from a variety of sources.
 - Interrogate historical data.
 - Identify the gaps in the available records, marshal contextual knowledge and perspectives of the time and place.
 - Employ quantitative analysis.
 - Support interpretations with historical evidence.
5. **Historical Issues-Analysis and Decision-Making**
- Identify issues and problems in the past.
 - Marshal evidence of antecedent circumstances.
 - Identify relevant historical antecedents.
 - Evaluate alternative courses of action.
 - Formulate a position or course of action on an issue.
 - Evaluate the implementation of a decision.

Ancient Civilizations

The focus of the ancient civilizations class will be to examine the cultures, societies, and achievements of ancient civilizations around the world. Students will explore the history, geography, politics, economy, religion, art, and daily life of civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and China. Through analysis of primary sources, archaeological evidence, and cultural artifacts, students will gain insights into the foundations of human civilization and the enduring legacies of ancient cultures.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Analyze the sequencing of historical events and developments
- Evaluate continuity and change over time in ancient societies
- Identify and describe key figures, events, and movements in ancient civilizations
- Interpret the causes and consequences of major historical events and developments
- Analyze multiple perspectives on the history and culture of ancient civilizations
- Interpret primary and secondary sources to understand the historical context of ancient societies
- Evaluate the reliability, credibility, and bias of historical sources
- Understand the physical and cultural geography of ancient civilizations
- Analyze the impact of geography on the development of ancient societies
- Understand the economic systems and structures of ancient civilizations
- Analyze economic activities such as trade, agriculture, and commerce in ancient societies
- Evaluate the role of economics in shaping ancient civilizations
- Understand the political systems and structures of ancient civilizations
- Analyze the role of government, law, and leadership in ancient societies
- Evaluate the rights and responsibilities of citizens in ancient civilizations

Mesopotamian Civilization

- Explore the origins and development of Mesopotamia
- Explore the geography and environment of Mesopotamia
- Identify and investigate Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian, and Assyrian civilizations
- Analyze Mesopotamian contributions to philosophy, literature, art, architecture, and technology
- Analyze Mesopotamian political structures and rulers, including Hammurabi's Code
- Analyze Mesopotamian religion and belief systems, including polytheism and ziggurats
- Understand the global exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures as related to Mesopotamia

Ancient Egyptian Civilization

- Explore the origins and development of ancient Egypt
- Explore the geography and environment of ancient Egypt
- Identify and investigate pharaonic dynasties and periods, including the Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, and New Kingdom
- Analyze ancient Egyptian contributions to art, architecture, engineering, mathematics, and medicine
- Analyze ancient Egyptian religious beliefs and practices, including their mythology, gods, goddesses, and afterlife beliefs
- Analyze ancient Egyptian social structure and daily life, including social classes and the roles of men and women
- Understand the global exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures as related to ancient Egypt

Ancient Greek Civilization

- Explore the origins and development of ancient Greece
- Explore the geography and city-states of ancient Greece
- Analyze Athenian democracy and government
- Analyze ancient Greek contributions to philosophy, literature, drama, and art
- Explore and analyze the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars

- Investigate the Olympic Games and Greek religion
- Analyze ancient Greek religious beliefs and practices, including their mythology, gods, and goddesses
- Understand the global exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures as related to ancient Greece

Ancient Roman Civilization

- Explore the origins and development of ancient Rome
- Explore the geography and expansion of the Roman Empire
- Analyze the ancient Roman republican and imperial government structures
- Analyze ancient Roman contributions to law, engineering, architecture, and language
- Explore and analyze the Punic Wars and the rise of Christianity
- Explore and analyze daily life in ancient Rome, including social classes and family structure
- Analyze ancient Roman religious beliefs and practices, including their mythology, gods, and goddesses
- Understand the global exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures as related to ancient Rome

Ancient Chinese Civilization

- Explore the origins and development of ancient China
- Explore the geography and dynastic cycles in ancient China
- Analyze ancient Chinese contributions to philosophy, Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism
- Explore and analyze the Qin and Han dynasties
- Explore the Great Wall of China and Silk Road trade routes
- Identify and analyze Chinese inventions and technological advancements
- Analyze ancient Chinese religious beliefs and practices
- Understand the global exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures as related to ancient China

World Religions and Philosophies

- Explore the foundational beliefs of Judaism
- Explore the foundational beliefs of Christianity
- Explore the foundational beliefs of Islam
- Explore the foundational beliefs of Hinduism
- Explore the foundational beliefs of Buddhism

Optional Additional Civilizations

- Indus Valley Civilization
- Mesoamerican Civilizations, including the Maya, Aztec, and Inca
- Ancient African Civilizations, including the Kush, Axum, and Ghana

United States History

The focus of the United States history class will be to survey the political, social, economic, and cultural development of the United States from its early colonial beginnings to the present day. Students will explore key events, figures, movements, and ideas that have shaped the nation's history, including colonization, the American Revolution, westward expansion, slavery and abolition, industrialization, wars, civil rights struggles, and contemporary issues. Through analysis of primary sources, critical thinking, and discussions, students will gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and continuities of American history and its impact on society.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Understand the sequencing of major events and developments in U.S. history
- Analyze patterns of continuity and change over time in American society
- Interpret the causes and consequences of major historical events and movements
- Identify and describe key figures, events, movements, and ideas in U.S. history
- Interpret primary and secondary sources to understand historical contexts and perspectives
- Analyze multiple perspectives on historical events and developments in U.S. history
- Evaluate the reliability, credibility, and bias of historical sources
- Interpret primary and secondary sources to understand historical contexts and perspectives
- Understand the physical and cultural geography of the United States
- Analyze the impact of geography on the development of American society and culture
- Interpret maps, atlases, and other geographic tools to understand U.S. history
- Understand the principles of American democracy and the structure of government
- Explore key constitutional principles and amendments
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of citizens in American society
- Evaluate the role of economics in shaping American society and culture

Colonial America and Revolutionary Era

- Analyze European colonization of North America
- Examine the colonization of North America and the development of the thirteen colonies
- Analyze the causes, events, and consequences of the American Revolution
- Understand the founding principles of the United States and the drafting of the Constitution

Westward Expansion and the Antebellum Period

- Analyze westward expansion, including Manifest Destiny, the Oregon Trail, and the Mexican-American War
- Analyze the growth of slavery and sectional tensions
- Identify and understand reform movements, including abolition, women's rights, and temperance
- Identify and understand the causes and consequences of the Civil War

Reconstruction and the Gilded Age

- Identify and analyze reconstruction policies and challenges
- Explore industrialization and urbanization
- Identify immigration and migration patterns
- Analyze social and economic changes in the late 19th century
- Analyze the Industrial Revolution and its impact on society, economy, and labor
- Analyze the rise of urbanization and the challenges faced by cities
- Exploring the rise of big business, immigration, and the changing social landscape of the late 19th and early 20th centuries

Progressive Era and World War I

- Identify and analyze progressive reforms and social movements
- Analyze U.S. imperialism and involvement in World War I
- Identify and analyze the social, political, and economic effects of World War I

Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression

- Explore the Jazz Age and its relationship to cultural change
- Analyze economic prosperity and the stock market crash
- Identify the causes and consequences of the Great Depression
- Identify and analyze New Deal programs and government intervention

World War II, Postwar America, and Contemporary Issues

- Identify and analyze the causes, events, and consequences of World War II
- Analyze postwar economic, social, and political developments
- Analyze the U.S. involvement in the Cold War
- Identify the impact of Cold War policies and conflicts, including the Korean War and Vietnam War
- Analyze social and cultural changes in the 1950s and 1960s
- Understand the civil rights movement and challenges to segregation
- Identify and analyze challenges and controversies of the modern era, including globalization, terrorism, and environmental issues

Modern Global History

The focus of the modern global history class examines major historical developments and events that have shaped the world since the 19th century. Students will explore topics such as imperialism, nationalism, revolutions, world wars, decolonization, globalization, and contemporary issues. Through the study of diverse cultures, societies, and regions, students will analyze the interconnectedness of global history and its impact on political, economic, social, and cultural dynamics. This class aims to foster critical thinking skills and an understanding of the complexities of the modern world.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Understand the sequencing of major events and developments in modern global history
- Analyze patterns of continuity and change over time in global societies
- Identify and describe key figures, events, movements, and ideas in modern global history
- Interpret the causes and consequences of major historical events and movements
- Analyze the role of government, law, and leadership in shaping societies and cultures
- Analyze economic activities such as trade, industrialization, and globalization
- Evaluate the rights and responsibilities of citizens in global contexts
- Analyze the impact of geography on the development of societies and cultures
- Interpret maps, atlases, and other geographic tools to understand global history
- Analyze multiple perspectives on historical events and developments in modern global history
- Interpret primary and secondary sources to understand historical contexts and perspectives
- Evaluate the reliability, credibility, and bias of historical sources

Age of Revolutions

- Investigate and analyze the American Revolution and the birth of modern democracy
- Investigate and analyze the French Revolution and its impact on Europe and the world
- Investigate and analyze the Latin American revolutions for independence
- Investigate and analyze the Industrial Revolution and its economic, social, and political consequences

Imperialism and Colonialism

- Investigate and analyze the European colonization of Africa, Asia, and the Americas
- Investigate and analyze the impact of imperialism on indigenous peoples and cultures
- Investigate and analyze resistance movements and struggles for independence
- Investigate and analyze the formation of empires and global power structures

World Wars and Global Conflicts

- Analyze the causes, events, and consequences of World War I
- Analyze the rise of totalitarian regimes and ideologies (e.g., fascism, communism)
- Analyze the causes, events, and consequences of World War II
- Analyze Cold War tensions, conflicts, and global alliances

Decolonization and Globalization

- Analyze decolonization movements in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East
- Analyze the formation of new nation-states and challenges of nation-building
- Investigate globalization and interconnectedness in the modern world
- Explore the economic, social, and cultural impacts of globalization

Human Rights, Social Justice Movements, and Contemporary Global Issues

- Explore civil rights movements in the United States and around the world
- Explore women's rights movements and gender equality struggles
- Explore environmental movements and conservation efforts
- Explore indigenous rights movements and cultural preservation

- Analyze the challenges of globalization, including economic inequality and environmental degradation
- Investigate global conflicts and efforts for peace and security
- Analyze humanitarian crises and refugee migrations
- Investigate emerging technologies and their impact on societies and cultures

U.S. Government

The focus of the U.S. government class will be to explore the principles, institutions, and processes of the American political system. Students will learn about the structure of government, including the Constitution, branches of government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Topics may include political parties, elections, civil liberties, public policy, and the role of the media. Through analysis of historical documents, case studies, and current events, students will gain an understanding of the foundations of American democracy and their role as informed citizens.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Identify and describe key figures, events, documents, and movements in the history of American government
- Understand the historical development of American government institutions and political systems
- Analyze how historical events and movements have shaped the structure and functions of the U.S. government
- Evaluate the relevance of past political decisions and policies to contemporary issues
- Analyze multiple perspectives on historical events and developments in American government
- Interpret the causes and consequences of major political decisions and policies
- Interpret primary sources such as constitutional documents, speeches, and political writings
- Evaluate the reliability, credibility, and bias of historical sources and interpretations
- Understand the geographic context in which American government institutions developed and operate
- Analyze the impact of geography on political processes, such as representation, voting patterns, and government structure

Foundations of American Government

- Analyze the philosophical and historical influences on American political thought, including Enlightenment ideas and colonial governance
- Understand the principles and ideals underlying the U.S. government
- Analyze the historical development of American democracy and political thought
- Explore key political documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers
- Investigate the context and drafting of the Constitution
- Identify and explain key concepts and principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Identify and explain the structure and functions of the three branches of government
- Identify and explain the principles of federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances
- Explore the processes of lawmaking, budgeting, and judicial review
- Explore the rights and responsibilities of citizens
- Analyze significant Supreme Court cases and interpretations of constitutional law that have shaped American governance

Political Systems, Ideals, and Institutions

- Analyze the historical development and evolution of American political systems and ideals
- Analyze the role of political parties, campaigns, and elections in American government
- Evaluate the influence of political ideologies and parties on American government
- Examine the influence of interest groups and lobbyists on government policies
- Analyze the electoral process, political parties, and the role of media in shaping public opinion
- Explore the function, structure, and powers of state and local governments
- Identify and investigate contemporary political issues and debates

Civic Values, Engagement, and Participation

- Identify and explain the principles and structures of American democracy
- Identify and understand the rights and responsibilities of citizens in American democracy

- Explore the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a diverse society
- Analyze the relationship between individual rights and societal interests
- Evaluate the importance of civic engagement, participation, and activism in maintaining a democratic society
- Analyze civic engagement strategies, including voting, advocacy, and community organizing
- Identify and analyze barriers to political participation
- Analyze the role of campaign finance, interest groups, lobbyists, and grassroots organizations in shaping public policy
- Investigate core civic values such as liberty, equality, justice, and the rule of law
- Explore concepts of fairness, tolerance, and diversity in American democracy

Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

- Identify and analyze individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution
- Understand the Bill of Rights and other constitutional protections
 - First Amendment freedoms: speech, press, religion, assembly, and petition
 - Due process, equal protection, and other constitutional protections
- Identify and analyze the responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society
- Explore civic engagement and methods of political participation
- Explore issues of privacy, surveillance, discrimination, freedom of speech, religion, and assembly
- Explore civil rights movements and challenges to equality and justice
- Analyze landmark Supreme Court cases related to civil liberties and civil rights
- Analyze the role of the media, interest groups, and public opinion in shaping government policies

Public Policy and Decision Making

- Understand the processes of lawmaking, budgeting, and policy implementation
- Analyze major public policy issues such as healthcare, immigration, and education
- Explore the role of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches in policy making
- Analyze the influence of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties on policy decisions

Global Connections

- Understand the role of the United States in the global community
- Examine how American government and political ideologies have influenced and been influenced by global events and trends
- Analyze international organizations, treaties, and agreements
- Analyze U.S. foreign policy decisions and their impact on international relations and global governance
- Explore issues of global citizenship, human rights, and social justice
- Evaluate the impact of U.S. foreign policy on domestic and international affairs

Political Movements and Change

- Examine major political movements in U.S. history, such as suffrage, civil rights, and labor movements
- Analyze how social and political movements have influenced government policies and institutions
- Explore the relationship between government actions and societal changes, including economic, cultural, and demographic shifts
- Analyze the role of interest groups, media, and public opinion in shaping government decisions and policies
- Identify and understand the structure and functions of the federal and state court systems
- Explore the role of the judiciary in interpreting laws and resolving disputes
- Analyze landmark Supreme Court cases and interpretations of constitutional law

Economics

The focus of the economics class will be to examine the principles, theories, and practices of economics within the context of American history and society. Students will explore topics such as supply and demand, market structures, fiscal and monetary policy, economic indicators, and international trade. Through case studies, simulations, and real-world applications, students will analyze economic trends, policies, and issues, gaining insights into the role of economics in shaping historical events, societal changes, and individual decision-making. The course aims to equip students with economic literacy and critical thinking skills essential for understanding and participating in the economy as citizens and consumers.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Understand the historical development of economic systems and theories
- Analyze how economic events and policies have shaped society over time
- Evaluate the impact of historical economic trends on contemporary issues
- Analyze multiple perspectives on historical economic events and developments
- Interpret the causes and consequences of major economic crises, reforms, and revolutions
- Evaluate the reliability, credibility, and bias of historical sources and interpretations

Foundations, Principles, and Economic Concept

- Investigate key economic theories and thinkers, such as Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes
- Investigate fundamental economic concepts such as scarcity, choice, opportunity cost, and the role of incentives
- Investigate basic economic concepts such as supply and demand, market structures, and economic systems
- Investigate factors of production such as land, labor, capital, entrepreneurship
- Explore economic systems, including market economies, command economies, mixed economies, and their impact on society
- Analyze historical debates over economic concepts such as capitalism, socialism, and communism
- Examine how economic ideas have influenced political ideologies and policy decisions
- Analyze economic issues and policies at the local, national, and global levels
- Analyze how individuals, businesses, and governments make economic decisions

Microeconomics

- Analyze the behavior of consumers, producers, and markets in the allocation of resources
- Understand the role of competition, prices, and incentives in microeconomic decision making
- Explore concepts such as production, costs, revenue, and market structures and their implications for economic efficiency

Macroeconomics

- Analyze the performance of the economy as a whole, including measures such as GDP, inflation, and unemployment
- Understand the goals of macroeconomic policy, including economic growth, price stability, and full employment
- Explore fiscal policy, monetary policy, and other government interventions in macroeconomic management, and their impact on the economy
- Investigate business cycles, recessions, and economic stabilization

Market Structures and Competition

- Investigate the concepts of perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly, monopolistic competition
- Understand price determination strategies and market power and efficiency

- Explore the role of government in regulating markets and promoting competition

Personal Finance and Economic Decision Making

- Understand personal finance concepts such as budgeting, saving, investing, and borrowing
- Explore economic risks, including insurance, investments, and retirement planning
- Analyze the impact of personal financial decisions on individuals and families

International Economics, Trade, and Globalization

- Examine historical patterns of international trade, mercantilism, and imperialism
- Analyze the impact of globalization on economic development, labor markets, and cultural exchange
- Evaluate historical debates over free trade, protectionism, and economic nationalism
- Analyze international trade, exchange rates, balance of payments, and currency markets
- Investigate Trade barriers, including tariffs, quotas, and subsidies
- Understand the benefits and costs of globalization and trade agreements
- Explore economic development, inequality, and poverty in a global context

Economic Crises, Transformations, and Government Intervention

- Examine major economic crises throughout history, such as the Great Depression, the Industrial Revolution, and the Great Recession
- Analyze the causes and consequences of economic transformations, including technological innovations, globalization, and deindustrialization
- Evaluate government responses to economic crises, such as fiscal stimulus programs, monetary policy interventions, and regulatory reforms
- Identify and analyze elements of fiscal policy including taxation, government spending, and budget deficits
- Identify and analyze elements of monetary policy: role of the Federal Reserve, money supply, and interest rates
- Analyze government regulation and antitrust policies

Labor Markets, Income Distribution, and Economic Inequality

- Analyze wage determination and income inequality
- Investigate the historical development of labor movements, unions, and workers' rights
- Analyze historical trends in income distribution, wealth inequality, and social mobility
- Explore historical debates over economic justice, fairness, and the role of government in addressing inequality
- Explore government policies to address poverty and income distribution
- Explore the relationship between supply and demand including factors that affect this relationship and the elasticity of it
- Explore the relationship between labor supply and demand
- Explore market equilibrium and the role of prices

Environmental Economics and Sustainability

- Investigate the historical relationship between economic growth, industrialization, and environmental degradation
- Analyze historical efforts to address environmental challenges, such as pollution, resource depletion, and climate change
- Explore historical debates over sustainable development, conservation, and the role of markets versus government regulation

American Studies

The focus of the American studies class will be to integrate the study of American history, literature, and culture to provide a comprehensive understanding of the United States' past and its impact on contemporary society. Students will explore diverse perspectives, voices, and experiences that have shaped the American identity. Through interdisciplinary approaches, including primary source analysis, literature discussions, and multimedia presentations, students will examine themes such as identity, citizenship, power, and social justice. The course will foster critical thinking skills and encourage students to make connections between historical events, cultural artifacts, and contemporary issues, promoting a deeper understanding of the complexities of American society and its place in the world.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Identify and describe major themes, trends, and patterns in American history and society.
- Analyze the causes and consequences of key events, movements, and turning points in American history
- Evaluate the significance of chronological context in shaping historical narratives and interpretations
- Interpret primary and secondary sources to understand historical events, perspectives, and interpretations
- Gather and analyze primary and secondary sources to support historical arguments and inquiries
- Analyze historical sources and interpretations to evaluate different perspectives and biases
- Interpret the motivations, actions, and consequences of historical actors and events
- Evaluate the reliability, credibility, and limitations of historical evidence and sources
- Construct coherent narratives and arguments based on historical evidence and analysis
- Conduct independent research projects on topics in American history, culture, and society
- Present research findings effectively through written reports, presentations, and multimedia projects

Geography and Environmental Stewardship

- Study the geographical diversity of the United States and its influence on American history, economy, and society
- Analyze the relationships between people, places, and environments in American history and contemporary life
- Explore environmental issues and challenges facing American communities and their implications for sustainability and civic responsibility
- Study the history of environmental conservation, preservation, and resource management in the United States
- Analyze the impact of human activities on the natural environment and ecosystems in America
- Explore efforts to promote environmental sustainability, conservation, and stewardship in American communities and policymaking

American History and Heritage

- Analyze the diverse cultural traditions, values, and identities that shape American society
- Explore the impact of immigration, migration, and cultural exchange on American culture and identity
- Investigate how cultural expressions such as literature, art, music, and popular culture reflect American values, beliefs, and experiences
- Investigate the major themes, events, and turning points in American history from pre-colonial times to the present day
- Explore the development of American political, social, and cultural institutions and their impact on American identity and values
- Analyze the contributions and experiences of diverse groups in American history, including Native Americans, African Americans, immigrants, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals
- Analyze the achievements, challenges, and ongoing struggles for equality and justice in American society

- Investigate the role of individuals, organizations, and government policies in advancing social justice and civil rights in America

Building a Country

- Study the founding of the American colonies and the development of colonial societies
- Analyze the causes and consequences of the American Revolution and the founding of the U.S.
- Explore the ideals, debates, and compromises that shaped the Constitution and early American government
- Examine the expansion of the United States westward and its impact on Native American communities and territories
- Analyze the ideologies of Manifest Destiny and American exceptionalism in shaping national identity and policy
- Investigate the social, economic, and environmental consequences of westward expansion on American society

Growing Pains and Change

- Study the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction era
- Analyze the experiences of enslaved people, free African Americans, and abolitionists during the Civil War and Reconstruction
- Explore the challenges of rebuilding the nation and achieving racial equality during Reconstruction
- Study the Progressive Era and the reform movements for social, political, and economic change
- Analyze the goals, strategies, and achievements of Progressive reformers and activists
- Explore the impact of Progressive reforms on American democracy, government, and society

20th Century Conflict and Fallout

- Examine the causes and consequences of World War I and the Treaty of Versailles
- Analyze the cultural, social, and economic transformations of the Roaring Twenties
- Investigate the impact of immigration, prohibition, and cultural movements on American life during the 1920s
- Study the causes and consequences of the Great Depression and the response of the New Deal
- Analyze the goals, programs, and controversies of the New Deal era
- Explore the impact of the Great Depression and New Deal on American society, politics, and government
- Examine the causes, course, and consequences of World War II and its impact on American society and global affairs
- Analyze the origins and dynamics of the Cold War and its impact on American politics and culture
- Investigate the experiences of Americans at home and abroad during World War II and the Cold War

Government and Civic Engagement

- Understand the principles of American government, democracy, and citizenship
- Analyze the structure and function of government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels
- Explore the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society, including voting, participation in civic life, and advocacy for social change
- Analyze the roles and functions of government institutions, political parties, and interest groups in American democracy
- Investigate the role of government institutions, political parties, and interest groups in shaping American democracy and policy outcomes
- Investigate the impact of civic engagement and activism on American politics, policymaking, and public discourse

Social Justice and Civil Rights

- Analyze the impact of social, cultural, and political movements on American society and identity
- Study the struggles for social justice and civil rights in American history, including the abolitionist movement, the civil rights movement, and contemporary social justice movements

- Analyze the strategies, leaders, and achievements of the Civil Rights Movement
- Explore the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on American society, politics, and culture
- Investigate the role of individuals, organizations, and government policies in advancing social justice and civil rights in America
- Analyze the achievements, challenges, and ongoing struggles for equality and justice in American society

Economic Development and Globalization

- Understand the economic development of the United States from agrarian beginnings to industrialization, post-industrialization, and globalization
- Examine the growth of industry, technology, and urbanization in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
- Analyze the impact of industrialization on American society, economy, and culture
- Investigate the rise of labor unions, reform movements, and social conflicts in response to industrialization
- Analyze the impact of economic policies, technological innovations, and global markets on American industries, workers, and communities
- Explore contemporary economic issues and challenges facing American society, including income inequality, globalization, and economic sustainability

Contemporary America

- Examine major social, political, and cultural developments in contemporary America
- Analyze current issues and debates in American society, including immigration, globalization, and environmental sustainability
- Investigate the challenges and opportunities facing America in the 21st century

European Studies

The focus of the European studies class will be to offer a comprehensive examination of European history, culture, and society from ancient times to the present day. Students will explore major events, movements, and developments that have shaped Europe's political, economic, and cultural landscape. Topics may include ancient civilizations, the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, colonialism, wars, revolutions, and European integration. Through analysis of primary sources, historical narratives, and interdisciplinary perspectives, students will gain insights into the complexities of European history and its global impact. The course aims to foster critical thinking, cultural understanding, and appreciation for the rich heritage of Europe.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Identify and describe major themes, trends, and patterns in European history and society
- Analyze the chronological development of European history from ancient civilizations to the present day
- Analyze the causes and consequences of key events, movements, and turning points in European history
- Evaluate the significance of chronological context in shaping historical narratives
- Interpret the motivations, actions, and consequences of historical actors and events
- Interpret primary and secondary sources to understand historical events, perspectives, and interpretations
- Construct coherent narratives and arguments based on historical evidence and analysis
- Analyze historical sources and interpretations to evaluate different perspectives and biases
- Gather and analyze primary and secondary sources to support historical arguments and inquiries
- Evaluate the reliability, credibility, and limitations of historical evidence and sources
- Present research findings effectively through written reports, presentations, and multimedia projects

Government and Economics

- Understand the political systems, institutions, and ideologies of European countries and regions
- Analyze the principles of democracy, monarchy, socialism, and other forms of government in European history and contemporary politics
- Investigate the role of European governments and international organizations in addressing global challenges and conflicts
- Study the economic systems, industries, and trade networks of Europe throughout history
- Analyze the impact of economic developments, innovations, and policies on European societies and global economics
- Explore contemporary economic issues and challenges facing Europe, including globalization, trade agreements, and economic integration

Ancient and Classical Europe

- Explore the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome and their contributions to European culture, politics, and philosophy
- Analyze the political structures, social systems, and cultural achievements of ancient European civilizations, including democracy, philosophy, and architecture
- Investigate the connections between ancient Europe and neighboring regions, including the Mediterranean and Near East
- Analyze the rise and fall of classical civilizations and their legacies in European history and modern society
- Explore archaeological evidence and primary sources to understand ancient European societies and their connections to the wider world

Medieval Europe, The Renaissance, and The Reformation

- Examine the medieval period in European history, including the Byzantine Empire, feudalism, and the rise of medieval kingdoms
- Analyze the impact of Christianity and the Catholic Church on European society, culture, and politics during the Middle Ages
- Analyze the cultural and intellectual developments of the Middle Ages, including the rise of universities, Gothic architecture, chivalry, and scholasticism
- Investigate the impact of the Crusades, Black Death, and other key events on medieval European society and culture
- Study the Renaissance as a period of cultural, artistic, and intellectual renewal in Europe
- Explore the works and achievements of Renaissance artists, writers, and thinkers and their influence on European and world culture
- Analyze the causes and consequences of the Protestant Reformation and its impact on European society, politics, and religion

The Enlightenment, Exploration and Expansion, and Revolution

- Study the Enlightenment as a period of intellectual and political change in Europe
- Analyze the ideas of Enlightenment thinkers and their influence on European politics and government
- Analyze the ideas of Enlightenment thinkers and their influence on European society, philosophy, and culture
- Examine European exploration, colonization, and global expansion during the Age of Exploration
- Analyze the impact of European imperialism and colonialism on indigenous peoples, cultures, and economies around the world
- Investigate the economic, political, and cultural motivations behind European exploration and colonial ventures
- Investigate the social consequences of European expansion for Europe and the wider world
- Explore the causes and consequences of the French Revolution and other revolutionary movements in Europe

Industrialization and Modernization

- Examine the Industrial Revolution and its impact on European society, economy, and politics
- Analyze the rise of nationalism, liberalism, and socialism in 19th-century Europe.
- Investigate the causes and consequences of European imperialism, nationalism, and militarism in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

World Wars, Totalitarianism, and The Cold War

- Study the causes, course, and consequences of World War I and World War II in Europe
- Analyze the rise of totalitarian regimes in Europe, including fascism, communism, and Nazism
- Explore the experiences of individuals, communities, and nations during wartime and under totalitarian rule
- Examine the origins and dynamics of the Cold War and its impact on Europe and the world

European Integration and Globalization

- Analyze the process of European integration, including the formation of the European Union and its institutions
- Investigate contemporary issues and challenges facing Europe in the post-Cold War era, including globalization, immigration, and nationalism
- Analyze the connections between European history and contemporary issues facing Europe and the world
- Investigate contemporary issues and challenges facing Europe in the context of globalization, migration, and international relations

Psychology

The focus of the psychology class will be to explore the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Students will learn about key concepts such as cognition, perception, motivation, development, personality, and social interaction. Through discussions, experiments, and case studies, students will gain insights into psychological theories and research methods. The course aims to provide a foundational understanding of the principles of psychology and their application to everyday life.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Examine the historical perspectives and paradigms that have shaped psychological thought, including behaviorism, psychoanalysis, cognitive psychology, and socio-cultural approaches
- Explore the historical context in which psychological theories, concepts, and practices emerged
- Analyze the influence of historical events, movements, and cultural changes on the development of psychology as a discipline
- Compare and contrast historical and contemporary perspectives on key topics in psychology, such as human nature, consciousness, and mental health
- Investigate the contributions of key figures in the history of psychology and their impact on shaping psychological thought
- Interpret primary and secondary sources related to the history of psychology, including texts, research studies, and biographical accounts
- Analyze the methods, findings, and interpretations of historical psychological research and theories

Foundations of Psychology

- Explore the historical roots of psychology in philosophy, physiology, and natural sciences
- Investigate the emergence of psychology as a scientific discipline and its institutional development
- Develop an understanding of the history, theories, and methods of psychology
- Analyze the major schools of thought in psychology, including structuralism, functionalism, behaviorism, psychoanalysis, and cognitive psychology
- Explore the major perspectives and theories in psychology, including biological, cognitive, behavioral, psychodynamic, and socio-cultural approaches
- Explore the historical contexts and cultural influences that shaped the rise and decline of different psychological paradigms
- Explore and analyze the contributions of influential figures in the history of psychology, such as Wilhelm Wundt, Sigmund Freud, B.F. Skinner, and Carl Rogers
- Investigate the socio-cultural, political, and intellectual contexts in which these figures lived and worked
- Explore the scientific principles and ethical considerations of psychological research

Cognitive Processes and the Biological Bases of Behavior

- Investigate the structure and function of the nervous system and its role in behavior and mental processes
- Analyze the influence of genetics, hormones, and neurotransmitters on behavior and psychological disorders
- Explore the relationship between brain anatomy, physiology, and psychological functions such as sensation, perception, emotion, memory, and language
- Examine the processes of sensation, perception, attention, memory, language, and thinking
- Analyze cognitive theories and models of information processing, problem-solving, decision-making, and creativity
- Investigate cognitive development across the lifespan and its implications for learning, intelligence, and cognitive abilities

Understanding Human Behavior

- Develop an understanding of the major theories, concepts, and principles of psychology
- Analyze the biological, cognitive, emotional, and social factors that influence human behavior
- Understand the role of culture, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status in shaping individual and group behavior
- Analyze how cultural norms, values, and beliefs influence psychological processes such as perception, cognition, and social interaction
- Explore the psychological implications of diversity, prejudice, discrimination, and social inequality
- Explore the physiological, cognitive, and social components of emotions and motivations
- Analyze theories of emotion and motivation, including biological, cognitive, and socio-cultural perspectives
- Explore the role of emotions and motivations in behavior, decision-making, and psychological well-being
- Explore theories of personality, personality assessment, and individual differences in behavior, cognition, and emotion
- Investigate the influence of genetics, environment, culture, and life experiences on personality development and expression
- Explore the applications of psychological theories and research to real-world issues and challenges

Social Psychology

- Examine the influence of social norms, roles, and group dynamics on individual behavior and attitudes
- Analyze theories of social influence, social perception, attitudes, conformity, obedience, persuasion, and group dynamics
- Investigate social cognition, interpersonal relationships, and the psychology of prejudice, discrimination, and aggression
- Analyze interpersonal relationships, communication, conflict resolution, and the psychology of love, attraction, and aggression

Developmental Psychology

- Study the physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional development across the lifespan, including infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age
- Analyze theories of development, including psychoanalytic, cognitive, socio-cultural, and ecological perspectives
- Explore the influence of family, peers, schools, and society on individual development and identity formation

Abnormal Psychology, Psychological Disorders, and Therapeutic Interventions

- Examine the classification, diagnosis, and treatment of psychological disorders
- Analyze theories of psychopathology and the biopsychosocial factors that contribute to mental illness
- Investigate the prevalence, causes, and consequences of psychological disorders, such as anxiety, mood, psychotic, and personality disorders
- Examine the various approaches to psychological therapy and counseling, including psychotherapy, behavior therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and humanistic therapy
- Analyze the effectiveness of therapeutic interventions for treating psychological disorders and promoting psychological well-being
- Explore the ethical considerations and professional responsibilities of psychologists and mental health professionals in providing therapy and counseling services

Health Psychology

- Study the interactions between psychological factors and physical health, illness, and well-being
- Analyze theories of health behavior, stress, coping, and resilience
- Explore the role of psychological interventions in promoting health, preventing illness, and managing chronic conditions

Applied Psychology

- Examine the applications of psychology in various fields, such as education, work, sports, and forensic psychology
- Analyze the principles of learning, memory, and cognition in educational settings
- Investigate the role of psychology in career development, organizational behavior, and leadership
- Apply psychological concepts and theories to analyze and solve problems in personal, social, and cultural contexts

Ethical and Social Responsibility

- Develop an awareness of ethical principles and guidelines in psychological research and practice
- Analyze ethical dilemmas and controversies in psychology, such as confidentiality, informed consent, and research ethics
- Explore the responsibilities of psychologists and individuals in promoting psychological well-being, social justice, and human rights

Sociology

The focus of the sociology class will be to examine the study of society, social interactions, and social institutions. Students will explore topics such as culture, socialization, inequality, deviance, and social change. Through analysis of sociological theories, research methods, and real-world examples, students will gain insights into the patterns and structures that shape human behavior and relationships within various social contexts. The course aims to foster critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of the complexities of society and its impact on individuals and communities.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Understand the historical development of sociological concepts and theories
- Evaluate the relevance of historical context in understanding contemporary social issues
- Interpret primary sources such as sociological texts, research studies, and archival materials
- Construct historical narratives that illustrate the evolution of sociological ideas and methodologies
- Analyze multiple perspectives on historical sociological events and developments
- Interpret the causes and consequences of major social changes, including shifts in power dynamics, cultural norms, and social institutions
- Analyze how historical events and social movements have shaped society and influenced sociological thought
- Evaluate the impact of historical context on sociological theories and research findings

Foundations of Sociology

- Understand the origins, purpose, and scope of sociology as a social science
- Analyze key sociological concepts such as culture, socialization, social structure, and social institutions
- Analyze the contributions of early sociologists such as Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber
- Explore the methods and techniques used in sociological research

Societies and Social Institutions

- Understand the sociological perspective and its relevance to understanding human behavior and social institutions
- Analyze the basic concepts of sociology, such as culture, socialization, social structure, social norms, and social change
- Analyze the structure and functions of major social institutions, including family, education, economy, government, religion, and healthcare
- Understand the role of social institutions in shaping individual behavior and societal norms
- Identify, explore, and analyze the role of family in social relationships
- Examine family structures, roles, and functions in different societies and cultures
- Analyze contemporary issues related to family life, including marriage, parenting, divorce, and family diversity
- Analyze the role of education in socialization, social mobility, and the reproduction of social inequalities
- Analyze economic systems, structures, and institutions from a sociological perspective
- Analyze political systems, ideologies, and institutions and their impact on social life
- Explore the dynamics of social interaction and group behavior within different social contexts
- Explore the intersectionality of social institutions and their interconnectedness in society
- Explore the diversity of human societies and cultures, both past and present

Socialization, Identity, and Social Interaction

- Analyze the process of socialization and its impact on individual identity formation
- Understand the role of socialization agents such as family, peers, media, and schools in shaping attitudes, values, and beliefs

- Understand the impact of social institutions on individual behavior, identity formation, and societal norms
- Explore the intersectionality of social identities, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and religion
- Analyze how voluntary and involuntary migration has shaped demographic trends, cultural diversity, and social identities
- Explore the impact of cultural diversity on individual identity, group dynamics, and societal cohesion
- Analyze patterns of social interaction, including cooperation, conflict, conformity, and deviance
- Explore the dynamics of interpersonal relationships, including family, peer groups, and romantic relationships
- Understand the role of social norms, roles, and status in shaping individual behavior and group dynamics
- Analyze the components of group dynamics, including leadership, decision making, and social influence processes

Social Stratification and Inequality

- Analyze the distribution of power, wealth, and resources in society
- Understand the causes and consequences of social stratification and inequality based on factors such as race, class, gender, and age
- Analyze historical roots of social stratification and its impact on individual life chances and opportunities
- Analyze historical patterns of social inequality based on factors such as race, class, gender, and ethnicity
- Explore theories of social mobility, social change, and social justice
- Analyze historical efforts to address social inequalities through policy interventions and social reforms

Social Change, Social Movements, and Globalization

- Explore the role of social change agents and their strategies for effecting social change
- Understand the role of social movements in social change
 - Analyze how social movements have influenced public policy, cultural norms, & societal attitudes
 - Analyze the impact and influence of mass media and popular culture on individual behavior and societal norms
 - Explore and analyze historical social movements and reforms, including civil rights, labor rights, and feminist movements
 - Explore and analyze contemporary social issues and movements for social change, including environmentalism, human rights, and social justice
- Analyze and explore the relationship between power dynamics, political participation, and social movements
- Understand the role of globalization in social change
 - Explore globalization processes, including economic integration, cultural diffusion, and transnationalism
 - Analyze how globalization has reshaped social structure, cultural identities, & economic relations
 - Understand the impact of globalization on cultures, economies, and social structures worldwide
 - Analyze global social issues and movements, such as human rights, environmental sustainability, and global inequality
- Analyze how technological changes have influenced patterns of communication, labor markets, and social interactions
- Identify and explore historical debates over the social implications of technological advancements

World Religions

The focus of the world religions class will be to provide an overview of the major religious traditions practiced around the globe. Students will explore the beliefs, practices, rituals, and cultural contexts of different religions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and others. Through readings, discussions, and comparative analysis, students will gain insight into the diversity of religious experiences and develop an understanding of the role of religion in shaping societies, cultures, and individuals' lives. The course aims to promote religious literacy, tolerance, and appreciation for diverse perspectives.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Understand the historical development of major world religions and their key figures, events, and movements
- Interpret the causes and consequences of religious conflicts, reformations, and schisms throughout history
- Evaluate different interpretations of religious history and their implications for understanding contemporary religious issues
- Analyze religious texts, teachings, and doctrines within their historical and cultural contexts
- Explore how religious landscapes and sacred sites reflect historical and cultural significance
- Understand the geographical distribution of major world religions and their spread through trade, conquest, and migration
- Explore the interconnectedness of religion with other aspects of human experience, such as politics, economics, and art

Major World Religions, Religious Texts, and Traditions

- Explore the role of religious leaders, prophets, and reformers in shaping religious beliefs and practices
- Explore and analyze the origins, beliefs, practices, and historical development of major world religions such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism
- Explore and analyze lesser-known or indigenous religious traditions and their significance in different cultures and regions
- Analyze sacred texts, scriptures, and oral traditions central to various religious traditions
- Explore and analyze religious rituals, ceremonies, and symbols and their meanings within different cultural contexts
- Identify religious holidays, festivals, and observances and their role in religious and cultural identity
- Analyze religious art, architecture, literature, and music as expressions of religious beliefs and values
- Analyze religious symbolism, iconography, and storytelling in visual and performing arts
- Explore the influence of religion on the development of artistic styles, genres, and cultural traditions

Religion and Society

- Analyze the relationship between religion and social, political, and cultural institutions throughout history
- Explore the impact of religion on governance, law, education, and social norms in different historical periods
- Analyze the role of religion in shaping social structures, hierarchies, and power dynamics
- Understand the role of religion in promoting or inhibiting human rights, social justice, and equality.
- Explore religious institutions, leadership roles, and community practices within different religious traditions
- Examine historical examples of religious tolerance, persecution, and coexistence in diverse societies
- Examine the relationship between religion and social issues such as poverty, education, healthcare, and human rights
- Explore the intersection of religion with issues such as gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and environmental justice

- Understand the principles of religious freedom, secularism, and separation of church and state in democratic societies
- Analyze the influence of religious values and beliefs on civic engagement, political participation, and public policy
- Explore the responsibilities of citizens in fostering religious tolerance, understanding, and cooperation in diverse communities

The Role of Religion in Ethics and Conflict

- Examine the moral and ethical teachings within different religious traditions
- Explore religious approaches to morality, virtue ethics, and the pursuit of the common good
- Investigate historical religious movements, reformations, and schisms within different religious traditions
- Analyze historical and contemporary examples of religious conflicts, violence, and wars
- Analyze the root causes of religious tensions, including political, economic, and social factors
- Explore efforts to promote interfaith dialogue, reconciliation, and peacebuilding in conflict-affected regions
- Analyze ethical dilemmas and debates related to issues such as war, justice, euthanasia, and bioethics

Religion and Globalization

- Analyze the historical spread and diffusion of major world religions through trade, conquest, migration, and missionary activities
- Understand the impact of globalization on religious beliefs, interactions, and conflicts
- Explore contemporary issues and challenges related to religious pluralism, tolerance, fundamentalism, secularism, and cooperation in a globalized world
- Analyze the impact of globalization on religious diversity, syncretism, and cultural exchange

International Relations

The focus of the international relations class will be to examine the interactions and dynamics between countries on a global scale. Students will explore key concepts such as diplomacy, conflict resolution, international organizations, globalization, and geopolitical issues. Through case studies, simulations, and analysis of current events, students will gain insight into the complexities of international politics, economics, and culture. The course aims to foster critical thinking skills and an understanding of the interconnectedness of nations in the modern world.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Analyze the historical context in which international relations have evolved, including major events, movements, and shifts in global power dynamics
- Explore how historical legacies continue to influence contemporary international relations and conflicts
- Investigate the role of imperialism, colonialism, and decolonization in shaping the modern international system
- Interpret primary and secondary sources related to key events, treaties, and diplomatic negotiations in international relations
- Analyze the motives, interests, and perspectives of different actors, including states, non-state actors, and international organizations
- Evaluate competing historical interpretations and narratives of international conflicts, alliances, and crises
- Explore the ways in which historical experiences and memories inform national identities, foreign policies, and international cooperation
- Formulate research questions, gather evidence, and analyze historical sources to develop informed interpretations and arguments
- Present research findings effectively through written essays, oral presentations, and multimedia projects

History and Theories of International Relations

- Examine the historical development of international relations from ancient civilizations to the present day
- Analyze key events, movements, and turning points in world history that have shaped the modern international system including
 - the impact of imperialism, nationalism, and industrialization on global politics and international relations in the 19th and early 20th centuries
 - the causes and consequences of World War I
 - the failures of the League of Nations and the rise of totalitarian regimes in Europe and Asia
 - the causes and consequences of World War II
 - the origins, ideologies, and global ramifications of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union
 - the process of decolonization and the emergence of new nation-states in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East
- Explore the evolution of diplomacy, international law, and global governance structures, such as the United Nations (UN) and international organizations
- Examine major theories and paradigms in the field of international relations, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, and critical theories
- Analyze the assumptions, concepts, and implications of different theoretical approaches to understanding global politics and power dynamics
- Explore contemporary debates and challenges in international relations theory, such as globalization, sovereignty, and human rights

Government and Economics

- Explore the principles and institutions of government in different countries and political systems

- Analyze the roles and functions of international organizations and institutions, such as the United Nations (UN), World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Explore the concepts of sovereignty, diplomacy, and international law in the context of global governance and cooperation
- Examine the principles of international trade, finance, and development
- Analyze the impact of economic globalization on the interconnectedness of national economies and the distribution of wealth and resources
- Investigate the impact of economic globalization on global inequality, poverty, and sustainable development

Contemporary Challenges, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Issues

- Analyze the role of cultural identity, nationalism, and religion in shaping international conflicts and cooperation
- Explore strategies for promoting cultural understanding, tolerance, and dialogue in international relations
- Examine the concept of human rights and its universal application in international law and practice
- Analyze the challenges and violations of human rights around the world, including genocide, ethnic cleansing, and mass atrocities
- Explore the role of international humanitarian organizations, NGOs, and advocacy groups in promoting human rights, humanitarian assistance, and refugee protection
- Examine the impact of globalization on international trade, finance, and migration patterns.
- Analyze contemporary challenges in international relations, such as terrorism, environmental degradation, and global health pandemics
- Investigate the role of international organizations, multilateral agreements, and diplomatic initiatives in addressing global crises and conflicts
- Explore the connections between local actions and global consequences in areas such as human rights, environmental sustainability, and peacebuilding

Diplomacy, Security, and Defense

- Examine the rights, responsibilities, and challenges of global citizenship in an interconnected world
- Understand the political, economic, and social interdependence among nations and regions
- Examine the concepts of national security, collective security, and the causes of war and conflict
- Examine the principles and practices of international law, diplomacy, and conflict resolution
- Analyze the roles and functions of international organizations, such as the UN, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF), in addressing global challenges and promoting cooperation
- Investigate the role of diplomatic negotiations, peacekeeping operations, and multilateral agreements in managing international conflicts and crises
- Analyze the strategies and technologies of modern warfare, including nuclear proliferation, cyber warfare, and terrorism
- Explore the challenges of global security governance, disarmament, and peacebuilding in the 21st century
- Investigate transnational issues and challenges, such as climate change, migration, terrorism, and pandemics, and their impact on global stability and security

Intro. to Philosophy

The focus of the introduction to philosophy class will be to explore fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, morality, and reality. Students will examine philosophical theories and arguments from ancient to contemporary thinkers. Through discussions, readings, and critical analysis, students will develop critical thinking skills and engage with foundational concepts in philosophy, such as ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, and logic. The course aims to encourage curiosity, open-mindedness, and reflection on life's fundamental questions.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Understand the historical development of philosophical ideas and movements across different cultures and time periods
- Analyze how philosophical thought has evolved in response to historical events, cultural shifts, and intellectual trends
- Evaluate the impact of historical context on the interpretation and reception of philosophical texts and theories
- Identify and describe key philosophical figures, texts, and movements in the history of philosophy
- Interpret primary sources such as philosophical texts, treatises, and dialogues within their historical and cultural contexts
- Construct historical narratives that contextualize philosophical developments and illuminate their significance for understanding human thought and society
- Analyze philosophical texts and arguments in relation to their historical context, intellectual milieu, and socio-political environment
- Interpret the contributions of different philosophical traditions and schools of thought to the broader history of ideas
- Evaluate the historical reception and legacy of philosophical concepts, theories, and debates

Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophical Thinking

- Investigate philosophy as a discipline and its major branches, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and aesthetics
- Investigate key philosophical concepts such as truth, reality, knowledge, reason, and meaning
- Introduction to philosophical methods, including critical thinking, logic, argumentation, and philosophical inquiry
- Explore the diversity of philosophical traditions and perspectives across different cultures and historical periods
- Analyze how cultural, social, and historical contexts shape philosophical thought and interpretation
- Investigate how philosophical perspectives influence global issues and cross-cultural understanding

Branches of Philosophy

- Metaphysics and Epistemology
 - Explore metaphysical questions about the nature of reality, existence, and the universe
 - Analyze epistemological questions about knowledge, belief, truth, skepticism, and certainty
 - Explore philosophical theories of mind, consciousness, perception, and the nature of being
- Ethics and Moral Philosophy
 - Examine major ethical theories, including utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, and existentialism
 - Examine ethical theories and moral principles that guide individual and collective decision-making
 - Analyze ethical dilemmas and moral decision-making in personal, social, professional, and real-world contexts
 - Explore applied ethics topics such as bioethics, environmental ethics, business ethics, social justice, rights, freedom, and responsibility

- Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art
 - Examine philosophical theories of beauty, art, and aesthetic experience
 - Analyze the nature of art, creativity, interpretation, and artistic expression
 - Explore the relationship between aesthetics and other areas of philosophy, such as ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology
- Philosophy of Religion and Existentialism
 - Explore philosophical questions about the existence of God, the nature of faith, and the problem of evil
 - Identify and study existentialist philosophers such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, and Camus
 - Analyze existential themes such as freedom, choice, authenticity, alienation, and the search for meaning in a seemingly absurd world
- Political Philosophy and Social Contract Theory
 - Identify and study political philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Rawls
 - Analyze key concepts in political philosophy, including justice, democracy, rights, authority, and citizenship
 - Explore contemporary debates in political philosophy, including liberalism, communitarianism, libertarianism, and feminism

History of Philosophy

- Ancient Philosophy
 - Study of key figures and schools of thought in ancient Greek, Roman, and Eastern philosophy, including Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, and the Stoics
 - Analyze foundational philosophical concepts such as metaphysics, ethics, epistemology, and political theory
 - Explore the historical and cultural context of ancient philosophical texts and their influence on subsequent philosophical traditions
- Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy
 - Examine medieval philosophical movements such as Scholasticism, Islamic philosophy, and Jewish mysticism
 - Explore Renaissance humanism and its impact on philosophical thought, including the revival of classical texts and the development of secular ethics
 - Analyze the relationship between medieval and Renaissance philosophy and religious institutions, political power structures, and scientific discoveries
- Early Modern Philosophy
 - Explore early modern philosophical movements such as rationalism, empiricism, and skepticism, including the works of Descartes, Locke, Hume, and Kant
 - Analyze the Enlightenment and its influence on philosophical debates about reason, freedom, equality, and progress
 - Analyze the historical context of early modern philosophy, including the scientific revolution, religious reformations, and political revolutions
- Modern and Contemporary Philosophy
 - Explore modern and contemporary philosophical movements such as existentialism, phenomenology, pragmatism, and postmodernism
 - Analyze 19th and 20th-century philosophers and their contributions to debates about identity, language, power, and knowledge
 - Explore the historical context of modern and contemporary philosophy, including social revolutions, cultural upheavals, and technological advancements

Philosophy and Social Change

- Explore the role of philosophy in addressing social issues such as justice, equality, human rights, and environmental sustainability.
- Analyze philosophical movements and figures that have contributed to social reform, liberation struggles, and resistance movements

- Explore the historical context of philosophical activism and its impact on social change efforts around the world

Social Studies Independent Study

The focus of the independent study class is to offer students the opportunity to explore topics of personal interest within the field of social studies. Through self-directed research, readings, projects, and discussions, students will delve deeply into specific areas such as history, economics, political science, sociology, or anthropology. Under the guidance of a teacher or mentor, students will develop critical thinking, research, and communication skills while pursuing their individual interests and passions in the social sciences.

Historical Thinking, Analysis, and Interpretation

- Analyze the influence of ideology, culture, and identity on historical interpretations and narratives
- Explore the complexities and contradictions inherent in historical accounts and representations
- Formulate research questions and hypotheses related to historical topics, themes, or problems
- Gather, evaluate, and analyze primary and secondary sources to address research inquiries
- Interpret primary and secondary sources critically, considering their authorship, perspective, and purpose
- Analyze the reliability, credibility, and bias of historical sources
- Construct well-supported arguments and narratives based on historical evidence
- Present research findings effectively through written reports, presentations, and multimedia projects

Topic Exploration and Study

- Choose a historical topic, theme, or period of interest for in-depth study and exploration
- Develop a research plan and timeline for investigating the chosen topic, incorporating relevant historical thinking standards and concepts
- Engage in independent study activities, such as archival research, oral history interviews, and site visits, to deepen understanding of the chosen topic

Research Skills and Methodologies

- Develop research skills, including locating and accessing primary and secondary sources, analyzing historical evidence, and synthesizing research findings
- Apply a variety of research methodologies, such as document analysis, quantitative data analysis, and comparative historiography, to investigate historical topics
- Use digital tools and technologies to enhance historical research and presentation methods

Project Development and Presentation

- Design a culminating project that demonstrates understanding of historical concepts, themes, and standards
- Choose from a variety of project formats, such as research papers, digital exhibits, podcasts, or public history projects
- Present the project to peers, teachers, and community members, articulating research findings, interpretations, and conclusions

Reflection and Evaluation

- Reflect on the learning experiences and challenges encountered during the independent study process
- Evaluate the effectiveness of research methods, sources, and project development strategies used in the course
- Identify areas for further inquiry and opportunities for future growth in the study of history and historical thinking

Spanish

The Upper School Spanish objectives are based upon the World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages as outlined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, guidelines set forth by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and the Guiding Principles of Learning Languages Other than English as set forth by the State of Texas.

State of Texas Guiding Principles:

1. All students are capable of and can benefit from learning other languages.
2. There are a great variety of factors that can influence how people learn languages.
3. Having a populace that is multilingual strengthens our society.
4. Early instruction benefits language learning and development of proficiency.
5. Maintaining and expanding the language of native speakers benefits the individual and society.
6. Students should have opportunities to develop proficiency in a variety of languages.
7. The discipline of Languages Other Than English connects to virtually every other subject matter, expanding the knowledge base available to its students.
8. Languages other than English enable students to better understand other cultures.

World-Readiness Standards:

1. **Communication.** Communicate effectively in more than one language in order to function in a variety of situations and for multiple purposes
 - **Interpersonal Communication:** Learners interact and negotiate meaning in spoken, signed, or written conversations to share information, reactions, feelings, and opinions.
 - **Interpretive Communication:** Learners understand, interpret, and analyze what is heard, read, or viewed on a variety of topics.
 - **Presentational Communication:** Learners present information, concepts, and ideas to inform, explain, persuade, and narrate on a variety of topics using appropriate media and adapting to various audiences of listeners, readers, or viewers.
2. **Cultures.** Interact with cultural competence and understanding
 - **Relating Cultural Practices to Perspectives:** Learners use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the cultures studied.
 - **Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives:** Learners use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the relationship between the products and perspectives of the cultures studied.
3. **Connections.** Connect with other disciplines and acquire information and diverse perspectives in order to use the language to function in academic and career-related situations
 - **Making Connections:** Learners build, reinforce, and expand their knowledge of other disciplines while using the language to develop critical thinking and to solve problems creatively.
 - **Acquiring Information and Diverse Perspectives:** Learners access and evaluate information and diverse perspectives that are available through the language and its cultures.
4. **Comparisons.** Develop insight into the nature of language and culture in order to interact with cultural competence

- Language Comparisons: Learners use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.
 - Cultural Comparisons: Learners use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.
5. **Communities**. Communicate and interact with cultural competence in order to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world
- School and Global Communities: Learners use the language both within and beyond the classroom to interact and collaborate in their community and the globalized world.
 - Lifelong Learning: Learners set goals and reflect on their progress in using languages for enjoyment, enrichment, and advancement.

Spanish I

The focus of Spanish I class is to introduce students to the basics of the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn essential vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills to communicate in everyday situations. Through interactive activities, practice exercises, and cultural exploration, students will develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. The course aims to provide a foundation for further language learning and appreciation for Spanish-speaking cultures.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- Acquire and use basic vocabulary related to everyday topics such as greetings, family, school, food, and leisure activities
- Acquire vocabulary through repetition, visual aids, and contextualized language practice
- Develop strategies for vocabulary acquisition and retention, including word association, visual aids, and mnemonic devices
- Expand vocabulary through exposure to authentic materials and contextualized language practice
- Understand and apply fundamental grammatical structures and syntax in Spanish, including verb conjugation, noun-adjective agreement, and sentence formation
- Practice using present tense verbs in regular and irregular forms, as well as common prepositions and conjunctions
- Demonstrate understanding of basic grammatical concepts through oral and written communication tasks

Communication

- Engage in opportunities for interpersonal communication
 - Participate in structured pair and group activities to practice speaking and listening skills in Spanish
 - Engage in conversations and exchanges of information in Spanish with classmates and instructors
 - Engage in basic conversations and exchanges in Spanish, focusing on greetings, introductions, and personal information
 - Ask and answer questions on familiar topics using simple sentences and common vocabulary
 - Ask and answer simple questions using basic sentence structures
 - Demonstrate understanding of spoken and written messages and respond appropriately
- Engage in opportunities for presentational communication
 - Introduce oneself and others in Spanish, providing personal information such as name, age, and nationality
 - Describe people, places, objects, and activities using basic vocabulary and sentence patterns
 - Present information, ideas, and opinions orally and in writing using basic language structures and vocabulary
 - Create and deliver short presentations on familiar topics using visual aids and simple language
 - Write simple messages, notes, and short paragraphs in Spanish to communicate information and ideas
 - Use visual aids, gestures, and props to support oral presentations and enhance communication effectiveness
 - Use appropriate pronunciation, intonation, and expression when speaking and writing in Spanish
- Engage in opportunities for interpretive communication
 - Understand and follow simple spoken and written instructions in Spanish, such as classroom commands and basic directions
 - Comprehend spoken Spanish in classroom instructions, announcements, and simple conversations
 - Understand and interpret spoken and written texts in Spanish, including conversations, announcements, and short texts
 - Understand basic written texts in Spanish, including short stories, dialogues, and informational passages

- Identify main ideas, key details, and contextual information from authentic Spanish materials with visual support
- Demonstrate comprehension of cultural references and situational contexts in Spanish-language texts

Cultural Understanding

- Explore cultural practices, traditions, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking countries and communities
- Learn about important cultural landmarks, festivals, and celebrations associated with Spanish-speaking cultures
- Compare and contrast cultural norms, values, and customs across different Spanish-speaking regions
- Demonstrate respect and sensitivity towards diverse cultural backgrounds and perspectives
- Recognize the diversity and richness of Spanish-speaking cultures and their contributions to global society
- Engage with authentic cultural materials to deepen understanding of Spanish-speaking communities
- Explore cultural artifacts, symbols, and products from Spanish-speaking countries, including literature, music, art, and cuisine
- Analyze the significance and impact of cultural products on identity, heritage, and cultural expression
- Explore everyday practices, rituals, and social customs of Spanish-speaking communities
- Participate in cultural activities and events related to Spanish-speaking cultures, both in and outside the classroom
- Reflect on personal experiences and interactions within Spanish-speaking cultural contexts
- Participate in cultural activities and events related to Spanish-speaking cultures, such as music, festivals, and dance performances, food tastings, holidays, and cultural presentations
- Respect and appreciate cultural differences and similarities between Spanish-speaking communities and one's own culture
- Reflect on personal experiences and interactions within diverse Spanish-speaking cultural contexts to deepen cultural understanding

Connections and Comparison

- Compare and contrast Spanish with other languages, including English, in terms of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation
- Identify similarities and differences between Spanish and students' native languages or other languages they are learning
- Recognize language contact phenomena and borrowings from other languages in Spanish vocabulary and syntax
- Recognize the linguistic diversity and variation within the Spanish-speaking world
- Make connections between Spanish language learning and other academic disciplines, such as history, geography, and literature
- Explore thematic topics, cultural phenomena, and issues across different subject areas through Spanish-language materials
- Apply language skills and cultural knowledge to real-world contexts and interdisciplinary projects
- Compare cultural practices, traditions, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking communities with those of other cultures
- Explore universal themes and issues across cultures and societies, such as family, education, and social justice
- Foster empathy, tolerance, and appreciation for cultural diversity through comparative analysis
- Seek out opportunities for authentic communication and cultural exchange with native speakers of Spanish
- Extend language learning beyond the classroom by engaging with Spanish-speaking communities locally and globally
- Participate in service-learning projects and community initiatives that promote cross-cultural understanding and collaboration

Spanish II

The focus of Spanish II is to build upon the foundations established in Spanish I, deepening students' proficiency in the language and understanding of Hispanic cultures. Students will expand their vocabulary, grammar knowledge, and conversational skills to engage in more complex discussions and written communication. Through immersive activities, authentic materials, and cultural exploration, students will further develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing abilities in Spanish. The course aims to enhance language fluency and cultural competency, preparing students for more advanced language studies or real-world interactions in Spanish-speaking environments.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- Expand and enrich vocabulary in Spanish by learning advanced idiomatic expressions, synonyms, and specialized terminology
- Acquire vocabulary related to academic, professional, and technical fields of interest through authentic materials and real-world contexts
- Develop strategies for vocabulary acquisition and retention, including context clues, word roots, and semantic networks
- Master advanced grammatical structures and syntax in Spanish, including verb conjugation, subjunctive mood, conditional tense, noun-adjective agreement, and complex sentence constructions
- Apply grammatical rules and conventions accurately and fluently in oral and written communication
- Analyze and manipulate grammatical forms and functions to convey nuanced meaning and rhetorical effectiveness

Communication

- Engage in opportunities for interpersonal communication
 - Engage in conversations, discussions, and exchanges of information in Spanish with classmates and instructors on a broader range of topics, including personal experiences, interests, and future plans
 - Ask and answer questions using a broader vocabulary, more complex sentence structures, verb tenses, and idiomatic expressions
 - Participate in structured pair and group activities to practice speaking and listening skills in Spanish
 - Demonstrate comprehension of spoken and written messages in various contexts and respond appropriately
- Engage in opportunities for presentational communication
 - Deliver oral presentations and speeches in Spanish, presenting information, ideas, and opinions with clarity and coherence
 - Write narratives, descriptions, and summaries in Spanish, incorporating descriptive language and varied sentence structures
 - Write coherent and well-organized essays, reports, and literary analyses in Spanish, incorporating textual evidence and critical analysis
 - Present information, ideas, and opinions orally and in writing using more advanced language structures and vocabulary
 - Create written texts such as essays, reports, and summaries on a variety of topics with increased complexity and detail
 - Create multimedia projects, digital portfolios and presentations, and online publications to communicate and present information and ideas effectively in Spanish
 - Use appropriate register, tone, and style when speaking and writing in Spanish
- Engage in opportunities for interpretive communication
 - Comprehend spoken Spanish in classroom instructions, announcements, and extended conversations

- Demonstrate understanding of textual features and conventions in different genres and formats
- Understand and interpret spoken and written texts in Spanish, including authentic materials such as articles, interviews, podcasts, speeches, and literary excerpts
- Identify main ideas, key details, and infer meaning from authentic Spanish materials with visual support
- Analyze and interpret themes, values, and cultural perspectives in Spanish-language texts and authentic Spanish materials

Cultural Understanding

- Explore cultural norms, customs, rituals, and social etiquette in Spanish-speaking countries, including greetings, meals, and celebrations
- Examine cultural norms, customs, and rituals in various social contexts and settings
- Participate in cultural activities and events related to Spanish-speaking cultures, such as music and dance performances, food tastings, and cultural presentations
- Participate actively in cultural activities and events related to Spanish-speaking cultures, both in and outside the classroom
- Demonstrate awareness of historical, political, and socio-economic factors shaping Spanish-speaking cultures
- Investigate and analyze a wide range of cultural artifacts, symbols, and products from Spanish-speaking countries, including cuisine, literature, film, art, and music
- Analyze the significance and impact of cultural products on identity, heritage, representation, cultural expression, and globalization
- Engage critically with authentic cultural materials to develop cultural literacy, insight, and appreciation
- Engage critically with authentic cultural materials to deepen understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures
- Evaluate the historical, political, and socio-economic contexts of cultural products and their impact on identity and representation
- Investigate contemporary issues, social trends, and cultural phenomena within Spanish-speaking societies
- Learn about important cultural landmarks, historical events, and contemporary issues in Spanish-speaking cultures
- Recognize the diversity and richness of Spanish-speaking cultures and their contributions to global society
- Develop critical thinking skills and cross-cultural awareness through the study of diverse cultural contexts
- Reflect on personal experiences and perspectives within diverse Spanish-speaking cultural environments to deepen cultural understanding

Connections and Comparison

- Integrate Spanish language learning with other academic disciplines, such as history, literature, and current events
- Explore thematic topics and global issues across different subject areas through Spanish-language materials and cross-disciplinary projects
- Apply language skills and cultural knowledge to analyze and synthesize information from diverse sources and perspectives
- Apply language skills and cultural knowledge to interdisciplinary projects and real-world contexts
- Compare and contrast Spanish with other languages, including English and students' native languages, in terms of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary
- Compare and contrast Spanish with other languages, including English and students' native languages, in terms of linguistic structures, historical roots, and cultural influences.
- Investigate language variation and dialectal differences within the Spanish-speaking world and among other Romance languages

- Analyze language contact phenomena and bilingualism/multilingualism in Spanish-speaking communities worldwide
- Analyze language acquisition processes and strategies to enhance language learning skills
- Compare cultural practices, traditions, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking communities with those of other cultures and societies
- Explore cultural universals and cultural relativism through comparative analysis
- Foster appreciation for cultural diversity and empathy for different cultural perspectives and experiences
- Extend language learning beyond the classroom by engaging with Spanish-speaking communities and resources
- Seek out opportunities for authentic communication and cultural exchange with native speakers of Spanish
- Participate in community service projects and global initiatives that promote cross-cultural understanding and collaboration

Spanish III

The focus of Spanish III is to advance students' language skills and cultural understanding beyond the intermediate level. Students will deepen their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through more complex linguistic structures and authentic materials. Cultural exploration is emphasized through the study of literature, films, and current events from Spanish-speaking countries. The course aims to further develop students' fluency, accuracy, and cultural competency, preparing them for more advanced language study or real-world interactions in Spanish-speaking contexts.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- Expand and enrich vocabulary in Spanish by learning advanced idiomatic expressions, synonyms, and specialized terminology
- Acquire vocabulary related to academic, professional, and technical fields of interest through authentic materials and real-world contexts
- Develop strategies for vocabulary acquisition and retention, including context clues, word roots, and semantic networks
- Master advanced grammatical structures and syntax in Spanish, including subjunctive mood, conditional tense, and complex sentence constructions
- Apply grammatical rules and conventions accurately and fluently in oral and written communication
- Analyze and manipulate grammatical forms and functions to convey nuanced meaning and rhetorical effectiveness

Communication

- Engage in opportunities for interpersonal communication
 - Engage in extended conversations and discussions in Spanish on a wide range of topics, expressing opinions, hypotheses, and emotions
 - Use advanced language structures, idiomatic expressions, and cultural references to communicate effectively with native speakers
 - Negotiate meaning, clarify misunderstandings, and adapt language use to various social contexts and settings
- Engage in opportunities for presentational communication
 - Deliver formal presentations and speeches in Spanish, presenting complex ideas, arguments, and narratives with clarity and coherence
 - Write coherent and well-organized essays, reports, and literary analyses in Spanish, incorporating textual evidence and critical analysis
 - Create multimedia projects, digital portfolios, and online publications to present information and ideas in Spanish
- Engage in opportunities for interpretive communication
 - Comprehend authentic spoken and written texts in Spanish, including lectures, interviews, podcasts, and literary works
 - Analyze and evaluate main ideas, supporting details, and implicit meanings in Spanish-language texts
 - Demonstrate understanding of cultural perspectives, values, and attitudes reflected in authentic Spanish materials

Cultural Understanding

- Explore and analyze cultural practices, traditions, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking countries and communities
- Participate actively in cultural activities and events related to Spanish-speaking cultures, both in and outside the classroom
- Investigate contemporary issues, social trends, and cultural phenomena within Spanish-speaking societies
- Investigate cultural norms, customs, and rituals in Spanish-speaking countries, such as festivals, ceremonies, and celebrations
- Develop cross-cultural awareness and sensitivity through critical examination of cultural stereotypes and biases
- Examine and interpret cultural artifacts, symbols, and products from Spanish-speaking countries, including literature, film, art, and music
- Evaluate the historical, political, and socio-economic contexts of cultural products and their impact on identity and representation
- Engage critically with authentic cultural materials to deepen understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures
- Reflect on personal experiences and interactions within diverse Spanish-speaking cultural contexts to foster empathy and understanding

Connections and Comparison

- Make interdisciplinary connections between Spanish language learning and other academic disciplines, such as literature, history, and social science
- Explore thematic topics and global issues across different subject areas through Spanish-language materials and cross-disciplinary projects
- Apply language skills and cultural knowledge to analyze and synthesize information from diverse sources and perspectives
- Compare and contrast Spanish with other languages, including English and students' native languages, in terms of linguistic structures, historical roots, and cultural influences
- Investigate language variation and dialectal differences within the Spanish-speaking world and among other Romance languages
- Analyze language contact phenomena and bilingualism/multilingualism in Spanish-speaking communities worldwide

Technology

The Upper School Technology objectives are based upon the standards outlined by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Information Technology and STEM Education.

ISTE Standards

1. **Empowered Learner**: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.
2. **Digital Citizen**: Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act and model in ways that are safe, legal and ethical.
3. **Knowledge Constructor**: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
4. **Innovative Designer**: Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful or imaginative solutions.
5. **Computational Thinker**: Students develop and employ strategies for understanding and solving problems in ways that leverage the power of technological methods to develop and test solutions.
6. **Creative Communicator**: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.
7. **Global Collaborator**: Students use digital tools to broaden their perspectives and enrich their learning by collaborating with others and working effectively in teams locally and globally.

The use of Artificial Intelligence in education is a new and rapidly evolving discipline. It is our belief that understanding and mastering this form of technology will be vital to student success in the classroom as well as the workforce. The Introduction to AI objectives are based upon initiatives set out by the US Office of Educational Technology, the Departments of Education in the states of California and Oregon, the Stanford University CRAFT Resources, the Foundational Policy Ideas for AI in Education, and the ISTE AI initiatives. These initiatives and recommendations can be found at:

<https://tech.ed.gov/ai/>

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/cs/aiincalifornia.asp>

[https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/teachingcontent/Documents/ODE_Generative_Artificial_Intelligence_(AI)_in_K-12_Classrooms_2023.pdf)

[resources/teachingcontent/Documents/ODE_Generative_Artificial_Intelligence_\(AI\)_in_K-12_Classrooms_2023.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/teachingcontent/Documents/ODE_Generative_Artificial_Intelligence_(AI)_in_K-12_Classrooms_2023.pdf)

<https://craft.stanford.edu/>

<https://www.teachai.org/policy>

<https://iste.org/ai>

US Office of Educational Technology Insights and Recommendations

Insights

- AI enables new forms of interaction.
- AI can help educators address variability in student learning.
- AI supports powerful forms of adaptivity.
- AI can enhance feedback loops.
- AI can support educators.

Recommendations

1. Recommendation #1: Emphasize Humans in the Loop
2. Recommendation #2: Align AI Models to a Shared Vision for Education
3. Recommendation #3: Design Using Modern Learning Principles
4. Recommendation #4: Prioritize Strengthening Trust
5. Recommendation #5: Inform and Involve Educators
6. Recommendation #6: Focus R&D on Addressing Context and Enhancing Trust and Safety
7. Recommendation #7: Develop Education-Specific Guidelines and Guardrails

ISTE and California Department of Education 5 Big Ideas of AI

- **Perception**: Understanding how AI systems perceive the world is fundamental. This includes image and speech recognition, natural language understanding, and sensory data processing. Integrating this idea into education enables students to comprehend how AI systems interact with the environment.
- **Representation**: AI relies on data and information representation. Teaching students how data is structured and organized empowers them to work with AI models and make informed decisions about data usage and manipulation.
- **Reasoning**: AI systems use reasoning to make decisions and solve problems. Integrating this idea helps students develop critical thinking skills, algorithmic reasoning, and the ability to assess the logic behind AI decisions.
- **Learning**: Machine learning is at the core of AI. Teaching students about machine learning algorithms, training models, and the concept of learning from data prepares them to understand the AI systems that surround them.
- **Societal Impact**: Recognizing the societal impact of AI, including ethical considerations and bias, is essential. This idea encourages students to engage in discussions about AI's role in society and its ethical implications.

Upper School Technology

The focus of the technology class is to introduce students to essential concepts and skills in various areas of technology. Students will learn about computer basics, digital literacy, programming, web design, and other relevant topics depending on the specific focus of the course. Through hands-on projects, problem-solving activities, and collaborative learning, students will develop practical skills and knowledge to navigate and succeed in an increasingly digital world. The course aims to equip students with the technological competencies needed for academic, professional, and personal pursuits.

Foundations of Technology

- Explore the history and evolution of technology and its impact on society
- Introduction to foundational concepts such as technological systems, engineering design, and innovation processes
- Foster problem-solving skills through hands-on projects and design challenges
- Connect technology education with career pathways and opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields
- Engage in career exploration activities, guest speakers, and industry partnerships to expose students to various technology-related careers

Digital Citizenship

- Identify and practice rights, responsibilities, and ethical behavior as digital citizens
- Explore issues related to online privacy, security, cyberbullying, and digital footprint
- Promote responsible use of technology and contribute positively to digital communities

Creativity and Innovation

- Develop a growth mindset and self-directed learning skills in order to take ownership of learning
- Engage in opportunities for personalized learning experiences tailored to individual student interests and needs
- Set learning goals, track progress, and reflect on learning experiences using digital tools and portfolios
- Brainstorm and generate innovative ideas for solving real-world problems using technology
- Engage in design thinking methodologies to foster creative problem-solving skills
- Develop digital media projects, such as digital storytelling, multimedia presentations, and graphic design

Communication and Collaboration

- Identify and practice basic principles of information management, including file organization, data storage, and retrieval
- Identify and appropriately use digital communication tools and platforms for collaboration, including email, video conferencing, and social media
- Promote effective communication skills through various digital platforms, including email, social media, and online collaboration tools
- Develop skills for using productivity software such as word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation tools effectively
- Collaborate with peers on projects using digital tools such as Google Workspace (formerly G Suite), Microsoft Teams, or project management software
- Emphasize the importance of digital etiquette and online safety when communicating and collaborating online

- Cultivate awareness of global issues and cultures through collaborative projects with peers from diverse backgrounds
- Promote cross-cultural communication and empathy-building activities using digital platforms and virtual exchange programs
- Apply technology skills to address global challenges and contribute to positive social change

Research and Information Fluency

- Conduct effective online research using search engines, databases, and other digital resources
- Evaluate the credibility and reliability of online sources
- Identify and practice techniques for organizing and synthesizing information gathered from multiple sources

Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making

- Engage in critical thinking activities to analyze, evaluate, and interpret information to solve problems
- Explore computational thinking skills, such as algorithmic problem-solving and logical reasoning
- Apply technology tools to simulate real-world scenarios and make data-driven decisions

Technology Operations, Concepts, and Application

- Engage in hands-on experience with various digital tools and technologies, including hardware, software, and networking devices
- Practice computer skills such as file management, troubleshooting, and system maintenance
- Identify and explore emerging technologies and trends in the field of technology, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and virtual reality
- Identify and explore applications and use of digital media
 - Explore various forms of digital media production, including graphic design, audio/video editing, and multimedia storytelling
 - Engage in hands-on experiences with digital media tools and software for creating and editing multimedia projects
 - Explore design principles, visual communication, and digital storytelling techniques
- Explore the fundamentals of programming and coding
 - Identify and explore fundamental concepts of computer programming and coding
 - Introduction to programming languages such as Python, Java, or Scratch for developing algorithms and writing code
 - Engage in activities to design and implement programs to solve problems and create interactive applications
- Explore a range of technology applications and tools relevant to various career fields and industries
- Use specialized software and technology platforms for specific tasks such as CAD (Computer-Aided Design), GIS (Geographic Information Systems), or digital publishing
- Introduce emerging technologies and trends in the field of technology, such as virtual reality, augmented reality, and 3D printing

Introduction to Computer Science

The focus of the introduction to computer science class is to provide students with a foundational understanding of computer programming and computational thinking. Students will learn basic programming concepts, algorithms, and problem-solving techniques using languages such as Python or Java. Through hands-on coding projects and exercises, students will develop logical reasoning skills and computational literacy. The course aims to introduce students to the principles of computer science and prepare them for further study in the field or for applying computational skills in various disciplines.

Foundations of Computer Science

- Explore the architecture, components, and operation of computing systems, hardware, operating systems, and networks
- Explore topics such as computer organization, memory management, input/output devices, and network protocols
- Identify and analyze principles of computational thinking, such as decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction, and algorithmic design
- Engage in hands-on coding experiences using programming Python to reinforce computational concepts
- Explore interdisciplinary topics such as the Internet, digital citizenship, privacy, security, and ethical considerations in computing
- Engage in collaborative projects and discussions that engage students in critical thinking about the societal impacts of technology

Computational Thinking and Problem Solving

- Explore the fundamentals of computational thinking, including problem-solving, algorithmic design, pattern recognition, and abstraction
- Foster computational thinking skills through problem-solving activities that require students to analyze, decompose, and solve complex problems
- Engage in hands-on coding experiences using programming languages such as Python or Scratch to apply computational thinking concepts in practice
- Identify and practice computational modeling and simulation techniques to analyze complex systems and phenomena
- Develop algorithms and computational models to simulate real-world scenarios and processes
- Integrate interdisciplinary connections by applying computational thinking concepts to other subject areas such as mathematics, science, and engineering

Digital Tools and Applications

- Develop proficiency in using software development tools and platforms for collaborative coding, project management, and code sharing
- Explore emerging technologies and trends in software development, such as cloud computing, mobile app development, and web development frameworks
- Explore applications of computer science in various domains such as artificial intelligence, data science, cybersecurity, and software engineering
- Develop computational projects that address real-world challenges or explore innovative solutions to existing problems.

Computer Programming

- Explore and practice programming fundamentals, including syntax, control structures, data types, and functions/methods
- Design, implement, test, and debug computer programs to solve real-world problems

Data and Information

- Identify and practice data representation, storage, retrieval, and manipulation techniques
- Explore data analysis and visualization techniques using tools like spreadsheets, data visualization libraries, and statistical software
- Explore and create algorithms for searching, sorting, and manipulating data structures efficiently
- Analyze the time and space complexity of algorithms and evaluate their performance

Computational Practices, Perspectives, and Innovation

- Foster computational thinking skills and practices that emphasize creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving
- Promote a growth mindset and resilience in the face of challenges encountered during the programming and debugging process
- Explore the societal impacts of technology and ethical considerations related to computing, such as privacy, security, and intellectual property rights
- Apply computational thinking and programming skills to innovate and create solutions to authentic problems
- Seek out ways to pursue individual interests and passions in computer science through independent projects, research, and mentorship opportunities

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

The focus of the introduction to AI class is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts and applications of artificial intelligence (AI). Students will learn about machine learning, neural networks, natural language processing, and other AI techniques. Through hands-on projects and simulations, students will explore how AI algorithms are developed and applied in various fields such as robotics, healthcare, finance, and gaming. The course aims to foster an understanding of the capabilities and limitations of AI technologies, as well as their societal implications.

Foundations of AI and Machine Learning Fundamentals

- Analyze the history and evolution of AI, including key milestones, breakthroughs, and applications
- Explore the foundational concepts of artificial intelligence, including machine learning, neural networks, and natural language processing
- Explore the basics of machine learning, including supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning
- Explore how machine learning models are trained, evaluated, and deployed to make predictions or automate tasks
- Explore the ethical, social, and economic implications of AI technologies on society
- Identify and explore common machine learning algorithms such as linear regression, logistic regression, decision trees, and neural networks
- Engage in opportunities to train and evaluate machine learning models using real-world datasets
- Understand basic concepts such as features, labels, training data, validation, and model performance metrics

Ethical and Social Implications of AI

- Discuss ethical considerations related to AI technologies, including bias, fairness, privacy, and accountability
- Explore the societal impacts of AI on employment, education, healthcare, and other domains
- Engage in critical thinking and reflection on the ethical dilemmas and trade-offs inherent in AI development and deployment

Computational Creativity and Innovation

- Explore the principles of computational thinking and problem-solving strategies relevant to AI
- Build skills using algorithmic design, pattern recognition, and abstraction as foundational concepts for understanding AI algorithms
- Engage in hands-on coding experiences using AI programming frameworks and tools such as TensorFlow, Keras, or PyTorch
- Foster creativity and innovation in AI by exploring novel applications and approaches
- Engage in project-based learning, design thinking workshops, and ideation sessions focused on AI innovation
- Develop and prototype AI projects using tools and platforms accessible to high school learners

AI Applications, Use Cases, and Collaborative Projects

- Showcase real-world applications of AI across various domains such as healthcare, finance, transportation, and entertainment
- Explore case studies and examples of AI-driven technologies such as chatbots, recommendation systems, image recognition, and natural language processing

- Brainstorm and develop AI project ideas for addressing societal challenges or improving existing systems
- Promote collaboration and teamwork through group projects that involve designing, implementing, and presenting AI solutions
- Engage in interdisciplinary collaboration by partnering with other subject areas such as biology, physics, or social sciences for AI projects
- Facilitate peer feedback and peer review processes to enhance collaboration and learning outcomes

Music

The Upper School Music objectives are based upon the music standards as outlined by the National Association for Music Education, the national core arts standards as outlined by the National Art Education Association, the national standards for music education as outlined by the Music Stand Foundation, and the TEKS established by the Texas Music Educators Association.

National Arts Standards for Music

Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.

1. Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
 - The creative ideas, concepts, and feelings that influence musicians' work emerge from a variety of sources.
2. Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
 - Musicians' creative choices are influenced by their expertise, context, and expressive intent.
3. Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.
 - Musicians evaluate, and refine their work through openness to new ideas, persistence, and the application of appropriate criteria.
 - Musicians' presentation of creative work is the culmination of a process of creation and communication

Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation, presentation, and sharing.

4. Anchor Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.
 - Performers' interest in and knowledge of musical works, understanding of their own technical skill, and the context for a performance influence the selection of repertoire.
 - Analyzing creators' context and how they manipulate elements of music provides insight into their intent and informs performance.
 - Performers make interpretive decisions based on their understanding of context and expressive intent.
5. Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
 - To express their musical ideas, musicians analyze, evaluate, and refine their performance over time through openness to new ideas, persistence, and the application of appropriate criteria.
6. Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.^[1]_[SEP]
 - Musicians judge performance based on criteria that vary across time, place, and cultures. The context and how a work is presented influence the audience response.

Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.

7. Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work Enduring Understanding: Individuals' selection of musical works is influenced by their interests, experiences, understandings, and purposes.
 - Response to music is informed by analyzing context (social, cultural, and historical) and how creators and performers manipulate the elements of music.
8. Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.^[1]_[SEP]
 - Through their use of elements and structures of music, creators and performers provide clues to their expressive intent.
9. Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
 - The personal evaluation of musical work(s) and performance(s) is informed by analysis, interpretation, and established criteria.

Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

10. Anchor Standard 10: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.
 - Musicians connect their personal interests, experiences, ideas, and knowledge to creating, performing, and responding.
11. Anchor Standard 11: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
 - Understanding connections to varied contexts and daily life enhances musicians' creating, performing, and responding.

Instrumental Music

The focus of the instrumental music class is to offer students the opportunity to learn and develop proficiency in playing musical instruments. Students may choose from a variety of instruments such as piano, guitar, violin, flute, trumpet, or percussion. Through individual and group instruction, rehearsals, and performances, students will learn music theory, technique, ensemble skills, and musical expression. The course aims to cultivate students' musical abilities, appreciation for music, and collaboration skills within a supportive and creative environment.

Foundational Practices

- Generate musical ideas by creating musical compositions, arrangements, and improvisations using instruments
- Engage in creative processes such as composition, improvisation, and arranging, exploring different styles, genres, and forms of instrumental music
- Demonstrate the ability to create, improvise, and arrange music for instrumental ensembles, using a variety of musical elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, and form
- Select, analyze, and interpret instrumental repertoire for performance
- Demonstrate proficiency in performing on their chosen instrument(s) within various instrumental ensembles, including concert bands, orchestras, jazz bands, and chamber ensembles
- Perform a diverse repertoire of instrumental music, ranging from traditional classical works to contemporary compositions and arrangements
- Demonstrate an understanding of instrumental music and evaluate performances and compositions
- Develop critical listening skills and analytical abilities to respond thoughtfully and perceptively to instrumental music performances, recordings, and live concerts
- Engage in listening, analysis, and discussion of instrumental music, including elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, form, expression, and interpretation
- Relate instrumental music to other art forms, cultural contexts, and personal experiences
- Explore connections between instrumental music and other disciplines, cultures, and contexts, recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of music as a universal language
- Connect instrumental music to historical, cultural, social, and personal contexts, understanding its role in shaping human experiences and societies

Instrumental Technique and Skills

- Develop and practice basic instrument maintenance and care practices to ensure optimal performance quality
- Develop instrumental techniques, including posture, hand position, breath control (for wind players), bowing (for string players), embouchure (for brass players), and articulation
- Practice and master instrument-specific techniques such as scales, arpeggios, trills, double stops, and extended techniques (where applicable)
- Develop instrumental proficiency on their chosen instrument(s), focusing on tone production, intonation, articulation, and technical facility
- Practice scales, exercises, etudes, and repertoire to improve technique, dexterity, and expressive control
- Develop and practice rhythmic study skills
 - Understand rhythmic notation, including note values, time signatures, and rhythmic patterns
 - Develop rhythmic accuracy through exercises, drills, and performance repertoire
- Develop and practice melodic study skills

- Learn and practice scales, intervals, and melodic patterns on the instrument
- Develop techniques for playing melodies with expression and accuracy
- Develop and practice harmonic study skills
 - Understand chords, chord progressions, and harmonic function
 - Explore techniques for playing harmonies, including chord voicings and arpeggios
- Develop and practice sight-reading and aural skills
 - Build proficiency in sight-reading musical notation in various keys and time signatures
 - Develop aural skills, including pitch recognition, interval identification, and chord recognition

Ensemble Skills

- Participate in instrumental ensembles, including orchestras, bands, chamber groups, and jazz combos
- Develop and practice rehearsal techniques and ensemble skills for participating in instrumental ensembles, including listening, blending, balance, intonation, rhythm, synchronization, and communication with other musicians
- Develop collaborative skills for working cooperatively with ensemble members to achieve artistic unity and musical excellence
- Participate effectively in ensemble settings, demonstrating skills in collaboration, communication, and leadership

Repertoire Studies

- Learn and perform a diverse repertoire of instrumental music, including solo pieces, chamber music, and ensemble works
- Study and perform a diverse repertoire of instrumental music, including classical, contemporary, folk, jazz, world, and popular music styles
- Explore solo, chamber, and ensemble repertoire for their instrument(s), representing various historical periods, composers, cultures, and genres, spanning a wide range of musical styles and forms
- Develop interpretive skills to convey musical expression and emotion through performance

Music Theory and Music Literacy

- Engage in critical listening activities, analyzing and evaluating musical performances and compositions
- Demonstrate literacy in music through reading, writing, and performing musical notation
- Learn music theory concepts relevant to instrumental music, including notation, rhythm, pitch, scales, intervals, chords, and harmony
- Develop music literacy skills through sight-reading, ear training, transposition, and analysis of instrumental scores and parts
- Develop music literacy skills, including reading and interpreting standard music notation, score reading, sight-reading, and music analysis
- Explore music theory concepts relevant to instrumental music, including scales, intervals, chords, harmonic progressions, and formal structures
- Analyze and interpret the expression of instrumental music through attention to dynamics, phrasing, articulation, tempo, style, character, and mood
- Study and analyze a piece's musical structure, historical context, composer's intent, and performance practice considerations

Performance Technique, Practice, and Preparation

- Develop proficiency in instrumental performance techniques
- Prepare for instrumental performances through goal setting, practice strategies, rehearsal techniques, and performance drills

- Develop effective practice habits, time management skills, and self-evaluation techniques to maximize progress and achieve musical goals
- Prepare and present instrumental performances in various settings, including concerts, recitals, festivals, competitions, and community events
- Practice stage presence, audience engagement, and professionalism in instrumental performance, including introductions, announcements, and interactions with the audience

Creative Expression and Improvisation

- Explore creative expression through improvisation, composition, and arranging for their instrument(s)
- Develop improvisational skills, including melodic improvisation, chordal accompaniment, and ensemble improvisation in various musical styles
- Explore techniques for improvising melodies and solos within various musical styles
- Experiment with composition, arranging, and orchestrating music for instrumental ensembles

Technology and Innovation

- Explore innovations in instrumental music technology, including electronic instruments, MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface), digital audio workstations (DAWs), and interactive music software
- Utilize technology tools and software for recording, editing, and producing music
- Integrate technology into music composition, performance, and analysis activities

Historical and Cultural Context

- Understand the historical and cultural contexts of various musical styles and genres
- Explore the historical and cultural contexts of instrumental music, including its origins, development, and impact on societies and cultures throughout history
- Explore the historical development of instrumental music, including major composers, styles, forms, and technological advancements
- Explore the cultural and social contexts of instrumental music, including its role in different societies, traditions, and artistic movements
- Study significant composers, musicians, compositions, and musical movements in the context of their historical, cultural, and social milieu
- Analyze selected repertoire to understand compositional techniques, form, and stylistic characteristics

Music Technology

The focus of the music technology class is to explore the intersection of music and technology, focusing on the use of digital tools and software for music production, composition, and recording. Students will learn about digital audio workstations (DAWs), MIDI sequencing, sound synthesis, sampling, and audio editing techniques. Through hands-on projects, students will create original compositions, remixes, and recordings, experimenting with different genres and styles. The course aims to develop students' technical skills, creativity, and understanding of the role of technology in modern music production.

Foundational Practices

- Generate musical ideas by creating musical compositions, arrangements, and recordings using music technology tools and software
- Demonstrate the ability to create, produce, and compose music using technology-based tools and software, including digital audio workstations (DAWs), music notation software, virtual instruments, and electronic music production equipment
 - Select, analyze, and interpret recorded music and digital audio compositions
 - Engage in performing and producing music using technology-based instruments and equipment, including MIDI controllers, synthesizers, drum machines, sequencers, and digital audio interfaces, both individually and collaboratively
- Develop critical listening skills and analytical abilities to respond thoughtfully and perceptively to music produced using technology, including recordings, compositions, arrangements, and electronic music compositions
- Demonstrate an understanding of music technology and evaluate recorded music, digital compositions, and audio productions
- Relate music technology to other art forms, multimedia applications, and creative industries
- Explore connections between music technology and other disciplines, industries, and contexts, recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of music technology as it relates to science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), media arts, and entertainment industries

Music Technology Tools and Software

- Integrate technology into creative projects, collaborative productions, interdisciplinary studies, and real-world applications in music and multimedia arts
- Explore innovations in music technology, including emerging trends, new software developments, hardware advancements, and interactive technologies for music creation, performance, and distribution
- Explore music technology tools, equipment, and software used in music production, recording, editing, mixing, and mastering
- Explore the features, functions, and applications of music technology tools for composition, recording, editing, mixing, and mastering
- Explore basic functions and features of digital audio workstations (DAWs), MIDI controllers, audio interfaces, and music notation software
- Develop and practice skills in using music technology tools and software, including digital audio workstations (DAWs), MIDI sequencers, music notation software, synthesizers, samplers, and audio recording equipment

Digital Audio Production

- Develop an appreciation for the aesthetic qualities of music technology, including sound design, digital effects, and interactive multimedia
- Understand the principles of digital audio recording, editing, and mixing
- Explore and practice digital audio production techniques, including recording, editing, processing, mixing, and mastering using digital audio workstations (DAWs) such as Pro Tools, Logic Pro, Ableton Live, or GarageBand
- Apply audio effects and processing plugins to manipulate sound, enhance recordings, and create unique sonic textures and atmospheres
- Experiment with microphone techniques, signal processing, sound manipulation techniques, effects, equalization, panning, automation, and mastering digital audio production

MIDI Sequencing and Programming

- Understand Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) technology and its applications in music production
- Explore MIDI technology, including MIDI controllers, synthesizers, drum machines, and sequencers
- Explore MIDI instruments, synthesizers, and virtual instrument plugins for creating electronic music
- Program MIDI sequences, including note data, tempo changes, and controller automation
- Program and sequence MIDI tracks using software instruments, virtual synthesizers, drum samplers, and MIDI sequencers to create musical compositions and arrangements

Electronic Music Production

- Explore electronic music genres such as EDM (Electronic Dance Music), hip-hop, dubstep, house, techno, and experimental electronic music
- Explore sound design principles and techniques for creating electronic music, soundscapes, and sonic textures
- Study and practice electronic music production techniques, including synthesis, sound design, sampling, looping, and beatmaking

Music Notation, Composition, and Arranging

- Explore music notation software such as Finale, Sibelius, or MuseScore for creating, editing, and printing music scores
- Arrange and orchestrate music using notation software, virtual instruments, and MIDI sequencing techniques to create ensemble arrangements, film scores, or multimedia compositions
- Explore compositional techniques, including melody, harmony, rhythm, and form
- Create original musical compositions and arrangements using music technology tools, software instruments, and virtual synthesizers
- Explore composition techniques, including melody writing, harmony, rhythm, form, structure, and orchestration in digital music composition
- Arrange existing musical works for different instrumentations and ensembles using music notation and MIDI sequencing software

Sound Design, Mixing, and Audio Effects

- Understand the principles of sound synthesis and electronic music production
- Explore different synthesis methods, including subtractive, additive, and wavetable synthesis
- Explore sound design principles and techniques for creating and manipulating sounds using synthesizers, samplers, audio effects, and processing plugins

- Apply audio effects such as reverb, delay, chorus, flanger, EQ (equalization), compression, distortion, and modulation effects to shape and sculpt sonic textures and timbres
- Experiment with synthesizer parameters, envelopes, filters, and modulation effects to create original sounds
- Study and practice of mixing and mastering techniques for balancing and enhancing audio tracks, improving clarity, cohesion, and dynamics in a mix, and preparing recordings for distribution and playback
- Apply mixing tools such as faders, panning, EQ, dynamics processors, spatial effects, and mastering plugins to achieve professional-quality audio productions
- Learn about sampling technology and its role in contemporary music production
- Explore sampling techniques, including sample selection, manipulation, and looping
- Understand the legal and ethical considerations of sampling, including copyright and fair use

Digital Music Performance and Live Sound

- Use music technology to create original musical compositions, arrangements, and multimedia projects
- Explore digital music performance techniques, including MIDI sequencing, live looping, and real-time effects processing
- Engage in live sound reinforcement, mixing, and monitoring for performances using digital audio equipment and software

Multimedia and Interactive Music Projects

- Integrate music technology with multimedia elements such as video, graphics, and interactive interfaces
- Create multimedia presentations, installations, or interactive experiences that combine music and visual media
- Explore interactive music technologies, including interactive performance systems, music games, and mobile apps
- Collaborate effectively with peers in music technology projects, demonstrating skills in communication, teamwork, and leadership

Careers and Creative Industries

- Analyze and evaluate the use of music technology in various contexts, including historical, cultural, and ethical perspectives
- Explore career pathways and opportunities in music technology and the creative industries, including music production, audio engineering, sound design, film scoring, game audio, music production, software development, and music technology entrepreneurship
- Explore professional practices, industry standards, copyright laws, and ethical considerations in music technology
- Study the historical development of music technology, including key innovations and influential figures
- Explore the cultural impact of music technology on music production, distribution, and consumption
- Analyze case studies of landmark recordings, albums, or productions that showcase the use of music technology in different genres and styles
- Explore the use of music technology in multimedia applications, including film scoring, video game music, interactive media, and digital storytelling
- Develop professional skills such as project management, networking, and self-promotion for pursuing a career in the music industry
- Engage with industry professionals through guest lectures, workshops, or internships to gain real-world experience and insights

Jazz Theory and Performance

The focus of the jazz theory and performance class is to immerse students in the theory, history, and performance of jazz music. Students will learn about jazz harmony, improvisation techniques, rhythmic styles, and ensemble performance. Through listening, analysis, and hands-on practice, students will explore the nuances of jazz music and develop their skills as individual performers and ensemble musicians. The course aims to deepen students' understanding and appreciation of jazz while honing their musical abilities in a collaborative and creative environment.

Foundational Practices

- Generate musical ideas for improvisation, composition, and arrangement in jazz contexts
- Select, analyze, and interpret jazz repertoire for performance
- Demonstrate an understanding of jazz music and evaluate performances and compositions in jazz contexts
- Relate jazz music to other art forms, cultural contexts, and personal experiences

Jazz Fundamentals

- Develop an understanding of the historical context, cultural significance, & stylistic elements of jazz
- Explore the origins of jazz, its evolution, major figures, styles, forms, cultural significance, and contributions to American and global music
- Explore the historical development of jazz music, including its roots in African-American traditions, early jazz styles (e.g., ragtime, blues, New Orleans jazz), swing era, bebop, cool jazz, hard bop, modal jazz, fusion, and contemporary jazz styles
- Explore the social, political, and cultural contexts of jazz, including its roots in African-American traditions and its impact on American and global music
- Study major figures in jazz history, including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Bill Evans, Thelonious Monk, and contemporary jazz artists
- Demonstrate an understanding of jazz concepts, including swing rhythm, syncopation, improvisation, jazz harmony, and jazz forms
- Learn and use jazz-specific vocabulary, including terms related to chord symbols, scales, modes, and improvisational techniques
- Develop technical proficiency on their instrument(s) or voice, focusing on jazz-specific techniques such as swing feel, articulation, phrasing, and stylistic nuances
- Practice scales, arpeggios, patterns, and exercises relevant to jazz improvisation and performance

Jazz Theory

- Explore jazz-specific music theory concepts, including chord symbols, chord extensions, alterations, substitutions, voicings, scales, modes, and harmonic progressions
- Apply jazz theory concepts to analyze and interpret jazz standards, chord changes, improvisations, and compositions
- Explore jazz harmony, including chord construction, chord symbols, chord-scale relationships, diatonic and non-diatonic harmony, functional harmony, and common chord progressions (e.g., ii-V-I, blues progression)
- Study and practice jazz scales and modes used in improvisation, including major scales, melodic minor, harmonic minor, blues scale, pentatonic scales, and modes of the major scale

Jazz Repertoire Studies

- Study and perform jazz standards from the Great American Songbook, including blues, rhythm changes, modal tunes, and bebop compositions
- Explore diverse jazz styles and genres, including swing, bebop, cool jazz, hard bop, modal jazz, fusion, and contemporary jazz
- Engage in critical analysis and evaluation of music performances and compositions
- Listen to and analyze recordings of jazz performances by master musicians and jazz ensembles
- Identify and discuss stylistic characteristics, improvisational techniques, ensemble interactions, and historical context in jazz recordings
- Analyze jazz recordings, focusing on form, instrumentation, arrangement, improvisation, rhythm section interaction, soloing techniques, and stylistic features

Ensemble Skills

- Participate in small and large jazz ensembles, including combos, big bands, and vocal jazz groups
- Practice ensemble playing skills, including listening, comping, accompanying, soloing, trading fours, and collective improvisation
- Rehearse and perform jazz standards, arrangements, and original compositions in small and large jazz ensembles
- Practice ensemble playing skills, including listening, comping, accompanying, soloing, trading fours, call and response, dynamics, and collective improvisation

Improvisation Skills and Techniques

- Develop improvisation skills through the study of jazz improvisation techniques, including melodic improvisation, chord-scale relationships, motivic development, call and response, and rhythmic improvisation
- Practice improvising over jazz standards, blues progressions, modal vamps, and other common jazz forms
- Explore and practice improvisation techniques, including scale-based improvisation, chord-tone soloing, guide tones, enclosures, chromaticism, motivic development, bebop language, and modal improvisation
- Practice developing vocabulary, ear training, and spontaneous creativity through guided improvisational exercises and soloing over jazz standards and chord progressions

Performance Technique, Practice, and Preparation

- Develop and practice technical skills and expressive qualities in performance through practice and rehearsal
- Explore and practice performance techniques specific to jazz instruments and ensembles, including phrasing, articulation, dynamics, timing, expression, tone quality, and ensemble interaction
- Practice playing in various jazz styles, tempos, grooves, and feels, including swing, bebop, Latin, funk, ballads, and modal jazz
- Prepare and present jazz performances in various settings, including competitions, concerts, festivals, jam sessions, and community events
- Practice stage presence, audience engagement, introductions, announcements, and professionalism in jazz performance, including introductions, announcements, and interactions with the audience

Art

The Upper School Visual Arts objectives are based upon the art standards as outlined by the National Art Education Association and the State of Texas TEKS for Fine Arts.

National Arts Standards for Visual Arts

Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.

1. Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
 - Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed.
 - Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative art making goals.
2. Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
 - Artists and designers experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches.
 - Artists and designers balance experimentation and safety, freedom and responsibility while developing and creating artworks.
 - People create and interact with objects, places, and design that define, shape, enhance, and empower their lives.
3. Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.
 - Artists and designers develop excellence through practice and constructive critique, reflecting on, revising, and refining work over time.

Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation, presentation, and sharing.

4. Anchor Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.
 - Artists and other presenters consider various techniques, methods, venues, and criteria when analyzing, selecting, and curating objects, artifacts, and artworks for preservation and presentation.
5. Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
 - Artists, curators and others consider a variety of factors and methods including evolving technologies when preparing and refining artwork for display and or when deciding if and how to preserve and protect it.
6. Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.^[L]_[SEP]
 - Objects, artifacts, and artworks collected, preserved, or presented either by artists, museums, or other venues communicate meaning and a record of social, cultural, and political experiences resulting in the cultivating of appreciation and understanding.

Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.

7. Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work Enduring Understanding: Individuals' selection of musical works is influenced by their interests, experiences, understandings, and purposes.
 - Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments.
 - Visual imagery influences understanding of and responses to the world.
8. Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.^[L]_[SEP]
 - People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
9. Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
 - People evaluate art based on various criteria.

Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

10. Anchor Standard 10: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.
 - Through art-making, people make meaning by investigating and developing awareness of perceptions, knowledge, and experiences.
11. Anchor Standard 11: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
 - People develop ideas and understandings of society, culture, and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.

Digital Art

The focus of the digital art class is to introduce students to the principles and techniques of creating visual art using digital tools and software. Students will learn about digital drawing, painting, photo editing, and graphic design. Through hands-on projects and exploration of digital mediums, students will develop their artistic skills, creativity, and understanding of visual communication. The course aims to provide students with a foundation in digital artistry, preparing them to express themselves creatively in a digital world and potentially pursue further study or careers in digital art and design.

Foundational Practices

- Develop digital art concepts and ideas through brainstorming, research, and experimentation using digital tools and techniques
- Develop their ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of digital media, tools, and techniques
- Organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in digital art production, with an emphasis on personal expression, technical proficiency, and conceptual depth
- Refine ability to select, analyze, and interpret digital artworks, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Refine and polish digital art projects, paying attention to details such as color, texture, lighting, and resolution to enhance visual impact and aesthetic quality
- Refine and edit digital artworks with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced digital tools, techniques, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic refinement
- Critically analyze digital art pieces, both their own and those of their peers, evaluating artistic choices, technical execution, and conceptual depth
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating digital art, considering elements of design, technical skill, originality, and emotional impact
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of digital artworks through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating digital artworks, considering elements such as composition, technique, craftsmanship, concept, and originality in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Explore the societal, cultural, and historical contexts of digital art, examining how technological advancements, globalization, and digital culture influence artistic expression
- Integrate personal experiences, interests, and perspectives into their digital art projects, exploring themes of identity, community, and social justice
- Deepen understanding of how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of digital art as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of digital art history, theory, and technical practices to create original digital artworks that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, with increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Digital Art History and Theory

- Engage in the study of the history, theory, and cultural context of digital art, exploring key movements, artists, works, and concepts in the evolution of digital art as a distinct artistic discipline
- Analyze digital artworks from different periods, cultures, & genres, considering issues such as digital aesthetics, representation, identity, agency, ethics, and the impact of technology on art and society
- Investigate and analyze the work of diverse digital artists, designers, and technologists from different cultural backgrounds and historical periods, understanding their contributions to digital art & culture
- Explore the cultural, social, and ethical implications of digital art in contemporary society, examining issues such as digital identity, representation, privacy, copyright, and digital activism
- Explore career pathways and opportunities in digital art and related fields, including graphic design, animation, game design, web design, and digital media production

Fundamentals, Tools, and Techniques

- Explore concepts such as line, shape, color, texture, space, balance, contrast, rhythm, and unity through digital art projects
- Demonstrate an understanding of elements and principles of art & design as applied to digital media
- Explore composition techniques, such as rule of thirds, focal point, framing, perspective, and depth, to effectively organize visual elements in their digital compositions
- Identify and explore various digital tools and techniques for creating art, including digital drawing and painting software, and image editing programs
- Develop fundamental digital art skills, including navigating digital software and hardware, understanding file formats, and utilizing digital brushes, layers, and tools
- Practice using digital tools and techniques to create original artworks, experimenting with layers, brushes, filters, effects, textures, and other features to achieve desired visual effects and expressive qualities
- Develop proficiency in using digital art tools and software, including graphic design software, digital drawing tablets, and image editing programs
- Explore digital drawing and painting techniques, digital photography, image manipulation, digital collage, and other digital art processes
- Practice techniques such as digital drawing, painting, photo manipulation, typography, and vector graphics

Graphic Design

- Explore the principles of graphic design, including layout, typography, color theory, and branding
- Apply graphic design concepts to create posters, advertisements, logos, and other visual communication materials using digital tools and software

Digital Illustration and Storytelling

- Explore digital illustration techniques, creating original characters, creatures, environments, and narratives using digital drawing and painting software
- Create original illustrations and artworks using digital drawing and painting techniques
- Develop drawing skills, learning to use digital brushes, pens, and pencils to create expressive and dynamic compositions
- Develop skills in digital drawing and painting, learning techniques for sketching, shading, blending, and rendering digital images using a stylus and graphics tablet, touchscreen interface, or mouse
- Use digital media to tell stories, exploring narrative techniques such as sequencing, pacing, & mood
- Create multimedia narratives integrating text, image, and sound to convey meaning and emotion

Digital Imaging and Photo Manipulation

- Practice image editing and manipulation using software such as Adobe Photoshop or other similar software, learning to enhance, retouch, composite, and manipulate photographic images
- Explore the creative possibilities of digital imaging, experimenting with filters, effects, and compositing to achieve desired visual outcomes
- Manipulate digital images using software tools, applying techniques such as cropping, resizing, layering, masking, and blending
- Explore digital imaging and photo manipulation techniques, learning to edit, retouch, composite, and manipulate digital photographs using image editing software
- Experiment with layering, masking, blending modes, filters, adjustments, and other tools to alter and enhance photographic images, creating visually compelling and conceptually layered compositions

Digital Mixed Media and Interactive Art

- Experiment with combining traditional and digital media, integrating scanned drawings, paintings, textures, and found objects into digital compositions
- Experiment with digital mixed media and interactive art techniques, combining digital and traditional media, processes, and technologies to create hybrid artworks that blur the boundaries between the physical and virtual worlds
- Explore experimental digital art processes such as glitch art, generative art, data visualization, or interactive art installations
- Explore interactive art forms such as digital installations, multimedia presentations, generative art, and web-based artworks, engaging viewers in participatory and immersive experiences

Critical Analysis and Critique

- Engage in critical analysis and art critique sessions, discussing their own digital art pieces and those of peers, providing constructive feedback, and reflecting on their artistic choices and intentions
- Develop critical thinking skills and aesthetic judgment through discussions, presentations, and written reflections on digital art
- Develop and apply critical thinking skills, learning to articulate and defend artistic decisions, as well as to incorporate feedback into the creative process to improve their work
- Analyze and critique digital artworks, considering elements such as composition, technique, concept, and cultural context

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Develop a portfolio of digital artworks and projects in order to:
 - Showcase artistic growth, skills, and creative achievements over the course of the class
 - Prepare for college and career opportunities in the creative industries
- Curate and organize a digital art portfolio, selecting and sequencing artworks that demonstrate their technical skills, artistic growth, conceptual development, and personal voice
- Curate, organize, and present their digital portfolio in a professional manner, incorporating artist statements, project descriptions, process documentation, and multimedia elements to contextualize and enhance their artworks

Film and Audio Editing

The focus of the film and audio editing class is to teach students the technical skills and creative principles involved in editing digital video and audio content. Students will learn how to use editing software to assemble footage, apply transitions, add effects, and manipulate sound. Through hands-on projects, students will gain proficiency in storytelling, visual composition, and audio mixing, while also exploring the aesthetics and techniques of film and audio editing. The course aims to prepare students for careers in media production, digital storytelling, or further study in film and audio production.

Foundational Practices

- Develop ideas and concepts for film and audio projects, including scripts, storyboards, and soundscapes, using digital tools and techniques
- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of digital media, tools, and techniques
- Plan and structure film and audio projects, incorporating elements of storytelling, composition, and rhythm to communicate their intended message or narrative
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in film and audio editing, with an emphasis on storytelling, rhythm, pacing, and emotional impact
- Refine their ability to select, analyze, and interpret film and audio works, both their own and those of others, considering narrative structure, visual composition, sound design, and thematic resonance with greater depth and sophistication
- Select and edit film footage, audio recordings, and sound effects for presentation, considering factors such as pacing, sequencing, and emotional impact
- Refine and edit film and audio projects with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced editing techniques, visual effects, sound effects, and music to enhance storytelling and audience engagement
- Refine and polish film and audio projects, adjusting editing techniques, transitions, and effects to enhance visual and auditory quality and coherence
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating film and audio projects, considering elements such as storytelling, cinematography, editing, sound design, and thematic coherence
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating film and audio works for emotional impact
- Critically analyze film and audio projects, both their own and those of their peers, evaluating artistic choices, technical execution, and narrative effectiveness
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of film and audio works through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Deepen the understanding of how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of film and audio as reflections of human experience and cultural identity
- Explore the societal, cultural, and historical contexts of film and audio production, examining how technological advancements, media industries, and cultural norms influence storytelling and artistic expression
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from the study of film history, theory, and technical practices to create original film and audio projects that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, with increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

- Integrate personal experiences, interests, and perspectives into film and audio projects, exploring themes of identity, community, and social justice through visual and auditory storytelling

Critical Analysis and Critique

- Explore different film genres, styles, and movements, analyzing their conventions, themes, aesthetics, and cultural significance
- Examine classic and contemporary films from various genres, such as narrative fiction, documentary, experimental, animation, and avant-garde, identifying stylistic features, narrative structures, and thematic motifs, and drawing inspiration from them for their own film projects
- Critically examine media messages and representations, considering their social, cultural, and ethical implications, and advocating for ethical standards and social responsibility in their own creative work
- Analyze and critique film and audio works, identifying techniques used by filmmakers and editors to convey meaning and emotion
- Develop critical thinking skills, learning to articulate and defend their creative decisions, as well as to incorporate feedback into their editing process to improve the quality and impact of their work
- Engage in critical analysis and peer review sessions, providing constructive feedback on each other's film and audio projects, and reflecting on their own artistic choices and editing techniques
- Explore ethical considerations and responsibilities in film and audio production, including copyright, fair use, intellectual property rights, representation, diversity, and ethical storytelling practices

Fundamentals, Tools, and Techniques

- Explore the language of film and audio editing, including terminology such as shot types, camera angles, transitions, cuts, fades, and montage
- Develop proficiency with professional film and audio editing software, such as DaVinci Resolve and basic tools such as iMovie, gaining proficiency in basic editing techniques and workflows
- Develop proficiency with the interface, tools, and basic functions of film and audio editing software, including importing media, organizing, trimming, sequencing, editing clips, adding transitions, adjusting audio levels, and exporting projects
- Demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles of film and audio editing, including shot composition, pacing, rhythm, continuity, sound design, and narrative structure
- Explore various editing techniques, such as continuity editing, parallel editing, montage editing, and experimental editing, and apply them to their own projects
- Master techniques such as trimming, splitting, merging, syncing, and mixing

Narrative Structure and Storytelling

- Explore, develop, and practice narrative structure and storytelling techniques, including plot development, character arc, conflict, resolution, and pacing, as they apply to film and audio projects
- Apply storytelling techniques to film projects, including scriptwriting, storyboarding, shot sequencing, and pacing, to create engaging and cohesive narratives
- Analyze narrative techniques in film clips, short films, or podcasts, identifying narrative elements and storytelling devices used to engage and captivate audiences
- Develop storytelling skills through storyboarding and scriptwriting exercises, creating visual and narrative plans for their film and audio projects
- Structure stories, develop characters, and craft dialogue or narration that effectively conveys their intended message or theme
- Explore the art of visual storytelling, understanding how editing choices impact the audience's perception and interpretation of a narrative

- Analyze the structure and pacing of films, identifying key storytelling elements such as plot, character development, conflict, resolution, and theme
- Practice narrative editing techniques, including scene selection, sequencing, pacing, and continuity editing
- Edit short film projects, focusing on narrative clarity, emotional impact, and visual storytelling techniques such as shot-reverse-shot, cross-cutting, and parallel editing
- Explore documentary editing techniques, including interview editing, archival footage integration, voice-over narration, and non-linear storytelling
- Edit documentary projects, addressing ethical considerations such as truthfulness, objectivity, and representation of diverse perspectives

Cinematography and Visual Composition

- Explore techniques for enhancing visual storytelling through visual effects, manipulating time, space, and reality to create dynamic and engaging visuals
- Learn principles of cinematography and visual composition, including camera angles, framing, lighting, color, and visual storytelling techniques
- Analyze visual elements in film clips and photographs, applying compositional principles to frame shots, create visual interest, and evoke mood or emotion
- Explore visual effects and motion graphics techniques, such as compositing, keying, masking, animation, and typography, to add visual interest and enhance the visual storytelling in a film
- Experiment with visual effects and enhancements, such as color correction, color grading, visual filters, green screen compositing, and digital effects, to create visual impact and style in their projects
- Create titles, credits, transitions, visual effects, and animated graphics using digital tools and techniques, integrating them seamlessly into their film projects

Sound Design and Editing

- Explore audio recording techniques, including microphone placement, levels, and ambient sound capture, to record dialogue, music, and sound effects for their projects
- Explore the role of sound elements such as dialogue, music, sound effects, and ambience in creating a rich and immersive audio experience for the audience
- Learn principles of sound design, mixing, and editing, incorporating Foley sound effects, ambient noise, music cues, and voiceover narration to enhance storytelling and create immersive audio experiences
- Explore techniques for enhancing storytelling through sound, including dialogue editing, ambient sound, music selection, and sound effects
- Explore audio editing and sound design techniques, including recording, mixing, editing, ambient sound, music selection, sound effects, and manipulating audio tracks to enhance the mood, atmosphere, and storytelling in a film
- Develop proficiency with the principles of sound design and editing, including recording, editing, mixing, and mastering audio tracks

Editing Techniques and Transitions

- Explore different types of transitions, including cuts, fades, dissolves, wipes, and effects transitions, learning when and how to use them effectively to convey meaning or emotion
- Explore and develop proficiency with editing techniques such as cutting, trimming, splitting, and merging video and audio clips to create seamless transitions, pacing, and rhythm in their projects
- Experiment with avant-garde and experimental editing techniques, exploring non-traditional approaches to narrative, form, and structure

- Create experimental film projects, incorporating techniques such as found footage, collage, animation, abstraction, and time manipulation

Project Management

- Develop efficient editing workflows and project management skills, organizing media assets, creating timelines, setting project milestones, and collaborating with peers to complete film and audio projects on time and within budget
- Learn file management techniques, version control, and backup strategies to ensure the integrity and security of their project files throughout the editing process
- Learn about the post-production workflow for film and audio projects, including file management, media organization, version control, and project archiving
- Develop strategies for collaborating with other filmmakers and team members, managing deadlines, and troubleshooting technical issues

Professional Practices

- Explore career opportunities and pathways in the film and media industries, such as film editing, sound design, post-production, visual effects, animation, and media production
- Connect with professionals working in the film and media industries through guest lectures, gaining insights into industry practices, trends, and expectations
- Develop a portfolio of edited film and audio projects, showcasing their technical skills, creative vision, and storytelling abilities for college and career opportunities in the film and media industries
- Engage in individual and group critique sessions to receive feedback on their film projects from their teacher and peers
- Participate in film festivals or screenings to showcase their work to an audience of peers, teachers, family, and community members, and engage in discussions about their artistic process, concept, and intentions

Photography

The focus of the photography class is to introduce students to the fundamental principles and techniques of photography. Students will learn about camera settings, composition, lighting, exposure, and photo editing as well as different genres of photography such as portrait, landscape, and still life. Through hands-on exercises, projects, and critiques, students will develop their technical skills and creative eye, while also exploring the history and aesthetics of photography. The course aims to provide students with a foundation in photography, enabling them to capture compelling images and express themselves visually.

Foundational Practices

- Plan and execute photography projects, considering elements of composition, lighting, framing, and storytelling to effectively communicate their artistic intentions
- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of photographic techniques, concepts, and processes
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in photography, with an emphasis on composition, lighting, subject matter, and visual storytelling
- Refine ability to select, analyze, and interpret photographic works, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Refine and edit photographic images with increased attention to detail, composition, exposure, and post-processing techniques, experimenting with different printing and presentation formats to enhance visual impact and narrative coherence
- Select and present photographic images, considering factors such as sequencing, framing, and presentation format to enhance visual impact and viewer engagement
- Refine and edit photographic images, applying techniques such as cropping, color correction, contrast adjustment, and retouching to achieve desired visual effects and aesthetic quality
- Critically analyze photographs, both their own and those of their peers, evaluating compositional choices, technical execution, and thematic resonance
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating photographs, considering elements such as composition, exposure, focus, depth of field, tonal range, and narrative content in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Deepen understanding of how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of photography as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from study of photographic history, theory, and technical practices to create original photographs that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, with increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance
- Explore societal, cultural, and historical contexts of photography, examining how technological advancements, media industries, and cultural norms influence photographic practice and visual representation
- Integrate personal experiences, interests, and perspectives into their photographs, exploring themes of identity, community, and social justice through visual expression

Photography History and Theory

- Explore the history of photography, from its origins in the early 19th century to contemporary digital photography, studying influential photographers, photographic movements, techniques, and technological developments

- Investigate cultural and social aspects of photography, considering issues such as representation, identity, power, and ethics in photographic practice and visual culture
- Explore and analyze the history, theory, and cultural significance of photography, exploring key figures, movements, styles, and technologies that have shaped the evolution of photography as an art form and cultural practice
- Analyze photographs from different periods, cultures, and genres, considering issues such as representation, identity, aesthetics, ethics, and the impact of photography on society and culture
- Analyze ethical and legal issues related to photography, including consent, privacy, copyright, and intellectual property rights
- Learn to respect the rights and dignity of subjects and to adhere to ethical standards in their photographic practice

Critical Analysis and Critique

- Engage in critique and feedback sessions, discussing their own photographs and those of their peers, providing constructive feedback and reflecting on their artistic choices and technical skills
- Develop critical thinking skills, learning to articulate and defend their creative decisions, as well as to incorporate feedback into their photographic practice to improve the quality and impact of their work

Fundamentals, Tools, and Techniques

- Explore different genres of photography, including portrait, landscape, still life, street photography, documentary, and experimental photography
- Study examples of each genre, analyzing techniques and approaches used by photographers to convey meaning and emotion
- Develop familiarity and proficiency with the operation of digital cameras, including DSLRs, mirrorless cameras, and smartphone cameras
- Explore different types of digital cameras, including DSLR, and smartphone cameras, understanding their features, advantages, and limitations
- Develop proficiency with digital cameras, lenses, and accessories, gaining proficiency in basic camera operation, exposure settings, focus, and image capture techniques
- Explore basic photographic equipment, including digital cameras, lenses, tripods, and accessories, as well as their functions and settings
- Explore fundamental photographic techniques, such as exposure, focus, composition, depth of field, shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, and metering, through hands-on exercises and guided assignments
- Develop proficiency with focus techniques such as autofocus, manual focus, and selective focus
- Adjust camera settings such as aperture, shutter speed, ISO, white balance, and focus to achieve desired photographic effects
- Explore depth of field and its creative possibilities, understanding how aperture settings affect the sharpness and blur of foreground and background elements

Subject Matter and Visual Storytelling

- Explore different subject matter and themes in photography, such as portraiture, landscape, still life, documentary, street photography, and conceptual photography
- Use photography as a means of visual storytelling, conveying narratives, emotions, and ideas through their choice of subject matter, composition, and visual style
- Develop visual storytelling skills, capturing moments, emotions, and narratives through composition, framing, and timing in their photographs

Composition and Visual Elements

- Explore principles of composition and visual design in photography, such as balance, symmetry, rule of thirds, framing, leading lines, perspective, symmetry, contrast, and rhythm
- Learn principles of composition and visual elements such as line, shape, form, texture, and color, applying them to create visually compelling images
- Apply compositional techniques, including rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, perspective, symmetry, and negative space, to effectively organize visual elements in their photographs
- Practice applying compositional techniques to their photographs, composing images that are visually dynamic, harmonious, and engaging to the viewer
- Practice composing visually appealing photographs, considering elements such as subject placement, background, foreground, and negative space

Lighting Techniques and Exposure Control

- Study the properties of light and the principles of lighting in photography, including natural light, artificial light, ambient light, and studio lighting
- Explore principles of lighting and exposure control, including natural light, artificial light, flash photography, and studio lighting setups, to achieve desired mood, atmosphere, and visual impact in photographs
- Understand and apply the concept of exposure and its components: aperture, shutter speed, and ISO
- Practice exposure settings such as aperture, shutter speed, and ISO sensitivity, understanding how they affect exposure, depth of field, motion blur, and noise in photographs
- Adjust exposure settings to achieve proper exposure, avoiding overexposure and underexposure
- Control and manipulate light to create different moods, drama, emphasis, effects, and visual outcomes in photographs, experimenting with techniques such as backlighting, side lighting, front lighting, and diffused lighting

Digital Image Editing and Post-Processing

- Explore digital image editing and post-processing techniques using software such as Adobe, Lightroom, or free alternatives like GIMP, Pixlr, or smartphone editing tools
- Practice basic editing tasks such as cropping, resizing, color correction, retouching, and adding filters or effects to enhance visual quality and artistic expression in their photographs
- Practice editing and enhancing their photographs, adjusting exposure, color balance, contrast, saturation, sharpness, and other parameters to achieve desired visual effects and aesthetic qualities

Portfolio Development

- Curate, organize, and present their photographic portfolio in a professional manner, incorporating artist statements, project descriptions, process documentation, and exhibition opportunities to contextualize and enhance their photographs
- Develop a portfolio of their best photographic work that showcases their artistic growth, skills, and creative vision over the course of the class
- Receive feedback from peers and instructors, reflecting on their growth and improvement as photographers

Studio Art

The focus of the studio art class is to offer students the opportunity to explore various artistic mediums and techniques in a studio environment. Students will experiment with drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and other visual arts forms, guided by instruction and feedback from the teacher. Through creative projects and assignments, students will develop their artistic skills, creativity, and personal style. The course aims to foster artistic expression, critical thinking, and appreciation for the visual arts while providing a supportive space for students to explore and develop their talents.

Foundational Practices

- Develop creative concepts and ideas for artworks, exploring various media, techniques, and processes to express their artistic vision.
- Plan and execute artworks, considering elements of composition, form, color, texture, and space to effectively communicate their artistic intentions
- Develop their ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of visual arts media, tools, and techniques
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in studio art, with an emphasis on personal expression, creative problem-solving, and technical proficiency
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret visual artworks, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Refine and edit visual artworks with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with different media, formats, and presentation techniques to enhance visual impact and communicative effectiveness
- Select and present artworks, considering factors such as framing, mounting, installation, or digital presentation to enhance visual impact and viewer engagement
- Refine and edit artworks, experimenting with different presentation formats, surfaces, and contexts to achieve desired aesthetic effects and conceptual resonance
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of visual artworks through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating visual artworks, considering elements such as composition, technique, craftsmanship, concept, and originality in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Deepen understanding of how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of art as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from the study of art history, theory, and technical practices to create original artworks that reflect interests, observations, and creative vision, with increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance
- Explore the societal, cultural, and historical contexts of art, examining how artists and artworks reflect and respond to diverse cultural, social, and historical influences
- Integrate personal experiences, interests, and perspectives into artworks, exploring themes of identity, community, and social justice through visual expression

Art History and Theory

- Explore and analyze the history, theory, and cultural context of art, exploring key movements, artists, works, and concepts in the evolution of art as a distinct human endeavor.
- Analyze artworks from different periods, cultures, and genres, considering issues such as style, symbolism, iconography, patronage, aesthetics, and the role of art in society and culture
- Demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles of art and design, including line, shape, form, color, texture, space, balance, contrast, rhythm, and unity
- Explore various media and techniques, including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, and mixed media
- Develop artistic voice and conceptual ideas through studio practice and experimentation
- Explore personal themes, narratives, and symbols in artwork, reflecting on their own experiences, interests, and cultural identity
- Analyze and critique artworks, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, cultural context, and artistic intent
- Engage in discussions, presentations, and written reflections on their own artwork and the work of their peers and other artists
- Engage in the study of historical and contemporary painting styles, movements, and artists, gaining insights into different aesthetic traditions, cultural contexts, and expressive possibilities in painting

Drawing and Painting Techniques

- Explore drawing and painting techniques, materials, and processes
- Learn and apply foundational skills such as line, shape, form, value, texture, perspective, color theory, and composition, applying them to create representational and abstract drawings and paintings
- Develop drawing skills through observation, exploration, and experimentation with various drawing media such as pencil, charcoal, ink, and pastel
- Develop fundamental drawing techniques such as line, shape, value, form, perspective, and composition, applying them to represent objects, figures, and environments with accuracy and expressiveness
- Develop skills in observational drawing, including contour drawing, gesture drawing, still life drawing, figure drawing, and landscape drawing
- Learn and apply techniques for capturing accurate proportions, perspective, and spatial relationships in their drawings
- Explore painting techniques and styles, including watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media approaches, experimenting with color theory, texture, brushwork, and layering effects
- Apply paint using different brushes, tools, and surfaces, experimenting with color mixing, layering, glazing, and texture

Sculpture and 3-Dimensional Design

- Explore and create three-dimensional artworks using a variety of sculptural materials and techniques, such as clay, plaster, wire, wood, metal, found objects, and mixed media assemblage
- Explore concepts such as form, volume, space, scale, balance, and composition
- Explore principles of form, volume, space, texture, and structure, manipulating materials and experimenting with additive, subtractive, and construction techniques to create sculptural forms that engage with physical and spatial relationships

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Learn and apply presentation techniques such as matting, framing, and mounting to prepare their artwork for exhibition and evaluation

- Curate and organize artworks into a cohesive portfolio, selecting and sequencing pieces that demonstrate their artistic skills, conceptual development, and personal voice
- Develop a portfolio of their best artwork, showcasing their technical skills, creative process, and conceptual development
- Develop a portfolio of their best artworks that showcases their artistic growth, skills, and creative vision over the course of the class
- Prepare portfolios for presentation in various formats, such as physical portfolios, digital portfolios, exhibitions, or artist statements, reflecting on their artistic journey and goals as emerging artists

Physical & Outdoor Education

The Upper School Physical and Outdoor Education objectives are based upon the National Physical Education Standards as outlined by the Society of Health and Physical Educators and the State of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the outdoor education guidelines detailed by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and the North American Association for Environmental Education.

SHAPE America Guidelines

1. **STANDARD 1** Develops a variety of motor skills. Through learning experiences in physical education, the student develops motor skills across a variety of environments. Motor skills are a foundational part of child development and support the movements of everyday life. The development of motor skills contributes to an individual's physical literacy journey.
2. **STANDARD 2** Applies knowledge related to movement and fitness concepts. Through learning experiences in physical education, the student uses their knowledge of movement concepts, tactics, and strategies across a variety of environments. This knowledge helps the student become a more versatile and efficient mover. Additionally, the student applies knowledge of health-related and skill-related fitness to enhance their overall well-being. The application of knowledge related to various forms of movement contributes to an individual's physical literacy journey.
3. **STANDARD 3** Develops social skills through movement. Through learning experiences in physical education, students develop the social skills necessary to exhibit empathy and respect for others and foster and maintain relationships. In addition, students develop skills for communication, leadership, cultural awareness, and conflict resolution in a variety of physical activity settings.
4. **STANDARD 4** Develops personal skills, identifies personal benefits of movement, and chooses to engage in physical activity. Through learning experiences in physical education, the student develops an understanding of how movement is personally beneficial and subsequently chooses to participate in physical activities that are personally meaningful (e.g., activities that offer social interaction, cultural connection, exploration, choice, self-expression, appropriate levels of challenge, and added health benefits). The student develops personal skills including goal setting, identifying strengths, and reflection to enhance their physical literacy journey.

AFWA Guidelines

1. **STANDARD 1** Conservation and management of terrestrial and water resources are essential to sustaining fish and wildlife, the outdoor landscape, and the quality of our lives.
2. **STANDARD 2** Students should understand and actively participate in the stewardship and support of our natural resources.
3. **STANDARD 3** Students should understand the value of our fish and wildlife resources as a public trust.
4. **STANDARD 4** Students should understand and accept and/or lawfully participate in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, wildlife watching, shooting sports, and other types of resource-related outdoor recreation.
5. **STANDARD 5** Students should understand the need for, and actively support funding for fish and wildlife conservation.

NAAEE Guidelines

1. **STRAND 1** Questioning, Analysis and Interpretation Skills
 - *Questioning*—Learners develop, modify, clarify, and explain questions that guide environmental investigations of various types. They describe criteria that influence the questions they pose and explain their reasoning.
 - *Designing investigations*—Learners design investigations to explore environmental questions, problems, issues, phenomena, and models. They explain their reasoning.
 - *Collecting information*—Learners use established protocols to locate and collect information for environmental investigations of many types. They use increasingly sophisticated methods and technology to access, gather, store, and display the information they collect.

- *Evaluating accuracy and reliability*—Learners apply logic and reasoning skills to evaluate the completeness and reliability of a range of environmental information and information sources.
 - *Organizing and analyzing information*—Learners organize, analyze, and display data and information from their environmental investigations for a variety of audiences and purposes.
 - *Working with models and simulations*—Learners create, use, test, and evaluate models to analyze environmental questions, problems, issues, or phenomena.
 - *Drawing conclusions and developing explanations*—Learners propose explanations that address their initial environmental questions using quantitative and qualitative data and evidence that has been collected and analyzed.
2. **STRAND 2 Environmental Processes and Systems**
- *Earth’s physical and living systems*
 - *Earth’s physical systems*—Learners describe the major processes and systems that form Earth and relate these processes, especially those that are large scale and long term to characteristics of Earth. They explain how changes in one system (hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere) result in changes to another. They describe how human sustainability depends on Earth systems.
 - *Earth’s living systems*—Learners describe basic population dynamics, genetic mechanisms behind biological evolution, and the importance of diversity in living systems. They explain how changes in the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and geosphere affect the biosphere. They describe how human sustainability is dependent on the biosphere.
 - *Human systems*
 - *Individuals, groups, and societies*—Learners observe and describe ways that individual and group action affects the environment, and how each can work to promote the common good. They analyze differing beliefs and values within the same community and the larger society and explain how sustainable solutions rely on reconciling diverse perspectives.
 - *Culture*—Learners recognize and describe examples of different cultural perspectives and dynamics and apply their understanding to current and historical environmental situations.
 - *Political systems*—Learners analyze how political systems and political decision-making, from the local to international levels, impact environmental quality and long-term sustainability.
 - *Economic systems*—Learners analyze how economic systems and economic decision-making affect environmental quality and long-term sustainability at local, tribal, national, and global levels.
 - *Environment and society*
 - *Human-environment interactions*—Learners analyze ways that humans interact with their environment and how these interactions change with technological developments. Learners determine costs and benefits to different groups in society as well as unintended consequences.
 - *Resource distribution and consumption*—Learners analyze ways that the perceived value and use of natural resources change over time and vary under different economic, political, social, and technological systems.
 - *Places*—Learners describe “place” as humans endowing a location with meaning and that this meaning can be created through individual and group interactions with that environment.
 - *Change and conflict*—Learners analyze the functioning of public processes for promoting and managing change and conflict, and evaluate their effects on the environment, society, and the economy.
3. **STRAND 3 Skills for Understanding and Addressing Environmental Issues**
- *Skills for analyzing and investigating environmental issues*
 - *Identifying and investigating issues*—Learners apply their research and analytical skills to systematically investigate environmental issues ranging from local issues to those that are regional or global in scope.

- *Sorting out the consequences of issues*—Learners evaluate the consequences of a broad range of environmental changes, conditions, and issues on environmental, social, and economic sustainability. They identify environmental justice and social equity implications.
- *Identifying and critiquing alternative solutions and courses of action*—Learners identify and propose environmental action plans, including design solutions, and evaluate their likely effectiveness in specific environmental, cultural/social, and economic contexts. They identify ways that these action plans and design solutions might affect different groups of people, including possible environmental justice and social equity implications.
- *Working with flexibility, creativity, and openness*—Learners engage each other in evidence-based peer review and work collaboratively and cooperatively in the spirit of open deliberation, especially in contexts that bring to the surface deeply held priorities and values.
- *Decision-making and action skills*
 - *Forming and evaluating personal views*—Learners evaluate, justify, and communicate their own views on environmental issues and possible ways to address them.
 - *Evaluating the need for action*—Learners apply their research and analytical skills to systematically determine whether action is needed in specific environmental, cultural/social, and economic contexts and whether they should be involved.
 - *Planning and taking action*—Learners develop action strategies and design solutions based on their research and analysis of an environmental issue. If appropriate, they implement plans that are within the scope of their rights and consistent with their individual abilities and responsibilities as members of the community.
 - *Evaluating the results of actions*—Learners evaluate the intended and unintended consequences of design solutions, their own civic actions and actions taken by other individuals and groups, including implications for long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
- 4. **STRAND 4 Personal and Civic Responsibility**
 - *Recognizing rights and responsibilities*—Learners describe the relationships between exercising their individual rights and responsibilities and addressing environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
 - *Recognizing efficacy and developing agency*—Learners exhibit personal agency by working independently and making choices to bring about change in their community that addresses environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
 - *Accepting personal responsibility*—Learners evaluate the broad environmental, social, and economic consequences of their actions. They accept responsibility for recognizing those effects and changing their actions when warranted.

Health

The focus of the health class is to provide students with essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Topics typically include nutrition, physical fitness, mental health, sexual health, substance abuse prevention, and interpersonal relationships. Through discussions, activities, and projects, students will learn about healthy lifestyle choices, risk factors for common health issues, and strategies for maintaining overall wellness. The course aims to empower students to take responsibility for their health and develop lifelong habits that promote a healthy and fulfilling life.

Growth and Development

- Understand human growth and development across the lifespan, including physical, cognitive, and social-emotional changes
- Demonstrate knowledge of reproductive anatomy, physiology, and sexual health
- Analyze factors influencing healthy sexuality, sexual decision-making, and responsible sexual behavior

Safety and Injury Prevention

- Demonstrate knowledge of safety practices and injury prevention strategies in various settings, including home, school, and community
- Identify risk factors and behaviors associated with unintentional injuries, accidents, and emergencies
- Develop skills in first aid, CPR, and emergency response procedures

Personal and Physical Health

- Understand and apply principles of mental, emotional, and social health
- Demonstrate understanding of factors influencing personal health behaviors, including nutrition, physical activity, sleep, and substance use
- Analyze the impact of stress, violence, and other environmental factors on personal health
- Analyze the relationship between nutrition, physical activity, and overall health and wellness
- Demonstrate knowledge of dietary guidelines, nutrient recommendations, and healthy eating patterns
- Apply principles of fitness and exercise science to develop personalized fitness plans and goals
- Set short-term and long-term health goals based on personal values, priorities, and needs
- Apply decision-making skills to personal health choices, including nutrition, exercise, substance use, and sexual health
- Identify decision-making models and strategies for evaluating options and consequences
- Develop action plans and strategies for achieving health goals, including self-monitoring and problem-solving
- Evaluate progress towards health goals and adjust strategies as needed
- Evaluate the ethical implications of health-related decisions and actions

Substance Use and Abuse

- Recognize the risks and consequences associated with substance use and abuse, including alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and prescription medications
- Demonstrate refusal skills and strategies for resisting peer pressure and avoiding risky behaviors
- Understand the impact of substance abuse on personal health, relationships, and society

Mental and Emotional Health

- Understand and apply principles of mental, emotional, and social health

- Understand the concepts of mental and emotional health, including stress management, coping strategies, and resilience
- Identify signs and symptoms of common mental health disorders and conditions, such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse
- Demonstrate knowledge of resources and strategies for promoting mental and emotional well-being and seeking help when needed

Interpersonal and Social Health

- Understand and apply principles of mental, emotional, and social health
- Evaluate the impact of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and the environment on health behaviors
- Demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills in relationships with family, peers, and others
- Develop effective communication skills for expressing feelings, setting boundaries, and making healthy decisions
- Recognize the importance of healthy relationships and boundaries in preventing and addressing issues such as dating violence, sexual assault, and harassment
- Identify strategies for resolving conflicts and managing interpersonal challenges
- Identify strategies for resisting negative influences and making healthy choices
- Demonstrate assertiveness skills for resisting peer pressure and negotiating healthy behaviors
- Practice active listening, empathy, and conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

- Understand the concepts of health promotion, disease prevention, and risk reduction
- Identify common communicable and non-communicable diseases and conditions, including their causes, symptoms, prevention, and treatment
- Analyze the role of immunizations, screenings, and preventive healthcare measures in disease prevention and control
- Recognize the importance of individual and community health promotion efforts
- Evaluate the reliability and credibility of health information from various sources
- Demonstrate skills in accessing and using health-related technology and resources
- Identify factors that contribute to health disparities and inequities
- Demonstrate knowledge of strategies for promoting community health and reducing the spread of infectious diseases

Advocacy

- Identify health-related issues and concerns affecting individuals, families, and communities
- Use effective communication and leadership skills to promote healthy behaviors among peers, family members, and community members
- Serve as a role model for positive health habits and attitudes
- Analyze the influence of socioeconomic factors on access to healthcare and health outcomes
- Recognize the importance of advocacy and activism in promoting individual and community health
- Collaborate with others to plan and implement health promotion campaigns and initiatives
- Identify local, national, and global health issues and disparities, and advocate for policies and initiatives to address them
- Demonstrate skills in health literacy, consumer health, and civic engagement
- Advocate for policies, programs, and resources that promote health equity and social justice

- Advocate for access to accurate and culturally relevant health information and services
- Engage in civic participation and community organizing to address health disparities and promote well-being

Physical Education

The focus of the physical education is on promoting physical fitness, motor skills development, and healthy lifestyle habits through structured physical activities and exercises. Students will engage in a variety of activities such as team sports, individual fitness routines, and cooperative games designed to improve cardiovascular health, muscular strength, flexibility, and coordination. Through participation, teamwork, and skill-building, students will learn the importance of regular physical activity for overall health and well-being. The course aims to instill a lifelong appreciation for physical fitness and healthy living habits.

Motor Skills and Movement

- Demonstrate proficiency in fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, throwing, catching, kicking, striking, and agility
 - Perform locomotor skills (e.g., running, skipping, hopping) with proficiency
 - Demonstrate proficiency in non-locomotor skills (e.g., bending, stretching, twisting)
 - Apply manipulative skills (e.g., throwing, catching, striking) with accuracy and control
- Execute complex movement patterns and sequences in individual and team activities
- Understand and apply principles of biomechanics, including force, leverage, balance, and motion, in performing physical activities
- Exhibit proper form and technique in performing complex motor skills, such as swimming strokes, gymnastic movements, and dance routines
- Identify and implement appropriate movement patterns and strategies to enhance performance in various physical activities
- Apply advanced skills and techniques in various physical activities, including team sports, individual sports, and lifetime activities
- Analyze and apply tactical strategies in team sports, including offense, defense, positioning, and decision-making

Physical Fitness and Wellness

- Understand the relationship between physical activity, nutrition, sleep, stress management, and overall health and well-being
- Identify the benefits of regular physical activity for overall health and well-being
- Develop strategies for incorporating physical activity into daily routines and maintaining a physically active lifestyle
- Participate in regular physical activity to improve and maintain cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition
- Engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity for a minimum of 150 minutes per week, as recommended by national guidelines
- Maintain a physically active lifestyle outside of school by participating in recreational sports, fitness activities, and other forms of exercise
- Demonstrate proficiency in fitness assessments, including cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition
- Apply principles of fitness training (e.g., overload, progression, specificity) to develop personalized fitness programs
- Set personal fitness goals and develop strategies to achieve and maintain physical fitness and overall health
- Design and implement personalized fitness plans to improve or maintain physical fitness levels
- Monitor and evaluate personal fitness levels through fitness assessments and goal setting

Social Development and Interaction

- Demonstrate sportsmanship, teamwork, and cooperation in physical activities and games
- Understand and follow safety rules and procedures to prevent injury during physical activities
- Demonstrate leadership skills and positive communication in group settings
- Respect the rights, feelings, abilities, and safety of others while participating in physical activities
- Resolve conflicts and demonstrate respect for diversity and inclusion in physical activity environments

Self-Realization and Building Individual Excellence

- Recognize the enjoyment and satisfaction derived from participation in physical activities
- Recognize the benefits of regular physical activity for physical health, mental health, and overall well-being
- Appreciate the challenge and opportunity for personal growth provided by physical activity
- Enjoy and find satisfaction in participating in a variety of physical activities and sports
- Use physical activity as a means of self-expression, stress relief, socializing, and personal growth
- Recognize the intrinsic rewards of physical activity, such as enjoyment, satisfaction, and personal fulfillment
- Challenge oneself to improve skills, overcome obstacles, and achieve personal goals in physical activities
- Value the social aspects of physical activity, including teamwork, camaraderie, and friendship

Resource Management

- Identify and access community resources and facilities for physical activity and fitness
- Make informed decisions regarding the selection and use of equipment, attire, and technology for physical activity
- Understand the role of physical activity professionals and organizations in promoting health and fitness

Outdoor Education

The focus of the outdoor education class is to provide students with opportunities to learn and engage in outdoor activities, adventure sports, and environmental education. Through hands-on experiences such as hiking, camping, kayaking, rock climbing, and wilderness survival skills, students will develop teamwork, leadership, and outdoor recreation skills. Additionally, students will learn about environmental conservation, sustainability, and outdoor safety practices. The course aims to foster a deeper connection to nature, promote physical fitness, and develop a sense of stewardship for the environment.

Outdoor Recreation and Adventure

- Participate in a variety of outdoor recreational activities, such as backpacking, kayaking, rock climbing, orienteering, and archery
- Explore opportunities for adventure-based learning and experiential education in outdoor settings
- Explore opportunities for lifelong outdoor recreation and adventure pursuits
- Develop physical fitness through outdoor adventure challenges
- Develop teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills through outdoor adventure challenges and cooperative activities

Outdoor Skills and Safety

- Develop proficiency in outdoor skills such as hiking, camping, fishing, and orienteering
- Demonstrate knowledge of outdoor safety practices, including first aid, navigation, and survival skills
- Practice outdoor safety protocols and risk management strategies to ensure safe and responsible outdoor experiences
- Learn “Leave No Trace” principles and ethical outdoor practices to minimize environmental impact and promote sustainability
- Practice “Leave No Trace” principles and ethical outdoor behavior to minimize environmental impact

Ecological Knowledge and Awareness

- Understand fundamental ecological concepts, including ecosystems, habitats, biodiversity, and natural resource management
- Identify common plants, animals, and natural features found in local environments
- Recognize the interconnectedness of human society and the environment, including environmental issues and sustainability challenges
- Demonstrate awareness of human impacts on ecosystems and the importance of conservation and stewardship
- Demonstrate awareness of local and global environmental issues and their impacts on ecosystems and communities

Natural Resource Management

- Learn about the management and conservation of natural resources, including wildlife, forests, and waterways
- Explore issues related to land use, habitat restoration, and sustainable resource management
- Engage in hands-on activities and field experiences related to natural resource conservation
- Conduct field investigations and ecological surveys to observe and document natural phenomena
- Collect and analyze environmental data related to wildlife populations, habitat characteristics, and ecosystem health

- Use scientific inquiry skills to interpret field data, draw conclusions, and make informed decisions about environmental stewardship

Outdoor Ethics and Citizenship

- Develop a sense of personal responsibility and stewardship for the environment
- Practice ethical outdoor behavior and responsible use of natural resources
- Reflect on ethical dilemmas and moral responsibilities related to environmental decision-making and conservation action
- Engage in community service and conservation projects to contribute positively to the outdoor environment

Environmental Science and Inquiry

- Investigate real-world environmental issues and develop solutions through critical thinking and problem-solving
- Engage in hands-on experiments and investigations to explore environmental science concepts and principles
- Conduct scientific investigations and field studies to explore environmental issues and phenomena
- Apply scientific inquiry skills to conduct experiments, analyze data, and communicate findings related to environmental topics
- Collect and analyze data related to wildlife populations, water quality, and ecological processes
- Apply scientific inquiry skills to develop hypotheses, conduct experiments, and draw conclusions about the natural world

Cultural and Community Connections

- Explore the cultural and historical significance of outdoor environments, natural landmarks, and traditional ecological knowledge
- Learn about indigenous cultures, traditional ecological knowledge, and historical land use practices
- Foster appreciation for diverse cultural perspectives and connections to the land
- Foster connections between students, communities, and the natural world through cultural exchange and community-based projects

Outdoor Leadership, Collaboration, and Advocacy

- Develop leadership skills to facilitate outdoor experiences, lead group activities, and promote teamwork and cooperation
- Foster inclusive and supportive learning environments that empower students to take on leadership roles and contribute positively to group dynamics
- Collaborate with peers, mentors, and community partners to plan and implement outdoor education initiatives and environmental stewardship projects
- Advocate for outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, and access to public lands
- Serve as ambassadors for outdoor education and environmental stewardship within the community
- Engage in environmental advocacy and civic participation to promote sustainability and address environmental challenges in local and global contexts

Upper School Fine Arts Academy Standards

Art Academy

The Upper School Visual Arts objectives are based upon the art standards as outlined by the National Art Education Association and the State of Texas TEKS for Fine Arts.

National Arts Standards for Visual Arts

Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.

12. Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
 - Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed.
 - Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative art making goals.
13. Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
 - Artists and designers experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches.
 - Artists and designers balance experimentation and safety, freedom and responsibility while developing and creating artworks.
 - People create and interact with objects, places, and design that define, shape, enhance, and empower their lives.
14. Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.
 - Artists and designers develop excellence through practice and constructive critique, reflecting on, revising, and refining work over time.

Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation, presentation, and sharing.

15. Anchor Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.
 - Artists and other presenters consider various techniques, methods, venues, and criteria when analyzing, selecting, and curating objects, artifacts, and artworks for preservation and presentation.
16. Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
 - Artists, curators and others consider a variety of factors and methods including evolving technologies when preparing and refining artwork for display and or when deciding if and how to preserve and protect it.
17. Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.^[1]_[SEP]
 - Objects, artifacts, and artworks collected, preserved, or presented either by artists, museums, or other venues communicate meaning and a record of social, cultural, and political experiences resulting in the cultivating of appreciation and understanding.

Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.

18. Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work Enduring Understanding: Individuals' selection of musical works is influenced by their interests, experiences, understandings, and purposes.
 - Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments.
 - Visual imagery influences understanding of and responses to the world.
19. Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.^[1]_[SEP]
 - People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
20. Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
 - People evaluate art based on various criteria.

Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

21. Anchor Standard 10: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.
 - Through art-making, people make meaning by investigating and developing awareness of perceptions, knowledge, and experiences.
22. Anchor Standard 11: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
 - People develop ideas and understandings of society, culture, and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.

Art History I

The focus of the Art History I class in the Fine Arts Track is to provide students with an introduction to the history of art, covering major artistic movements, styles, and periods from prehistoric times to the Renaissance. Through visual analysis, discussion, and study of significant artworks, students will explore the cultural, social, and historical contexts in which art was created. The course aims to develop students' understanding of art as a reflection of human experience and to foster appreciation for the diversity and richness of artistic expression throughout history.

Foundational Practices

- Reflect on historical artworks and consider how they were generated and conceptualized within their respective cultural context
- Explore how artists organized and developed their ideas and work across different historical periods and artistic movements
- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas inspired by the study of art history, experimenting with different media, techniques, and approaches to artistic expression
- Select, analyze, and interpret artworks from various cultures and historical periods, considering factors such as style, technique, symbolism, and socio-political context
- Critically engage with artworks and refine understanding through discussion, research, and reflection
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret artworks for presentation, considering factors such as audience, context, and purpose in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies, demonstrating greater skill and sophistication in communicating their ideas and insights about art
- Develop and refine their own artistic work for presentation in the context of class projects, exhibitions, or portfolio development activities
- Develop the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of artworks, both their own and those of others, through class discussions, written analyses, and critical inquiry
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of artworks through critical analysis, interpretation, and evaluation, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating artworks, considering elements such as composition, technique, craftsmanship, style, iconography, and historical context in their analysis and interpretation of artworks from different periods, cultures, and genres
- Explore how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, fostering a deeper understanding of art as a reflection of human experience
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from the study of art history to their own artistic practice and personal experiences
- Develop their ability to relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical contexts, exploring how art reflects and shapes human experience, values, and beliefs
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from the study of art history to deepen their understanding of art and its significance in their own lives and communities, fostering a deeper connection between art, culture, and personal identity
- Critically analyze Art History as a field of study, including exploring gaps in art historical information in non-western regions

Introduction to Art History

- Understand the connections between art history and broader historical and cultural contexts, including developments in science, technology, philosophy, literature, music, and politics

- Explore key concepts and terminology used in art historical discourse, such as periodization, style, genre, medium, iconography, patronage, and reception
- Explore the fundamental concepts and methodologies of art history, including the study of visual elements, artistic styles, cultural contexts, and historical periods
- Explore the methods, approaches, and disciplines of art history, including formal analysis, iconography, stylistic analysis, contextual analysis, and critical theory
- Analyze and interpret artworks through close observation, research, and critical inquiry, developing skills in visual analysis, art historical research, and written communication
- Analyze artworks from diverse cultures and regions around the world, including African art, Asian art, Indigenous art, Native American art, Aboriginal art, and religious art
- Examine how cultural, religious, social, political, and environmental factors influence artistic expression and visual culture
- Analyze how artistic movements and styles respond to and shape historical events and cultural movements

Critical Analysis and Interpretation

- Develop skills in critical analysis and interpretation of artworks, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, iconography, and visual symbolism
- Engage in discussions, presentations, and written reflections on the meaning, significance, and interpretation of artworks from different time periods and cultures
- Demonstrate an understanding of major artistic movements and periods in art history, including Prehistoric art, Ancient art, Classical art, Medieval art, and Renaissance art
- Explore the characteristics, techniques, themes, and historical contexts of artworks from each period
- Explore significant artists and artworks from different time periods and cultures, including painters, sculptors, architects, and other visual artists
- Analyze the style, technique, subject matter, and significance of individual artworks, identifying key characteristics and contributions of each artist
- Explore artistic techniques and materials used in various historical periods and cultures, including painting, sculpture, architecture, ceramics, textiles, printmaking, and decorative arts
- Explore innovations and developments in artistic materials, tools, and processes, understanding how they influence artistic practice and expression
- Examine artistic contexts and themes such as religion, mythology, symbolism, portraiture, landscape, still life, narrative, allegory, and abstraction
- Analyze how artists engage with social, cultural, political, and philosophical ideas in their artwork, reflecting on the role of art in society and human experience
- Conduct research on specific artists, artworks, movements, or themes in art history, using primary and secondary sources such as art books, scholarly articles, museum collections, and online resources
- Develop presentation skills, communicating their research findings through oral presentations, written essays, and visual presentations

Art Conservation and Preservation

- Examine the ethical and legal issues related to art conservation, including cultural heritage, ownership rights, and repatriation of cultural artifacts
- Explore the role of art museums, galleries, and cultural institutions in preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting artworks for public audiences

Prehistoric and Ancient Art

- Explore prehistoric and ancient art from various cultures, regions, and classical antiquity, including Paleolithic cave art, Neolithic pottery, Egyptian sculpture, Mesopotamian relief, Greek pottery, and Roman frescoes, Nok terracotta sculptures, and North American mounds
- Explore the architecture of prehistoric cultures, ancient civilizations, and classical antiquity, including Egyptian, Greek, and Roman architecture
- Explore themes such as ritual, religion, mythology, symbolism, social organization, and artistic techniques, considering how these artworks reflect the beliefs, values, and practices of ancient civilizations
- Examine the cultural, religious, and social contexts of prehistoric and ancient art, considering issues such as mythology, ritual, symbolism, power, and identity

Medieval, Gothic, and Islamic Art

- Explore the art and architecture of the medieval period in Europe and the Islamic world, including Byzantine mosaics, Romanesque sculpture, Gothic cathedrals, and Islamic calligraphy
- Examine medieval and gothic art from Europe, including illuminated manuscripts, Byzantine icons, Romanesque sculpture, and Gothic cathedrals
- Explore the religious, political, and cultural contexts of medieval and Islamic art, considering issues such as spirituality, pilgrimage, crusades, court patronage, and cross-cultural exchange
- Explore the role of religion, spirituality, and patronage in medieval art, as well as the development of artistic techniques such as perspective, naturalism, and symbolism.

Renaissance Art

- Explore the art and architecture of the Italian and Northern Renaissance, including works by artists such as Giotto, Masaccio, Donatello, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Jan van Eyck, and Albrecht Dürer
- Examine themes such as humanism, perspective, anatomy, classical mythology, and patronage, considering how Renaissance artists revolutionized artistic techniques and visual representation
- Analyze the humanistic, scientific, and religious contexts of Renaissance art, considering issues such as humanism, naturalism, perspective, patronage, and the Protestant Reformation.

Art History II

The focus of the Art History II class in the Fine Arts Track is to continue the exploration of art history, focusing on major artistic movements, styles, and periods from the Renaissance to the present day. Through the study of significant artworks and artists, students will examine the evolution of art in diverse cultural, social, and historical contexts. The course will deepen students' understanding of art as a reflection of human experience and societal changes, while fostering critical thinking and appreciation for the continuity and innovation in artistic expression over time.

Foundational Practices

- Reflect on historical artworks and consider how they were generated and conceptualized within their respective cultural contexts
- Explore how artists organized and developed their ideas and work across different historical periods and artistic movements
- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas inspired by their study of art history, experimenting with different media, techniques, and approaches to artistic expression
- Select, analyze, and interpret artworks from various cultures and historical periods, considering factors such as style, technique, symbolism, and socio-political context
- Critically engage with artworks and refine their understanding through discussion, research, and reflection
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret artworks for presentation, considering factors such as audience, context, and purpose in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies, demonstrating greater skill and sophistication in communicating their ideas and insights about art
- Develop and refine their own artistic work for presentation in the context of class projects, exhibitions, or portfolio development activities
- Reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of artworks, both their own and those of others, through class discussions, written analyses, and critical inquiry
- Identify and apply criteria to evaluate artistic work, considering elements such as composition, technique, symbolism, cultural significance, and historical context
- Reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of artworks through critical analysis, interpretation, and evaluation, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating artworks, considering elements such as composition, technique, craftsmanship, style, iconography, and historical context in their analysis and interpretation of artworks from different periods, cultures, and genres
- Explore how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, fostering a deeper understanding of art as a reflection of human experience
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history to their own artistic practice and personal experiences
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical contexts, exploring how art reflects and shapes human experience, values, and beliefs across different historical periods and cultural contexts
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history to deepen their understanding of art and its significance in their own lives and communities, fostering a deeper connection between art, culture, and personal identity

Critical Analysis and Critique

- Develop and apply skills in art criticism and theory, engaging with key concepts, debates, and methodologies in art history and visual culture studies
- Analyze artworks from multiple perspectives, considering formal elements, contextual factors, interpretive frameworks, and critical interpretations
- Develop and apply critical inquiry and research skills, conducting independent research on topics related to modern and contemporary art history
- Evaluate primary and secondary sources, analyze visual evidence, and construct well-reasoned arguments supported by evidence and critical analysis
- Analyze how artists explore issues of identity, representation, and cultural diversity in their artwork, addressing themes such as race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, and class
- Examine how artists challenge stereotypes, question power structures, and advocate for social justice and human rights through their artistic practice

Art History

- Expand knowledge of art history by exploring major artistic movements, styles, and cultural developments from the Renaissance to the contemporary period
- Analyze and interpret artworks within their historical and cultural contexts, considering factors such as social, political, religious, and technological influences
- Demonstrate an understanding of major artistic movements and periods in art history from the 19th century to the present, including Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Symbolism, Art Nouveau, Fauvism, Cubism, Expressionism, Dadaism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Minimalism, Conceptual Art, Postmodernism, and Contemporary Art
- Explore the characteristics, techniques, themes, and historical contexts of artworks from each period.
- Identify and analyze significant artists, innovators, and visionaries from the 19th century to the present, including painters, sculptors, photographers, architects, and multimedia artists
- Analyze the contributions and legacies of individual artists, understanding their impact on artistic practice, theory, and cultural discourse
- Explore the art market, gallery system, auction houses, and other institutions that shape the production, distribution, and consumption of art in the modern and contemporary periods
- Understand the role of collectors, dealers, curators, critics, and patrons in supporting and promoting contemporary art practices

Global Perspectives in Art

- Explore art from non-Western cultures and regions, including African art, Asian art, Indigenous art, Islamic art, and Latin American art
- Analyze artworks from diverse cultures and regions around the world, examining how artists respond to global events, cultural exchange, migration, and diaspora
- Examine the diverse cultural, religious, and historical contexts of global art traditions, considering issues such as cultural exchange, colonialism, cultural identity, and artistic innovation
- Analyze how contemporary artists address pressing issues such as globalization, climate change, migration, inequality, technology, and the human condition
- Explore cross-cultural connections and influences in art, considering how artistic movements and styles transcend national boundaries and contribute to a global visual culture
- Explore contemporary art practices and movements from around the world, including post-colonial art, feminist art, queer art, environmental art, digital art, performance art, installation art, and social practice art

Baroque, Rococo, and Neoclassical Art

- Examine baroque art from Europe and the Americas, including works by artists such as Caravaggio, Bernini, Velázquez, Rubens, Rembrandt, Watteau, Fragonard, David, and Ingres
- Explore themes such as religious devotion, theatricality, dramatic lighting, and emotional intensity, considering how baroque artists expressed the spiritual and political concerns of the 17th century
- Examine themes such as aristocratic leisure, romantic love, classical mythology, and revolutionary ideals, considering how rococo and neoclassical artists responded to the social and cultural changes of the 18th and early 19th centuries

19th Century Art

- Explore the art and architecture of the 19th century, including movements such as Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Symbolism, and Art Nouveau
- Analyze the historical, cultural, and social contexts of 19th-century art, considering issues such as industrialization, urbanization, social change, nationalism, and colonialism
- Explore romanticism and realism in 19th-century European art, including works by artists such as Goya, Delacroix, Turner, Constable, Courbet, and Millet
- Examine themes such as nature, imagination, emotion, social injustice, and the plight of the common people, considering how romantic and realist artists challenged traditional artistic conventions and engaged with the pressing issues of their time
- Examine impressionism and post-impressionism in late 19th-century European art, including works by artists such as Monet, Renoir, Degas, Cézanne, Van Gogh, and Gauguin
- Explore themes such as light, color, perception, modernity, and individual expression, considering how impressionist and post-impressionist artists revolutionized artistic representation and explored new forms of visual expression
- Explore symbolism, art nouveau, and the fin de siècle in late 19th and early 20th-century European art, including works by artists such as Redon, Mucha, Klimt, and Beardsley
- Examine themes such as mysticism, fantasy, decorative arts, and the search for spiritual and aesthetic renewal, considering how symbolist and art nouveau artists responded to the cultural and intellectual currents of the late 19th century

20th Century, Modern, and Contemporary Art

- Explore the art and architecture of the early 20th century, including movements such as Fauvism, Cubism, Futurism, Dadaism, Surrealism, and Constructivism
- Examine the cultural, political, and technological contexts of early 20th-century art, considering issues such as World War I, the Russian Revolution, urbanization, mass media, and the rise of avant-garde movements
- Explore the art and architecture of the modern and contemporary periods, including movements such as Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Minimalism, Conceptual Art, Feminist Art, and Postmodernism
- Analyze the cultural, political, and technological contexts of modern and contemporary art, considering issues such as globalization, consumer culture, identity politics, environmentalism, and digital media
- Explore expressionism, cubism, and futurism in early 20th-century European art, including works by artists such as Munch, Kirchner, Picasso, Braque, Delaunay, Boccioni, and Malevich
- Examine themes such as emotion, fragmentation, abstraction, movement, and the machine age, considering how expressionist, cubist, and futurist artists challenged traditional artistic conventions and embraced new forms of visual representation
- Explore dada, surrealism, and the avant-garde in early 20th-century European art, including works by artists such as Duchamp, Ernst, Dalí, Miró, Magritte, and Mondrian

- Explore themes such as absurdity, chance, the unconscious, dream imagery, and social critique, considering how dadaist, surrealist, and avant-garde artists revolutionized artistic practice and pushed the boundaries of visual expression
- Explore modernist and avant-garde movements in art, including their revolutionary ideas, experimental approaches, and challenges to traditional artistic conventions
- Analyze artworks that push the boundaries of representation, form, and meaning, exploring concepts such as abstraction, fragmentation, primitivism, and the unconscious mind

Art and Social Change

- Examine the role of art in social and political movements, including activism, protest, advocacy, and community engagement
- Analyze artworks that address issues such as civil rights, feminism, LGBTQ rights, environmentalism, immigration, and globalization, considering how art can inspire social change and promote dialogue and understanding
- Identify and explore contemporary issues and debates in the field of art, including questions of representation, cultural appropriation, authenticity, censorship, ethics, and the role of technology
- Engage with artworks that challenge traditional notions of art and expand the boundaries of artistic practice, considering how contemporary artists respond to the complexities of the modern world
- Explore how technological advancements, social upheavals, and political movements shape artistic production and reception in the modern and contemporary periods
- Examine how artists engage with new media, materials, technologies, and communication platforms to address issues such as industrialization, urbanization, globalization, war, revolution, identity, and activism

Drawing I

The focus of the Drawing I class in the Fine Arts Track is to introduce students to the fundamental principles and techniques of drawing. Students will learn about line, shape, form, perspective, composition, and shading through a variety of exercises and projects. Through guided instruction and practice, students will develop their observational skills, hand-eye coordination, and expressive abilities. The course aims to provide students with a solid foundation in drawing, enabling them to explore and communicate ideas visually.

Foundational Practices

- Develop foundational skills in generating and conceptualizing artistic ideas through observation, imagination, and experimentation with various drawing techniques and materials
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by applying principles of composition, proportion, perspective, and visual storytelling in their drawing
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring principles of design and expression in drawing, with an emphasis on skill-building, creative problem-solving, and personal expression
- Select, analyze, and interpret drawings, both their own and those of their peers, considering elements such as line quality, value contrast, texture, and expressive intent
- Refine and edit drawings, experimenting with different techniques and approaches to achieve desired visual effects and expressive qualities
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret drawings, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Refine and edit drawings with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with different media, techniques, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact and communicative effectiveness
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of drawings through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating drawings, considering elements such as line, shape, form, value, texture, composition, and expression in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Develop and apply the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of drawings, both their own and those of others, through class critiques, self-assessment, and written reflection
- Explore how drawing has been used as a means of visual communication and expression across different cultures, historical periods, and artistic movements, deepening their understanding of its significance and relevance
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of drawing techniques, art history, and personal experiences to create original drawings that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision
- Deepen understanding of how drawing relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of drawing as a universal form of visual communication and expression
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history, theory, and technical practices to create original drawings that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, with increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Historical and Cultural Perspective

- Explore the history of drawing as an artistic practice, studying examples of drawings from different cultures, historical periods, and artistic movements
- Study the history and cultural significance of drawing as an art form, exploring its evolution from prehistoric cave art to contemporary digital drawing practices
- Identify and analyze the role of drawing in different historical periods, cultures, and artistic movements, considering issues such as technique, materials, function, and symbolic meaning
- Investigate how drawing has been used for various purposes, including documentation, communication, expression, exploration, and experimentation, considering its role in shaping visual culture and human experience

Fundamentals, Tools, and Techniques

- Learn, practice, and demonstrate an understanding of foundational drawing skills such as line, shape, form, value, texture, proportion, perspective, and composition
- Explore a variety of drawing materials and techniques, including graphite pencils, charcoal, ink, conte crayon, pastels, and markers, learning how to manipulate them to create different effects and textures
- Practice basic drawing techniques such as line drawing, hatching, cross-hatching, stippling, shading, blending, and erasing, developing control and sensitivity in mark-making

Composition and Design

- Learn principles of composition and design, including balance, unity, contrast, rhythm, movement, proportion, focal point, and emphasis, applying them to create visually compelling and well-structured drawings
- Arrange elements within the picture plane to create visually engaging and dynamic compositions
- Analyze and critique compositions in their own drawings and those of master artists, identifying effective design strategies and considering how compositional choices contribute to the overall impact and meaning of the artwork

Perspective Drawing and Subject Matter

- Learn and apply basic principles of perspective drawing, including one-point perspective, two-point perspective, and atmospheric perspective
- Apply perspective techniques to create convincing illusions of depth and space in their drawings, understanding how to represent objects in three-dimensional space
- Explore a variety of subject matter in their drawings, including still life objects, natural forms, human figures, animals, landscapes, cityscapes, interiors, and abstract compositions
- Select and compose subjects that reflect their interests, experiences, and observations, exploring different approaches to representation, abstraction, and stylization
- Explore still life drawing, arranging and drawing objects such as fruit, vegetables, household items, and natural forms
- Study light and shadow, learning how to render form, volume, and texture through careful observation and shading techniques
- Study the human figure, learning to draw the proportions, anatomy, and gestures of the human body
- Practice figure drawing from live models or reference images, focusing on capturing the structure, movement, and expression of the figure

Observational Drawing

- Develop observational drawing skills by studying still life arrangements, landscapes, interiors, and figure models, learning to accurately depict forms, proportions, perspectives, and spatial relationships

- Learn and use techniques for capturing accurate proportions, spatial relationships, light and shadow, and surface textures from direct observation
- Practice techniques such as contour drawing, gesture drawing, sighting, measuring, and foreshortening, honing their ability to represent three-dimensional objects and spaces on a two-dimensional surface

Expressive Drawing

- Use drawing as a means of self-expression, exploring personal themes, emotions, and ideas through their artwork
- Explore drawing as a means of personal expression, experimentation, and interpretation, using line, gesture, mark-making, and symbolism to convey emotions, ideas, and narratives
- Experiment with expressive drawing techniques such as contour drawing, blind contour drawing, gesture drawing, automatic drawing, and expressive mark-making
- Investigate the use of line quality, value contrast, composition, and visual hierarchy to create dynamic and engaging compositions that communicate personal experiences and narratives
- Communicate mood, atmosphere, and narrative in their drawings, experimenting with expressive mark-making and visual storytelling

Experimental and Conceptual Drawing

- Engage in experimental drawing exercises and projects, pushing the boundaries of traditional drawing techniques and conventions to explore new possibilities for visual expression
- Engage in conceptual drawing exercises that challenge traditional notions of representation and perception, encouraging experimentation with visual metaphor, symbolism, narrative, and conceptual frameworks
- Explore themes such as identity, memory, dreams, social issues, and cultural narratives through drawing, using their artwork as a means of exploring and communicating complex ideas

Portfolio Development

- Identify and apply presentation techniques such as matting, framing, and mounting to prepare their drawings for exhibition and evaluation
- Develop a portfolio of their best drawings, showcasing their technical skills, creative vision, and artistic growth over the course of the class
- Participate in critiques of their own artwork and the work of their peers, offering constructive feedback and reflecting on their artistic process and decision-making
- Analyze and interpret their drawings, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement

Drawing II

The focus of the Drawing II class in the Fine Arts Track is to build upon the foundational skills developed in Drawing I, focusing on further exploration and refinement of drawing techniques and concepts. Students will delve deeper into topics such as composition, perspective, figure drawing, and experimentation with different media. Through guided instruction and advanced projects, students will expand their artistic repertoire, develop their personal style, and refine their drawing abilities. The course aims to deepen students' understanding of drawing as a form of expression and prepare them for more advanced study or personal artistic pursuits.

Foundational Practices

- Further develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through experimentation with advanced drawing techniques and materials, as well as through critical engagement with conceptual frameworks and personal narratives
- Refine the ability to organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by exploring complex compositional strategies, narrative structures, and thematic concerns in their drawings, with an emphasis on coherence, unity, and aesthetic integrity
- Deepen the ability to select, analyze, and interpret drawings for presentation, considering factors such as audience, context, and intent in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies, demonstrating increased sophistication and discernment
- Refine and edit their drawings for presentation with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced media, techniques, and formats to enhance visual impact and communicative effectiveness
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of drawings through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating advanced insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating drawings, considering elements such as concept, technique, expression, context, and innovation in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened rigor and sophistication
- Deepen understanding of how drawing relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of drawing as a means of social commentary, cultural expression, and historical reflection
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history, theory, and technical practices to create original drawings that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Artistic Research and Inquiry

- Engage in artistic research and inquiry, investigating topics of personal interest or relevance to contemporary drawing practice
- Develop research questions, gather visual references, analyze artworks, and synthesize their findings into original artwork and written reflections
- Investigate contemporary drawing practices and trends, exploring the work of contemporary artists who push the boundaries of drawing as a medium
- Explore interdisciplinary approaches to drawing, including installation, performance, digital media, and collaborative projects

Advanced Drawing Techniques

- Explore advanced drawing techniques such as chiaroscuro, sfumato, hatching, cross-hatching, stippling, scumbling, blending, glazing, dry brush, and mixed media approaches
- Further develop drawing skills through the exploration of advanced techniques and concepts, including perspective drawing, foreshortening, anatomical drawing, and rendering of complex forms
- Refine understanding of line, shape, value, texture, and space, using a variety of drawing media such as graphite, charcoal, ink, and colored pencils
- Experiment with unconventional drawing tools and surfaces, such as ink washes, scratchboard, collage, monotype, digital drawing tablets, and alternative mark-making materials

Expressive Figure Drawing

- Continue to study the human figure, deepening their understanding of anatomy, proportion, gesture, and expression
- Further develop the ability to draw the human figure from observation, gesture, and memory, exploring anatomy, proportion, movement, and expression in figure drawing exercises
- Experiment with different figure drawing poses, models, and settings, exploring the expressive potential of the human form in narrative, symbolic, and conceptual contexts
- Explore expressive approaches to figure drawing, capturing movement, emotion, and personality in their artwork through dynamic poses, dramatic lighting, and gestural mark-making

Narrative Drawing

- Explore drawing as a narrative form, creating sequential drawings, storyboards, graphic novels, and illustrated narratives that explore themes such as personal identity, cultural heritage, social issues, and fantastical imaginings
- Study sequential art forms such as comics, graphic novels, storyboards, and illustrated narratives, learning techniques for pacing, composition, and visual storytelling
- Identify and practice narrative techniques such as pacing, framing, panel composition, character design, visual storytelling, and symbolic imagery
- Explore narrative drawing, creating sequences of images that tell a story, depict a scene, or convey a message

Experimental and Conceptual Drawing Practices

- Experiment with unconventional mark-making techniques and materials, pushing the boundaries of traditional drawing practices
- Engage in experimental drawing practices that challenge traditional approaches to drawing, encouraging risk-taking, improvisation, and innovation in their artwork
- Explore methods such as collage, mixed media, monoprinting, frottage, and automatism to create expressive and innovative drawings
- Explore techniques such as automatic drawing, blind contour drawing, collaborative drawing, chance operations, sequential drawing, and generative drawing algorithms
- Experiment with alternative drawing surfaces and supports, such as textured paper, fabric, wood, found objects, and digital tablets
- Explore the unique properties of different surfaces, adapting their drawing techniques to suit the characteristics of each material
- Engage in conceptual drawing exercises that explore abstract ideas, philosophical concepts, and theoretical frameworks, using drawing as a means of inquiry, exploration, and reflection

- Experiment with conceptual drawing strategies such as visual metaphor, allegory, symbolism, transformation, juxtaposition, and ambiguity
- Engage in conceptual drawing exercises, exploring abstract ideas, symbolism, metaphor, and visual storytelling in their artwork
- Communicate complex concepts and emotions through visual imagery, using drawing as a means of personal expression and communication

Professional Practices and Portfolio Development

- Develop an understanding of professional practices in the field of drawing, including portfolio development, exhibition strategies, artist statements, resumes, artist websites, and digital documentation techniques
- Explore career pathways in drawing, such as illustration, graphic design, animation, fine art, concept art, storyboard art, scientific illustration, and medical illustration
- Continue to develop their drawing portfolio, selecting and organizing their best artwork to showcase their technical proficiency, creative vision, and conceptual exploration
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional presentation techniques, preparing their drawings for exhibition, publication, or college admissions portfolios
- Participate in critiques of their own artwork and the work of their peers, offering and receiving constructive feedback on technical skills, conceptual ideas, and artistic intentions
- Develop and apply critical thinking skills and learn to articulate their artistic choices and intentions through verbal and written communication.

Experimental Methods

The focus of the experimental methods class in the Fine Arts Track is to encourage students to explore unconventional approaches and techniques in creating visual art. Students will experiment with a variety of materials, tools, and methods to push the boundaries of traditional art practices. Through guided experimentation, research, and reflection, students will develop their creativity, problem-solving skills, and artistic vision. The course aims to foster innovation, risk-taking, and personal expression, empowering students to develop their unique artistic voice.

Foundational Practices

- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in their artworks, with an emphasis on innovation, risk-taking, and creative problem-solving
- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through experimentation with unconventional materials, techniques, and processes
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring innovative compositional strategies, conceptual frameworks, and thematic concerns in their experimental work
- Deepen the ability to select, analyze, and interpret experimental artworks for presentation, considering factors such as materiality, process, and conceptual intent in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine and edit their artwork for presentation with increased attention to materiality, craftsmanship, and intentionality, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to enhance visual impact and communicative effectiveness
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret artworks, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance
- Refine and edit art pieces, experimenting with different materials, processes, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual clarity, and expressive intent
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of artwork, both their own and those of others, through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating art, considering formal qualities, technical proficiency, conceptual coherence, and expressive resonance in their own work and that of their peers
- Deepen their ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of experimental art through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating advanced insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating experimental art, considering elements such as innovation, experimentation, risk-taking, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic impact in their own work and that of their peers
- Engage in opportunities to deepen their understanding of how experimental art practices relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of drawing and painting as dynamic and evolving forms of visual expression
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history, theory, and technical practices to create experimental art that reflect their interests, experiences, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance
- Explore how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, deepening their understanding of art as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity

- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art making techniques, art history, and personal experiences to create original artworks that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision

Critical Analysis and Critique

- Conduct artistic research and contextual analysis to deepen their understanding of experimental art practices within historical, cultural, and contemporary contexts
- Investigate the work of experimental artists, movements, and trends, considering the motivations, methods, and impact of experimental approaches to art making across different time periods and cultural settings
- Explore historical and cultural contexts relevant to experimental art, examining the ways in which artists have experimented with materials, techniques, and concepts throughout history
- Investigate the impact of technological advancements, cultural movements, and social change on the evolution of experimental art practices
- Engage in critique and dialogue as essential components of their artistic practice, providing constructive feedback, asking probing questions, and participating in reflective discussions about their own work and that of their peers
- Develop the ability to articulate their artistic intentions, choices, and outcomes, as well as their responses to others' work, fostering a supportive and intellectually stimulating artistic community
- Critically analyze their own artwork and the work of others, reflecting on the conceptual, technical, and aesthetic aspects of experimental art
- Develop and apply skills in visual analysis, interpretation, and critique, articulating their artistic choices and intentions through verbal and written communication

Exploration of Contemporary Art Practices

- Investigate contemporary art practices that employ experimental methods and techniques in drawing, painting, and other studio practices
- Study the work of contemporary artists who challenge traditional notions of what art is, pushing the boundaries of the medium through innovative approaches and conceptual inquiry
- Experiment with a wide range of unconventional materials and tools in their art practice, including found objects, organic materials, recycled materials, industrial materials, non-traditional mark-making tools, and alternative supports
- Explore the expressive potential of unconventional materials in their artwork, considering issues such as texture, surface quality, transparency, opacity, reflectivity, and durability
- Engage in a series of experimental drawing and painting projects that challenge traditional approaches to art making, encouraging risk-taking, innovation, and creative problem-solving
- Explore themes such as chance, chaos, order, transformation, process, intervention, collaboration, interactivity, and site-specificity in their experimental artwork

Experimental Techniques

- Explore experimental mark-making techniques and processes, such as dripping, splattering, scraping, scratching, rubbing, erasing, layering, masking, stenciling, stamping, printing, and transferring
- Investigate the relationship between mark-making techniques and expressive qualities such as rhythm, gesture, texture, density, movement, and rhythm in their artwork
- Explore experimental drawing techniques and approaches, including automatic drawing, blind contour drawing, non-dominant hand drawing, collaborative drawing, and chance-based methods

- Experiment with unconventional materials, tools, and surfaces, such as found objects, alternative mark-making tools, and non-traditional supports, to expand their creative possibilities and challenge conventional notions of drawing.
- Investigate experimental painting techniques and processes, including wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, alla prima, impasto, glazing, pouring, dripping, scraping, and masking
- Experiment with non-traditional painting media, additives, and substrates, such as acrylic mediums, spray paint, encaustic, collage elements, and unconventional surfaces, to explore new avenues for visual expression and surface texture
- Explore a wide range of experimental techniques and processes in art, including but not limited to collage, mixed media, printmaking, monoprinting, transfer techniques, stencil methods, resist techniques, layering and glazing, textural additives
- Investigate the expressive potential of these techniques and their applications in contemporary art practice.

Conceptual and Process-Based Artmaking

- Develop the ability to generate and explore conceptual ideas through visual research, experimentation, and iteration
- Investigate a range of themes, concepts, and sources of inspiration, such as personal experiences, social issues, environmental concerns, cultural identity, and historical narratives, using art making as a vehicle for conceptual exploration and visual storytelling
- Focus on the process of artmaking rather than the finished product, embracing experimentation, improvisation, risk-taking, and iteration as integral aspects of their creative practice
- Document and reflect on the artistic process through sketchbooks, process journals, artist statements, and critique sessions, gaining insights into their own artistic habits, preferences, and growth as experimental artists
- Explore conceptual frameworks in drawing and painting, investigating themes such as memory, identity, perception, time, space, reality, illusion, transformation, ambiguity, abstraction, and narrative
- Develop the ability to articulate conceptual ideas and intentions in their artwork, communicating their artistic vision through visual, verbal, and written forms of expression
- Engage in process-based artmaking, emphasizing exploration, experimentation, discovery, and iteration over finished product or product-oriented outcomes
- Investigate concepts such as chance, improvisation, repetition, transformation, and collaboration, allowing the creative process to inform the outcome of their artwork

Mixed Media and Interdisciplinary Approaches

- Integrate various media and materials into artwork, experimenting with combinations of drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, digital media, found objects, unconventional materials, and writing
- Explore interdisciplinary approaches to artmaking, incorporating elements of sculpture, installation, performance, and new media into their drawing and painting practice
- Experiment with hybrid techniques, materials, and processes, blurring the boundaries between drawing, painting, and other forms of artistic expression to create dynamic and conceptually rich artworks
- Experiment with layering, juxtaposition, integration, and transformation of different media to create hybrid forms of visual expression that challenge traditional notions of art making

Personal Voice and Artistic Identity

- Cultivate personal voice and artistic identity through experimentation, self-exploration, and creative risk-taking

- Develop a unique visual language and aesthetic sensibility, expressing their ideas, emotions, and experiences through their artwork
- Develop strategies to overcome creative blocks, embrace uncertainty, and adapt to unexpected outcomes, fostering resilience and adaptability in their artistic practice
- Develop creative problem-solving skills, embracing experimentation, risk-taking, and failure as integral parts of the artistic process
- Participate in collaborative and community-based art projects, working with peers, mentors, and community members to create artwork that addresses social, environmental, or cultural issues
- Collaborate effectively, communicate ideas, and negotiate shared artistic visions, fostering teamwork and empathy in their artistic practice

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Identify and use professional presentation techniques, preparing their artwork for exhibition, publication, or college admissions portfolios
- Develop a portfolio of experimental art that demonstrates their technical proficiency, creative experimentation, conceptual development, and personal voice as experimental artists
- Curate, edit, and present their artworks in a cohesive and professional manner, documenting their artistic process, influences, and aspirations through digital portfolios, exhibitions, artist statements, and presentations

Film Production

The focus of the film production class in the Fine Arts Track is to immerse students in the process of creating films from concept to completion. Students will learn about scriptwriting, storyboarding, cinematography, lighting, sound recording, and editing techniques using industry-standard software. Through hands-on projects and collaborative teamwork, students will gain practical experience in all aspects of filmmaking, from pre-production planning to post-production editing. The course aims to develop students' technical skills, creativity, and storytelling abilities while providing a comprehensive understanding of the film production process.

Foundational Practices

- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through storytelling, visual expression, and technical innovation in the medium of film
- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas for film projects through brainstorming, storyboarding, scriptwriting, and previsualization techniques
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by planning, scripting, storyboarding, and pre-visualizing their films, considering narrative structure, visual composition, and thematic resonance
- Organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by planning, scheduling, budgeting, and managing the production process for film projects, including script breakdowns, shot lists, and production timelines
- Deepen the ability to select, analyze, and interpret film works for presentation, considering factors such as genre, style, narrative structure, visual language, and audience reception in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine and edit their film projects for presentation with increased attention to storytelling, pacing, rhythm, continuity, sound design, visual effects, and post-production techniques to enhance cinematic impact and communicative effectiveness
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret films, both their own and those of others, considering elements such as cinematography, editing, sound design, and storytelling techniques
- Refine and edit their films, experimenting with different editing techniques, visual effects, soundtracks, and post-production processes to enhance narrative clarity, emotional impact, and visual style
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of films, both their own and those of others, through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating films, considering elements such as storytelling effectiveness, technical proficiency, thematic resonance, and emotional impact in their own work and that of their peers
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of film works through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating advanced insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating film works, considering elements such as storytelling, cinematography, editing, sound design, performance, visual effects, and thematic resonance in their own work and that of their peers
- Deepen the understanding of how film relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of film as a form of social commentary, cultural expression, and historical reflection
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of film history, theory, and technical practices to create original film projects that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

- Explore how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, deepening their understanding of film as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of film history, theory, and production techniques to create original films that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision

Film Critique and Analysis

- Engage in film critique and analysis as essential components of their artistic practice, analyzing films from aesthetic, technical, thematic, and cultural perspectives
- Critically analyze films from a variety of genres, styles, and cultural contexts, applying formalist, thematic, and contextual approaches to film criticism
- Develop skills in visual literacy, narrative analysis, and cultural interpretation, articulating their insights and interpretations through written and oral presentations
- Develop the ability to articulate their responses to films, discussing their artistic merits, narrative effectiveness, visual style, and thematic resonance with classmates, teachers, and guest speakers

Introduction to Filmmaking and Filmmaking Techniques

- Explore different film genres, styles, and movements, studying classic and contemporary examples of narrative, documentary, experimental, and avant-garde filmmaking
- Analyze and deconstruct films from various genres, identifying common conventions, themes, and visual motifs, and experimenting with genre conventions in their own film projects
- Identify the fundamental elements of film language, including cinematography, editing, sound design, mise-en-scène, and narrative structure
- Learn the language of film, including camera angles, shots, movements, framing, composition, lighting, color, sound, editing, and visual effects, through analysis of classic and contemporary film examples
- Explore how filmmakers use cinematic techniques to convey narrative, emotion, theme, atmosphere, and character in their work
- Analyze the use of camera angles, framing, lighting, color, sound effects, music, and editing techniques in film scenes to convey mood, tone, and meaning
- Practice basic filmmaking skills through hands-on exercises, collaborative projects, and individual assignments, developing proficiency in capturing and manipulating visual and auditory elements to tell compelling stories
- Explore ethical and legal issues related to film production, including copyright, fair use, intellectual property rights, privacy rights, and representation
- Learn to navigate ethical dilemmas and legal constraints in their own filmmaking practice, respecting the rights and dignity of individuals depicted in their films

Production Management

- Develop skills in pre-production planning, including script breakdown, storyboarding, shot lists, location scouting, casting, and scheduling
- Organize and coordinate the logistical and creative aspects of film production, preparing for efficient and effective shoot days
- Explore the collaborative nature of film production, understanding the roles and responsibilities of key crew members, such as directors, producers, cinematographers, editors, and sound designers
- Learn the basics of film production management, including pre-production planning, production logistics, crew roles, scheduling, budgeting, location scouting, casting, and on-set etiquette, through hands-on production exercises and group projects

- Develop and apply skills in production management and leadership, assuming roles such as director, producer, cinematographer, editor, sound designer, and production assistant
- Work in production teams to plan, shoot, and edit short films, practicing effective communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management skills throughout the filmmaking process
- Collaborate effectively as part of a filmmaking team, delegating responsibilities, managing resources, and problem-solving to overcome challenges during production
- Collaborate with peers in various production roles (director, cinematographer, editor, sound designer, etc.) to plan, shoot, and edit their film projects, fostering teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and leadership skills

Screenwriting and Story Development

- Develop original film concepts, write screenplays, create storyboards, and pitch their ideas to classmates, refining their storytelling abilities and honing their creative vision for film projects
- Develop original screenplay ideas, treatments, outlines, and scripts for short film projects, focusing on concept development, storyboarding, and visual storytelling techniques
- Develop original screenplays or adapt existing stories into script format, focusing on creating compelling narratives with well-defined characters and meaningful themes
- Explore the fundamentals of screenwriting and story development, learning screenplay structure, character development, plot progression, dialogue writing, and narrative pacing
- Become proficient with the fundamentals of screenwriting, including story structure, character development, dialogue, conflict, plot twists, and narrative arcs, through writing exercises, workshops, and script analysis

Cinematography

- Engage in the study of cinematography as a means of visual storytelling, learning principles of camera movement, framing, composition, mise-en-scène, and visual symbolism
- Learn the principles of cinematography and visual composition, including framing, rule of thirds, perspective, depth of field, camera movement, focus, exposure, and color theory, through hands-on camera exercises and practical shooting assignments
- Experiment with different camera techniques and styles to create visual storytelling effects and evoke mood, tone, and atmosphere in their film projects
- Engage in the study of camera movement, framing, composition, focus, depth of field, and exposure control, using these techniques to create visually dynamic and aesthetically pleasing shots
- Practice cinematographic techniques through hands-on exercises and projects, experimenting with different camera angles, focal lengths, camera movements, and visual effects to convey mood, atmosphere, and narrative tension in their films

Sound Design and Editing

- Identify principles of sound design and editing, including recording dialogue, ambient sound, and music
- Learn and apply the principles of sound design, including recording, editing, mixing, and layering sound effects, dialogue, music, and ambient noise to create immersive auditory experiences in their film projects
- Experiment with different sound design techniques and strategies to enhance mood, atmosphere, narrative tension, and emotional impact in their film projects
- Edit soundtracks using digital audio editing software, synchronizing sound with picture and manipulating audio elements to enhance storytelling and create immersive cinematic experiences

Post-Production and Editing

- Identify the principles of film editing and post-production, including non-linear editing techniques, continuity editing, montage, pacing, color correction, sound design, visual effects, and title design
- Learn and apply the basics of digital video editing software, including non-linear editing techniques, timeline editing, trimming, transitions, effects, color correction, sound mixing, and titling, through software tutorials and editing exercises
- Use digital video editing software to assemble raw footage into cohesive scenes and sequences, refining pacing, rhythm, and continuity to achieve the desired narrative flow
- Edit film projects using industry-standard editing software, focusing on narrative pacing, continuity, rhythm, visual storytelling, and sound design to enhance cinematic impact and communicative effectiveness
- Edit film footage using professional editing software, experimenting with different editing styles, transitions, effects, and soundscapes to refine their storytelling and enhance the emotional impact of their films

Distribution and Exhibition

- Showcase films in a culminating film festival or public exhibition, sharing their work with peers, teachers, families, and community members
- Participate in film screenings, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions, gaining feedback, recognition, and exposure for their creative achievements as emerging filmmakers

Foundations of Art

The focus of the foundations of art class in the Fine Arts Track is to serve as a comprehensive introduction to the formal elements and principles of art. Through hands-on exploration, students delve into key concepts used in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and other visual arts mediums. Guided instruction helps students develop fundamental skills and understandings essential for further artistic pursuits, fostering creativity, self-expression, and appreciation for the arts.

Foundational Practices

- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas across a variety of media and processes, exploring fundamental principles and elements of art and design
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in their artwork, with an emphasis on creative expression, skill development, and personal exploration
- Organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by experimenting with different materials, techniques, and approaches in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital media
- Deepen the ability to select, analyze, and interpret works of art for presentation, considering factors such as aesthetic quality, expressive content, cultural context, and personal meaning in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine and edit artwork for presentation with increased attention to craftsmanship, composition, visual impact, and communicative effectiveness, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to enhance viewer engagement and understanding
- Refine their ability to select, analyze, and interpret artworks, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance
- Refine and edit artworks, experimenting with different materials, techniques, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual clarity, and expressive intent
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating artworks, considering elements such as composition, color, form, texture, line, space, and concept in their own work and that of their peers
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating artwork, considering elements such as formal qualities, expressive content, technical skill, conceptual depth, and cultural significance in their own work and that of their peers
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history, theory, and studio practices to create original artworks that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision

Critical Analysis and Critique

- Explore various artistic styles, movements, and cultural traditions, studying examples of art from different historical periods, geographical regions, and aesthetic philosophies
- Develop and apply critical thinking skills through art critique and analysis, learning to evaluate artworks from aesthetic, technical, and conceptual perspectives
- Develop and apply visual literacy skills, learning to analyze and interpret artworks using formalist, thematic, and contextual approaches
- Analyze and interpret artworks in various media and genres, identifying common themes, techniques, and visual motifs, and experimenting with different stylistic approaches in their own artwork
- Engage in group discussions and written reflections on their own artwork and that of their peers, articulating their thoughts, observations, and interpretations with clarity and depth

Creative Expression, Personal Voice, and the Artistic Process

- Engage in the artistic process, from initial concept development and experimentation to final execution and reflection
- Generate ideas, solve creative problems, and make aesthetic decisions through iterative experimentation and critical thinking
- Explore creative expression and develop their own artistic voice, drawing on personal experiences, interests, and perspectives
- Communicate ideas, emotions, and experiences through their artwork, using visual language to express their unique identity and worldview
- Engage in open-ended creative projects that allow for personal interpretation, experimentation with different media, and exploration of individual interests, experiences, and ideas, fostering self-discovery and artistic growth
- Demonstrate an understanding of foundational studio practices and techniques in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed media, gaining proficiency in handling art materials, tools, and equipment safely and effectively
- Experiment with different techniques, processes, and approaches to artmaking, such as observational drawing, expressive painting, sculptural modeling, relief printing, and collage construction, expanding their creative repertoire and developing their personal artistic style

Fundamentals and Techniques

- Explore a variety of art materials and techniques, including drawing media, painting media, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and digital media
- Use tools and equipment safely and effectively, experimenting with different media to achieve diverse visual effects and textures
- Engage in the study of color theory, learning about the color wheel, color relationships, and the psychological effects of color
- Experiment with color mixing techniques, using primary, secondary, and tertiary colors to create a range of hues, tints, shades, and tones
- Experiment with color theory, color harmony, color temperature, value scale, color relationships, and color symbolism in painting, applying these concepts to their own artwork
- Explore concepts such as form, volume, mass, space, scale, texture, and structure in their sculptural creations, considering both aesthetic and functional considerations

Elements and Principles of Art and Design

- Explore the elements of art (line, shape, form, color, value, texture, and space) and the principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, and unity) through hands-on exercises, projects, and discussions
- Explore how artists use elements and principles of art and design to create visually compelling artwork across different media and styles
- Experiment with various art materials, tools, and techniques to develop basic skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed media, gaining proficiency in visual expression and creative problem-solving
- Identify and manipulate elements of art in their artwork, understanding how they contribute to visual composition and artistic expression
- Experiment with principles of design, including balance, unity, contrast, rhythm, movement, emphasis, and pattern, as organizing principles for creating visually compelling artworks

- Apply the principles of design to create visually harmonious and dynamic compositions in various art media and formats
- Apply design principles to artwork, considering compositional choices, spatial relationships, and visual hierarchy to create dynamic and harmonious compositions that communicate effectively with the viewer

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Develop a portfolio of artwork that demonstrates their artistic growth, skills, and creative development and achievements over time
- Curate, document, and present their artwork in a professional manner, reflecting on their artistic process, conceptual development, and personal artistic goals through artist statements, portfolio reviews, and exhibition opportunities

Graphic Design

The graphic design class in the Fine Arts Track serves as an extension to the introduction to the digital art class. The focus will be on teaching students the principles and techniques of visual communication using digital tools and software. Students will learn about typography, layout, color theory, and composition, as well as design elements such as imagery and branding. Through hands-on projects and real-world applications, students will develop skills in creating logos, posters, advertisements, and digital media. The course aims to prepare students for careers or further study in graphic design, advertising, marketing, and related fields, while fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities.

Foundational Practices

- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through visual communication, problem-solving, and creative expression using digital tools and techniques
- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas for design projects through research, ideation, sketching, and digital prototyping techniques
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by applying principles of design, typography, imagery, composition, layout techniques, and color theory to create visually compelling and conceptually coherent graphic designs
- Deepen their ability to select, analyze, and interpret graphic design works for presentation, considering factors such as visual hierarchy, composition, readability, branding, and message clarity in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine and edit their graphic design projects for presentation with increased attention to visual impact, technical precision, professional quality, and audience engagement, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to enhance communicative effectiveness
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret graphic designs, both their own and those of others, considering visual hierarchy, readability, aesthetic appeal, and communicative effectiveness
- Refine and edit their graphic designs, experimenting with different layouts, formats, styles, and digital tools to enhance clarity, impact, and visual appeal in print and digital media
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of graphic designs, both their own and those of others, through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of graphic design works through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating graphic design works, considering elements such as visual impact, creativity, functionality, usability, cultural relevance, and ethical responsibility in their own work and that of their peers
- Deepen understanding of how design relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of design as a form of visual communication, cultural expression, and social interaction
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of design history, theory, and technical practices to create original graphic design projects that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance
- Explore how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, deepening their understanding of design as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of design principles, visual culture, and contemporary trends to create original graphic designs that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision

Graphic Design Fundamentals and Principles

- Explore the design process, including research, ideation, conceptualization, iteration, prototyping, and refinement, as a systematic approach to problem-solving in graphic design
- Apply design thinking principles to real-world design challenges, such as designing logos, branding identity systems, packaging, informational graphics, user interfaces, and interactive media projects
- Demonstrate an understanding of color theory, including color properties, harmonies, contrasts, and psychology, as a foundation for understanding the role of color in graphic design
- Experiment with color mixing, color schemes, and color palettes to create visually engaging and emotionally resonant designs that effectively communicate messages and evoke responses from viewers
- Identify vector graphics principles and techniques, including bezier curves, shapes, paths, fills, strokes, gradients, and transformations, using software such as Adobe Illustrator and/or other vector graphics editors
- Create original vector illustrations, icons, symbols, logos, and graphic elements for use in graphic design projects, exploring different illustrative styles, techniques, and visual languages
- Identify and analyze principles of design, including balance, contrast, emphasis, rhythm, unity, proportion, movement, and pattern, through hands-on exercises, projects, and discussions
- Explore how designers use design principles to create visually compelling and effective graphic design solutions across different media and platforms
- Explore the principles, history, and applications of graphic design, including typography, layout, image-making, branding, and visual communication
- Analyze the role of graphic design in contemporary culture, commerce, and digital media, examining examples from print, digital, and interactive contexts
- Explore foundational principles of graphic design, including typography, layout, composition, color theory, and visual hierarchy, through hands-on projects and design exercises
- Explore the elements of design and their application in various design contexts, such as branding, advertising, publication design, web design, and multimedia
- Identify and explore professional practices in graphic design, including project management, client communication, design ethics, copyright, and intellectual property rights
- Examine ethical and legal issues related to graphic design, including copyright, fair use, intellectual property rights, plagiarism, and design ethics
- Create original, ethically responsible artwork, respecting the rights of creators and adhering to professional standards of conduct in their design practice

Digital Tools and Technologies

- Use digital tools and technologies for graphic design, including industry-standard software such as Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign), Sketch, and Canva as well as digital drawing tablets, scanners, and printers
- Develop proficiency in digital design techniques, such as image editing, vector illustration, page layout, typography manipulation, and digital publishing, to create professional-quality graphic designs
- Demonstrate an understanding of digital imaging techniques and tools, including image editing, retouching, compositing, masking, layering, and special effects, using software such as Adobe Photoshop and/or other raster graphics editors
- Explore digital media design principles, including interface design, navigation design, information architecture, wireframing, prototyping, and usability testing, for websites, mobile apps, and interactive media

- Create digital media design projects that focus on user-centered design principles, user experience (UX) design principles, and human-computer interaction (HCI) principles, considering usability, accessibility, and user engagement in their designs
- Apply digital imaging skills to create original graphic design projects, incorporating photographic elements, digital illustrations, textures, and visual effects to enhance visual storytelling and aesthetic appeal
- Develop proficiency in digital image editing, vector drawing, page layout, and other graphic design techniques, applying these skills to create professional-quality artwork

Typography, Layout, and Composition

- Engage in the study typography as a fundamental element of graphic design, learning about type anatomy, classification, hierarchy, legibility, and expressive potential
- Experiment with letterform design, type manipulation, and typographic systems to create effective and expressive text-based designs for print and digital media
- Identify typography fundamentals, including type anatomy, classification, hierarchy, legibility, and readability
- Explore typography principles and techniques, including type anatomy, type classification, typographic hierarchy, kerning, tracking, leading, alignment, and legibility, through typography exercises and typographic compositions
- Select and manipulate typefaces, experimenting with fonts, weights, styles, sizes, spacing, and alignment to create effective and expressive text designs
- Explore layout and composition principles, including balance, hierarchy, proximity, alignment, contrast, and unity
- Examine principles of layout and composition, such as balance, alignment, proximity, contrast, and repetition, as organizing principles for creating visually dynamic and structurally coherent designs
- Demonstrate an understanding of layout design principles and techniques, including grid systems, visual flow, whitespace, focal points, and composition strategies, applying these concepts to create effective layouts for print and digital media
- Design layouts for print and digital media, organizing visual elements such as text, images, and graphics to communicate information and engage the viewer.
- Apply layout and composition principles to design projects, including posters, flyers, brochures, advertisements, webpages, and multimedia presentations

Visual Communication and Image Making

- Identify and analyze visual identity and branding concepts, including logo design, brand identity systems, brand personality, brand positioning, and brand consistency, through case studies, brand audits, and brand identity projects
- Explore brand identity principles, studying logo design, color theory, symbolism, and brand consistency
- Explore visual communication principles, including symbolism, metaphor, visual metaphor, iconography, and semiotics, as tools for conveying messages and ideas through graphic design
- Develop skills in image-making and visual communication, using digital tools and techniques to create and manipulate visual assets
- Select and edit photographs, illustrations, icons, and other graphic elements to enhance visual narratives and convey messages effectively
- Experiment with image-making techniques, such as illustration, photography, collage, and digital imaging, to create original visual content for graphic design projects

- Develop visual identities for fictitious or real-world brands, designing logos, wordmarks, and brand assets that reflect brand values and resonate with target audiences
- Develop original visual identities and branding solutions for fictitious or real-world clients, considering factors such as target audience, market competition, brand values, and brand differentiation in their designs

Print Design and Production

- Investigate print production processes and prepress techniques, including file preparation, color management, resolution, and file formats
- Investigate print design principles, including color modes, resolution, bleed, trim, safe area, margins, folding, binding, and file preparation, for various print media such as posters, brochures, flyers, business cards, and packaging
- Prepare print-ready graphic design files for production, applying industry-standard print specifications, guidelines, and best practices to ensure quality output and reproducibility
- Demonstrate an understanding of the technical requirements and considerations for producing print materials, such as brochures, posters, flyers, and business cards
- Explore web and interactive design principles, learning about user experience (UX) design, user interface (UI) design, responsive design, and interaction design
- Design and prototype interactive digital experiences, such as websites, mobile apps, social media graphics, and multimedia presentations

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Develop a portfolio of graphic design work that demonstrates their skills, creativity, and professional readiness, preparing them for further study or careers in graphic design, advertising, marketing, publishing, web design, and related fields
- Present work effectively, articulating their design decisions, conceptual approach, and problem-solving strategies in written and oral presentations

Introduction to Digital Art

The focus of the introduction to digital art class in the Fine Arts Track is to provide students with foundational skills in using industry-standard graphic design software. Students will learn essential techniques for image editing, manipulation, and composition, as well as vector-based design and illustration. Through hands-on projects and guided instruction, students will develop proficiency in digital image editing, graphic design, and illustration, preparing them for further study or careers in visual communication, design, and media arts.

Foundational Practices

- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas for digital media projects through hands-on exploration of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator or other similar software
- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through digital image creation, manipulation, and graphic design using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator or other similar software
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by applying digital imaging, illustration, and graphic design techniques in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator or other similar software to create original digital artworks and designs
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by applying digital design principles, techniques, and tools to create visually compelling and conceptually coherent digital artworks
- Deepen the ability to select, analyze, and interpret digital media works for presentation, considering factors such as visual impact, technical skill, creativity, and message clarity in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret digital artworks, both their own and those of others, considering visual elements, compositional principles, and communicative effectiveness
- Refine and edit digital media projects for presentation with increased attention to visual impact, technical precision, professional quality, and audience engagement, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to enhance communicative effectiveness
- Refine and edit digital artworks, experimenting with different digital media, techniques, and effects to enhance visual impact, clarity, and aesthetic appeal in digital and print media
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of digital media works through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating digital artworks, considering elements such as composition, color harmony, typography, image quality, and message clarity in their own work and that of their peers
- Deepen understanding of how digital media relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of digital media as a form of visual communication, cultural expression, and technological innovation
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of digital media tools, techniques, and practices to create original digital artworks and designs that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance
- Explore how digital art and design relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, deepening their understanding of digital media as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of digital media, design principles, and contemporary trends to create original digital artworks that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision

Typography and Graphic Design

- Demonstrate proficiency with typography and graphic design principles in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop or other similar software, including type anatomy, typographic hierarchy, layout design, and visual communication
- Explore typography principles and graphic design concepts, learning how to use type effectively as a visual element in digital design
- Explore digital typography and layout design using both Photoshop and Illustrator or other similar software, learning to set type, manipulate text, and create typographic compositions
- Experiment with typography styles, fonts, sizes, alignments, kerning, leading, tracking, and hierarchy to create visually appealing and communicatively effective text-based designs in Photoshop and Illustrator or other similar software
- Develop skills in layout design, including page composition, grid systems, alignment, and hierarchy, using type and imagery to create visually engaging designs
- Apply typography and graphic design skills to create original typographic compositions, posters, advertisements, and promotional materials, integrating text and imagery in visually compelling designs

Introduction to Digital Manipulation Software

- Explore the basics of Adobe Photoshop or other similar software, including interface navigation, tool selection, layer management, image editing, retouching, and compositing techniques
- Identify and explore the basic functions and tools of Adobe Photoshop or other similar software, including image editing, retouching, cropping, resizing, selection, layers, masking, and filters
- Explore digital imaging concepts such as resolution, color modes, image adjustments, selection tools, masking, and blending modes, applying these techniques to create original digital artworks and photo manipulations
- Develop proficiency with the essential tools and functions of Adobe Photoshop or other similar software, including selection tools, brushes, layers, masks, adjustment layers, and filters
- Explore techniques for image editing, retouching, compositing, and manipulation, applying these skills to enhance photographs and create digital artwork

Introduction to Vector Based Design and Illustration

- Explore the basics of Adobe Illustrator or other similar software, including interface navigation, tool selection, object creation, manipulation, transformation, and path editing techniques
- Identify and explore the basic functions and tools of Adobe Illustrator or other similar software, including vector drawing, shape creation, path manipulation, text editing, color swatches, gradients, and effects
- Explore vector graphics concepts such as shapes, paths, anchor points, bezier curves, fills, strokes, gradients, and patterns, applying these techniques to create original vector illustrations, icons, symbols, and graphic designs
- Develop proficiency with the essential tools and functions of Adobe Illustrator or other similar software, including drawing tools, shapes, paths, anchors, fills, strokes, and gradients
- Explore techniques for creating and editing vector graphics, logos, illustrations, and typographic designs, using Illustrator's precision and scalability features
- Practice basic vector drawing techniques through hands-on tutorials and exercises, creating simple illustrations, logos, icons, and typography designs using vector shapes and paths

Vector Illustration and Logo Design

- Explore vector graphics and illustration design techniques in Adobe Illustrator, including drawing, shaping, coloring, and transforming vector objects and paths
- Explore vector illustration techniques using Illustrator, creating geometric shapes, custom paths, and complex designs
- Create original vector illustrations, logos, icons, symbols, and graphic designs using Adobe Illustrator tools and features, exploring different illustrative styles, techniques, and visual languages
- Explore logo design principles, studying typography, symbols, and visual identity, and applying these principles to design original logos and brand assets

Digital Imaging and Photo Editing

- Investigate the basics of digital imaging, including raster and vector graphics, resolution, color modes, and file formats
- Understand the differences between Photoshop (raster-based) and Illustrator (vector-based) or other similar software and their respective applications in digital art and design
- Explore digital image manipulation techniques, such as photo compositing, collage, montage, and surrealism, using Photoshop or other similar software to create imaginative and visually compelling digital artworks
- Experiment with layer blending modes, masking techniques, adjustment layers, and special effects to combine multiple images into cohesive and expressive compositions
- Develop proficiency with digital imaging and photo editing techniques in Adobe Photoshop or other similar software, including image retouching, color correction, image manipulation, special effects, and filters
- Apply digital imaging skills to edit and enhance photographs, create digital collages, and explore creative visual storytelling techniques using Adobe Photoshop or other similar software tools and features
- Demonstrate proficiency with photo editing and retouching techniques using Photoshop or other similar software, including color correction, exposure adjustment, retouching imperfections, and restoring old photographs
- Develop skills in non-destructive editing, using adjustment layers, masks, and retouching tools to enhance and restore digital images
- Export and output digital artwork from Photoshop and Illustrator or other similar software for various print and digital media
- Demonstrate understanding of file formats, resolution, color modes, and image optimization techniques for different output requirements, such as print, web, and multimedia

Digital Drawing and Painting

- Explore digital painting and drawing techniques using Photoshop or other similar software, experimenting with brushes, textures, blending modes, and pressure sensitivity
- Create expressive digital paintings, sketches, and illustrations, using layers, blending modes, and opacity to build up complex images
- Develop proficiency with digital drawing and illustration techniques using Illustrator, including pen tool drawing, shape manipulation, path editing, anchor point control, and stroke/brush customization
- Practice drawing and illustrating digitally, creating original artwork such as logos, icons, infographics, illustrations, and typographic designs with precision and versatility

- Develop proficiency with digital painting techniques and artistic effects using Photoshop or other similar software, including brush presets, painting modes, blending modes, textures, gradients, and custom brushes
- Practice digital painting and apply artistic effects to create expressive and atmospheric digital artworks, such as digital paintings, illustrations, concept art, and visual narratives

Ethical and Legal Considerations

- Identify and analyze ethical and legal issues related to digital art and design, including copyright, fair use, intellectual property rights, plagiarism, digital manipulation ethics, and online privacy
- Adhere to ethical guidelines and best practices in digital art and design, respecting the rights of original creators and responsibly using digital resources, references, and content in their own artwork
- Create original, ethically responsible artwork, respecting the rights of creators and adhering to professional standards of conduct in their design practice

Digital Media Projects and Portfolio Development

- Engage in creative projects and assignments that apply Photoshop and Illustrator or other similar software skills to real-world design challenges
- Develop creativity, problem-solving abilities, and design thinking through hands-on projects, critiques, and iterative design processes
- Complete digital media projects and assignments that integrate Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator or other similar software skills to create original digital artworks, designs, and multimedia presentations
- Curate, organize, and present their digital artworks in a professional manner, documenting their creative process, conceptual development, and personal artistic style through digital portfolios, online galleries, and presentations
- Compile and organize digital media projects into a portfolio, reflecting on learning experiences, creative process, technical skills, and artistic vision in a digital media showcase
- Develop a digital portfolio of their artwork created in Photoshop and Illustrator or other similar software, showcasing their skills, creativity, and artistic growth over the course of the class

Introduction to Studio I

The focus of the introduction to studio I class in the Fine Arts Track is to offer students an immersive introduction to various art mediums and techniques. Through hands-on exploration, students engage with drawing, painting, and sculpture. Guided by instruction and experimentation, students will develop fundamental skills and understandings essential for further artistic pursuits, fostering creativity, self-expression, and appreciation for the arts.

Foundational Practices

- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas across various media and processes, exploring fundamental principles and elements of art and design
- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in their artwork, with an emphasis on creative expression, skill development, and personal exploration
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by experimenting with different materials, techniques, and approaches in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital media
- Select, analyze, and interpret artworks, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance
- Select, analyze, and interpret works of art for presentation, considering factors such as aesthetic quality, expressive content, cultural context, and personal meaning in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine and edit artworks, experimenting with different materials, techniques, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual clarity, and expressive intent
- Refine and edit their artwork for presentation with increased attention to craftsmanship, composition, visual impact, and communicative effectiveness, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to enhance viewer engagement and understanding
- Reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of artwork through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating artworks, considering elements such as composition, color, form, texture, line, space, and concept in their own work and that of their peers
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating artwork, considering elements such as formal qualities, expressive content, technical skill, conceptual depth, and cultural significance in their own work and that of their peers
- Explore how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, deepening their understanding of art as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity
- Deepen understanding of how art relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of art as a form of cultural expression, social commentary, and personal reflection
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history, theory, and technical practices to create original artwork that reflects their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Art History, Theory, and Critical Analysis

- Engage in the study of art history and cultural context to deepen their understanding of art as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity

- Explore various artistic styles, movements, and cultural traditions, studying examples of art from different historical periods, geographical regions, and aesthetic philosophies
- Explore and analyze significant artists, artworks, movements, and historical periods in the context of their social, political, and cultural milieu, considering how art reflects and shapes cultural values, beliefs, and identities
- Develop and apply critical thinking skills through art critique and analysis, learning to evaluate artworks from aesthetic, technical, and conceptual perspectives
- Analyze and interpret artworks in various media and genres, identifying common themes, techniques, and visual motifs, and experimenting with different stylistic approaches in their own artwork
- Engage in group discussions and written reflections on their own artwork and that of their peers, articulating their thoughts, observations, and interpretations with clarity and depth

Creative Process and Personal Voice

- Explore creative expression and develop personal artistic voice through experimentation, self-expression, and reflection
- Explore artistic expression and develop their own artistic voice, drawing on personal experiences, interests, and perspectives
- Engage in open-ended creative projects that allow for personal interpretation, experimentation with different media, and exploration of individual interests, experiences, and ideas, fostering self-discovery and artistic growth
- Engage in the creative process, from initial concept development and brainstorming to final execution and reflection
- Generate ideas, solve creative problems, and make aesthetic decisions through iterative experimentation and critical thinking
- Communicate ideas, emotions, and experiences through their artwork, using visual language to express their unique identity and worldview

Introduction to Elements and Principles of Art and Design

- Explore how artists use elements and principles of art and design to create visually compelling artwork across different media and style
- Explore the fundamental visual elements of art, including line, shape, form, color, value, texture, and space, through hands-on exercises and creative projects
- Experiment with various art materials, tools, and techniques to develop basic skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media, gaining proficiency in visual expression and creative problem-solving
- Explore principles of design, including balance, unity, contrast, rhythm, movement, emphasis, and pattern, as organizing principles for creating visually compelling artworks
- Apply design principles to their artwork, considering compositional choices, spatial relationships, and visual hierarchy to create dynamic and harmonious compositions that communicate effectively with the viewer
- Develop foundational studio practices and techniques in drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media, gaining proficiency in handling art materials, tools, and equipment safely and effectively
- Experiment with different techniques, processes, and approaches to artmaking, such as observational drawing, expressive painting, and sculptural modeling, expanding their creative repertoire and developing their personal artistic style

Drawing Techniques

- Identify and develop basic drawing skills and techniques, including contour drawing, gesture drawing, observational drawing, still life drawing, figure drawing, and perspective drawing
- Explore different drawing materials (pencil, charcoal, ink, pastel, etc.) and tools, exploring mark-making, line quality, shading, composition, and spatial relationships in their drawings
- Represent objects, figures, and environments accurately and expressively, using line, shape, and value to convey form and space

Painting Techniques

- Explore basic painting techniques and processes, including color mixing, brushwork, layering, blending, glazing, and texture creation and effects
- Develop skills and techniques for using various painting media, such as watercolor and acrylic, experimenting with different surfaces and supports
- Explore color theory, color harmony, color temperature, value scale, color relationships, and color symbolism in painting, applying these concepts to their own artwork

Sculpture and 3-Dimensional Design

- Experiment with basic sculptural techniques and materials, including additive (modeling, carving, construction) and subtractive (casting, carving, assemblage) processes, using clay, wood, metal, plaster, found objects, and mixed media
- Explore concepts such as form, volume, mass, space, scale, texture, and structure in their sculptural creations, considering both aesthetic and functional considerations
- Learn basic sculpture techniques and concepts, including additive and subtractive processes, armature construction, modeling, carving, and assembling
- Explore a variety of sculptural materials, such as clay, wood, metal, plaster, and found objects, to create three-dimensional artwork

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Identify and apply professional presentation techniques, organizing and presenting their artwork for exhibition, publication, or college admissions portfolios
- Curate, document, and present their artwork in a professional manner, reflecting on their artistic process, conceptual development, and personal artistic goals through artist statements, portfolio reviews, and exhibition opportunities
- Develop a portfolio of artwork, documenting their artistic growth, skills, and creative achievements and development over time

Introduction to Studio II

The focus of the introduction to studio II class in the Fine Arts Track is to build upon the foundational skills developed in Introduction to Studio Art I, further exploring various art mediums and techniques. Through continued hands-on exploration and guided instruction, students will deepen their understanding of drawing, painting, printmaking, and other artistic forms. The course aims to expand students' artistic vocabulary, creativity, and technical proficiency, fostering personal expression and a deeper appreciation for the arts.

Foundational Practices

- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas across various media and processes, exploring intermediate-level principles and elements of art and design
- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through deeper exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Continue to organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by exploring advanced themes, concepts, and techniques in their artwork, with a focus on personal expression, artistic risk-taking, and creative problem-solving
- Expand the ability to organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by experimenting with more advanced materials, techniques, and approaches in drawing, painting, and printmaking
- Refine and edit artwork for presentation with increased attention to technical skill, compositional complexity, conceptual depth, and aesthetic refinement, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to enhance viewer engagement and understanding
- Refine their ability to select, analyze, and interpret artworks, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, cultural context, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Deepen their ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of artworks through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating artworks, considering elements such as composition, craftsmanship, conceptual depth, technical skill, and personal expression in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Deepen the understanding of how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging deeper exploration of art as a reflection of human experience, social commentary, and cultural identity
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from the study of art history, theory, and technical practices to create original artwork that reflects their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Art History, Theory, and Critical Analysis

- Conduct artistic research and reference, studying historical and contemporary artists, movements, styles, and techniques
- Analyze and critique artwork, identifying influences, themes, and artistic strategies, and applying these insights to their own artistic practice
- Develop creative problem-solving skills and critical thinking abilities, learning to approach artistic challenges with curiosity, resourcefulness, and resilience
- Generate and evaluate ideas, iterate on their artwork through feedback and revision, and develop innovative solutions to artistic problems

- Deepen understanding of cultural and social issues in art, exploring how art reflects and shapes individual and collective identities, beliefs, and values
- Examine artworks from diverse cultural perspectives, historical contexts, and social movements, considering issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in their own artwork and that of others

Creative Process and Personal Voice

- Engage in personalized artistic projects that allow for individual exploration, self-expression, and creative autonomy
- Pursue self-directed projects based on their interests, passions, and artistic goals, with guidance and support from the teacher to develop their ideas, skills, and concepts
- Continue to develop artistic voice and cultivate authenticity, integrity, and emotional resonance in their artwork, expressing their unique vision and perspective with clarity, conviction, and authenticity
- Deepen exploration of conceptual depth and personal expression in their artwork, delving into meaningful themes, ideas, and narratives that resonate with their own experiences, perspectives, and identities
- Integrate research, experimentation, and critical inquiry into their artistic practice, pushing the boundaries of traditional artmaking and exploring new avenues of creative expression
- Engage in experimental approaches to artmaking, exploring conceptual themes, processes, and materials in their artwork

Elements and Principles of Art and Design

- Further explore advanced artistic media and techniques, building upon the skills and concepts introduced in Introduction to Studio I
- Further explore the visual elements of art, including line, shape, form, color, value, texture, and space, through advanced techniques, media, and processes
- Experiment with alternative materials, unconventional tools, and innovative methods to expand their creative repertoire and push the boundaries of traditional artmaking practices
- Explore multimedia and interdisciplinary approaches to artmaking, combining diverse materials, techniques, and disciplines to create hybrid and interdisciplinary artworks
- Integrate elements of drawing, painting, printmaking, and other art forms to create innovative and expressive artworks that transcend traditional boundaries and challenge conventional notions of art
- Experiment with a wider range of materials and processes, including advanced painting, printmaking, and mixed media
- Think outside the box, take artistic risks, and explore new directions in their artwork, embracing experimentation, improvisation, and playfulness as essential elements of the creative process

Advanced Painting Techniques

- Explore different painting media (watercolor, acrylic, gouache, etc.) and surfaces, investigating color theory, paint application, brushwork, texture, and atmospheric effects in their paintings
- Further develop painting skills and techniques, exploring intermediate-level painting processes such as color mixing, glazing, impasto, alla prima, underpainting, and painting from observation
- Experiment with color mixing, color harmonies, temperature, value, and saturation, using color expressively to evoke mood, atmosphere, and emotion in their artwork
- Deepen understanding of color theory and explore advanced painting techniques, such as glazing, impasto, alla prima, and underpainting

Printmaking and Graphic Arts

- Explore and develop skills with basic printmaking techniques, including relief printing (linocut, woodcut), intaglio printing (etching, drypoint), planographic printing (lithography), monoprinting, and stencil printing (screen printing)
- Create prints using various techniques, including carving, etching, stenciling, and transfer methods, experimenting with different inks, papers, and printing surfaces
- Explore different printmaking tools, materials, and processes, experimenting with image transfer, editioning, registration, ink application, and paper selection in their prints

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Engage in advanced art critique and portfolio development activities, honing the ability to analyze, interpret, and evaluate artworks with depth, insight, and critical rigor
- Continue to develop art portfolio, curating and organizing a body of work that showcases artistic growth and development, technical skills, creative process, and personal vision
- Refine their portfolio of artwork, selecting, organizing, and presenting their best and most representative pieces in a professional manner, preparing them for further study, exhibition, or professional opportunities in the arts

Painting I

The focus of the painting I class in the Fine Arts Track is to introduce students to the basic principles and techniques of painting. Students will explore various painting mediums such as watercolor and acrylic, learning about color theory, composition, brushwork, and other essential skills. Through guided instruction and hands-on projects, students will develop their artistic vision and proficiency in painting, while also gaining an understanding of different painting styles and approaches. The course aims to provide students with a solid foundation in painting, fostering creativity, self-expression, and appreciation for the visual arts.

Foundational Practices

- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through hands-on exploration of painting techniques, materials, and processes
- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in painting, with a focus on creative expression, skill development, and personal exploration
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by experimenting with different painting media, surfaces, styles, and subjects, exploring fundamental principles and elements of painting
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret artworks, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance
- Deepen the ability to select, analyze, and interpret works of art for presentation, considering factors such as composition, color harmony, expressive content, and cultural context in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine and edit paintings for presentation with increased attention to technical skill, aesthetic quality, visual impact, and communicative effectiveness, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to enhance viewer engagement and understanding
- Refine and edit paintings with attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with different materials, techniques, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic refinement
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of paintings through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating artworks, considering elements such as composition, color, form, texture, and concept in their own work and that of their peers
- Deepen the understanding of how painting relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of painting as a form of visual expression, human experience, cultural commentary, cultural identity, and personal reflection
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history, theory, and technical practices to create original paintings that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Historical and Contemporary Painting Styles

- Investigate historical and contemporary painting styles, movements, and artists, learning about significant figures, artworks, techniques, and ideas that have shaped the evolution of painting as an artistic practice

- Investigate historical and contemporary painting styles, movements, and artists, including realism, impressionism, expressionism, abstraction, and pop art
- Analyze paintings from different periods and cultures, identifying stylistic characteristics, thematic motifs, and artistic innovations, and experimenting with elements of historical and contemporary painting in their own artwork
- Analyze and critique artwork, identifying stylistic characteristics, techniques, and cultural contexts, and applying insights to their own painting practice

Introduction to Painting Materials and Techniques

- Explore various painting mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, and gouache
- Experiment with different application methods and paint handling techniques
- Explore the basics of painting materials, tools, and techniques, including paints (acrylic, watercolor, etc.), surfaces (canvas, paper, board, etc.), brushes, palettes, grounds, mediums, and supports
- Identify and explore the properties of each medium, including viscosity, drying time, opacity, and permanence, and how to handle and manipulate them effectively
- Practice basic painting techniques, such as color mixing, color theory, underpainting, washes, brush handling, layering, blending, glazing, scumbling, impasto, and wet-on-wet, through hands-on exercises and guided projects

Color Theory and Composition

- Explore color theory concepts and principles, including hue, value, saturation, temperature, complementary colors, analogous colors, color harmonies, color symbolism, and color schemes, as they apply to painting
- Explore color theory principles, including the color wheel, primary, secondary, and tertiary colors, hue, value, and saturation
- Practice color mixing techniques, learning to create a range of colors and achieve desired color harmonies and relationships in their paintings
- Explore principles of composition such as balance, unity, contrast, focal point, rhythm, proportion, scale, and spatial relationships, applying these concepts to create visually compelling compositions and conceptually coherent paintings
- Explore techniques for creating dynamic compositions, planning and sketching preliminary studies, and arranging elements within the picture plane

Observational Painting

- Develop observational painting skills, learning to accurately represent still life arrangements, landscapes, and figures
- Practice techniques for observing and depicting form, value, texture, and space, using direct observation and reference materials to inform their paintings
- Demonstrate an understanding of techniques for still life painting
 - Practice observational painting from still life setups, learning to depict objects, forms, textures, and spatial relationships accurately and expressively in their paintings
 - Explore different still life arrangements, lighting conditions, and compositions, experimenting with different painting approaches and styles to capture the essence and mood of the subject matter
- Demonstrate an understanding of techniques for landscape painting
 - Explore landscape painting as a genre, learning to depict natural scenery, environments, and outdoor spaces through observational painting and imagination

- Study different landscape elements such as sky, land, water, vegetation, and architecture, experimenting with different painting techniques and styles to convey mood, atmosphere, and spatial depth in their landscapes

Narrative, Expressive, and conceptual Painting

- Explore narrative and expressive painting as a means of personal expression, storytelling, and visual communication, using symbolism, metaphor, allegory, and abstraction to convey ideas, emotions, and experiences in their artwork
- Experiment with different narrative themes, concepts, and personal narratives, exploring expressive brushwork, gestural marks, texture, and color to create emotionally resonant and visually dynamic paintings
- Explore expressive painting techniques and develop personal artistic style, experimenting with gesture, mark-making, texture, and abstraction to convey emotions, ideas, and personal narratives in artwork
- Engage in expressive painting exercises and experimental projects that encourage spontaneity, intuition, and individual expression, fostering creative freedom and self-discovery
- Explore narrative and conceptual approaches to painting, developing ideas, themes, and stories to communicate through visual imagery
- Conceive and execute paintings that explore personal, social, or cultural themes, incorporating symbolism, metaphor, allegory, or narrative elements to convey meaning and provoke thought

Subject Matter, Mark-Making, Layering, and Glazing Techniques

- Explore different subject matter and themes in painting, including still life, landscape, portraiture, and narrative painting
- Develop narratives and concepts in their paintings, exploring personal, cultural, and symbolic meanings through visual storytelling and metaphor.
- Explore expressive brushwork and mark-making techniques, learning to vary brushstrokes, textures, and paint application to convey mood, gesture, and expression
- Experiment with different brushes, palette knives, and unconventional tools to create unique surface effects and visual interest in their paintings
- Learn layering and glazing techniques, building up layers of paint to create depth, transparency, and luminosity in their paintings
- Experiment with transparent and opaque paint applications, wet-on-wet and wet-on-dry techniques, and glazing with transparent washes to achieve desired effects

Critique and Reflection

- Participate in group critiques and individual feedback sessions to reflect on their artwork, discuss strengths and areas for improvement, and receive constructive criticism from peers and the teacher
- Develop the ability to articulate ideas, analyze visual elements, and evaluate artistic choices, deepening understanding of painting as a form of visual communication and personal expression
- Give and receive constructive feedback, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and reflect on artistic process and growth as painters
- Engage in critique and reflection, participating in peer reviews and self-assessment activities to evaluate their own artwork and the artwork of others

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Curate, document, and present paintings in a professional manner, reflecting on their artistic process, conceptual development, and personal artistic vision through artist statements, portfolio reviews, and exhibition opportunities

- Learn and apply professional presentation techniques, organizing and presenting their paintings for exhibition, publication, or college admissions portfolios
- Develop a portfolio of paintings that demonstrates artistic growth, skills, and creative achievements over time

Painting II

The focus of the painting II class in the Fine Arts Track is to build upon the foundational skills developed in Painting I, further exploring painting techniques, styles, and concepts. Students will delve deeper into the study of color theory, composition, and expressive brushwork, while also experimenting with different painting mediums and surfaces. Through guided instruction and advanced projects, students will refine their artistic vision and expand their technical proficiency in painting. The course aims to encourage students to explore their creativity, develop a personal style, and deepen their appreciation for the expressive possibilities of painting.

Foundational Practices

- Further develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through in-depth exploration of painting techniques, materials, and processes
- Further develop the ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through deeper exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Continue to organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring advanced themes, concepts, and techniques in painting, with an emphasis on personal expression, technical mastery, and conceptual depth
- Refine the ability to organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by experimenting with advanced painting media, surfaces, styles, and concepts, exploring intermediate to advanced principles and elements of painting
- Deepen the ability to select, analyze, and interpret works of art for presentation, considering factors such as thematic coherence, conceptual depth, formal complexity, and expressive integrity in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine and edit paintings for presentation with increased attention to conceptual clarity, technical mastery, aesthetic sophistication, and thematic resonance, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to engage viewers and evoke emotional response
- Refine the ability to select, analyze, and interpret artworks, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Refine and edit paintings with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced materials, techniques, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic refinement
- Deepen ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of artworks through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations.
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating artworks, considering elements such as composition, color, form, texture, concept, and execution in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating paintings, considering elements such as conceptual innovation, technical virtuosity, emotional resonance, cultural relevance, and ethical responsibility in their own work and that of their peers
- Deepen understanding of how painting relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of painting as a form of cultural expression, social commentary, and personal reflection

- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history, theory, and technical practices to create original paintings that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance
- Deepen understanding of how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of art as a reflection of human experience and cultural identity
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history, theory, and studio practices to create original paintings that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, with increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Advanced Painting Techniques and Processes

- Further develop painting techniques, exploring advanced methods and processes in watercolor, acrylic, and alternative methods of painting
- Explore advanced painting techniques and processes, pushing the boundaries of traditional methods and experimenting with innovative approaches to paint application, mark-making, surface manipulation, and compositional organization
- Investigate advanced painting materials (specialty paints, mediums, additives, etc.) and unconventional tools (palette knives, sponges, rags, found objects, etc.) to achieve expressive effects and expand their technical repertoire
- Refine brushwork, color mixing, layering, and glazing techniques, learning to manipulate paint with greater control and expressiveness
- Refine techniques such as impasto, glazing, scumbling, alla prima, encaustic, mixed media, and non-traditional mark-making to expand their creative possibilities and technical repertoire

Color and Light Studies

- Deepen understanding of color theory and composition, exploring expressive color palettes, dynamic compositions, and spatial relationships in their paintings
- Experiment with color harmonies, atmospheric perspective, spatial depth, focal points, and visual rhythms to create visually engaging and emotionally resonant artworks
- Deepen understanding of color relationships and symbolism in painting, exploring advanced color theory concepts such as color psychology, color symbolism, chromatic harmonies, simultaneous contrast, and optical mixing
- Investigate how color can be used to convey mood, emotion, narrative, and conceptual meaning in their paintings, experimenting with unconventional color palettes and expressive color choices
- Deepen understanding of color and light through focused studies and exercises
- Explore color relationships, temperature, value, and saturation, studying the effects of light and shadow on form, space, and mood in their paintings

Advanced Observational Painting

- Advance skills in still life, portrait, and landscape painting, applying their knowledge of observational techniques, anatomy, perspective, and spatial rendering to create technically proficient and emotionally resonant paintings
- Explore advanced subject matter, compositions, and conceptual approaches, experimenting with different painting styles (realism, abstraction, expressionism, etc.) to convey their artistic vision and interpretive intent
- Learn figure and portrait painting techniques, studying human anatomy, proportion, and facial features
- Practice capturing the likeness and personality of their subjects, learning to convey expression, emotion, and character through observation and interpretation

- Explore landscape painting techniques, studying natural forms, light, atmosphere, and perspective
- Practice plein air painting, working outdoors from direct observation to capture the changing effects of light and atmosphere in their landscape compositions

Narrative and Conceptual Painting

- Explore conceptual and narrative approaches to painting, developing ideas, themes, and stories to communicate through visual imagery
- Develop narrative and conceptual painting projects, exploring personal, cultural, and social themes through visual storytelling
- Conceive and execute paintings that explore personal, social, or cultural themes, incorporating symbolism, metaphor, allegory, or narrative elements to convey meaning and provoke thought
- Develop a series of interconnected paintings that explore a central theme or concept, demonstrating coherence, progression, and thematic development in their body of work

Experimental and Mixed Media Painting

- Explore experimental and mixed media approaches to painting, combining diverse materials, techniques, and disciplines to create hybrid and interdisciplinary artworks
- Experiment with experimental and mixed media approaches to painting, integrating other artistic materials, techniques, and processes (collage, assemblage, decollage, transfer, encaustic, etc.) into their paintings to create layered, textured, and multidimensional artworks
- Investigate the expressive potential of mixed media combinations, juxtaposing different materials, textures, and visual elements to create dynamic and visually engaging compositions
- Integrate elements of drawing, collage, printmaking, digital media, found objects, and other art forms into their paintings, pushing the boundaries of traditional painting practices and exploring new avenues of creative expression

Abstract and Non-Representational Painting

- Explore abstract and non-representational painting approaches, moving beyond direct observation and representation to focus on expressive form, color, and gesture
- Experiment with techniques for spontaneous mark-making, improvisational composition, and intuitive color relationships in their abstract paintings

Historical Movements, Critique, Analysis, and Reflection

- Engage in the artistic process, from initial concept development and planning to final execution and reflection
- Generate ideas, experiment with techniques, and solve creative problems through iterative exploration and critical thinking
- Study art historical movements, styles, and artists relevant to painting, including modernism, postmodernism, contemporary art, and global traditions
- Engage in the study of contemporary and historical painting styles, movements, and artists, learning about significant figures, artworks, techniques, and ideas that have shaped the evolution of painting as an artistic practice
- Analyze paintings from different periods and cultures, identifying stylistic characteristics, thematic motifs, and artistic innovations, and experimenting with elements of contemporary and historical painting in their own artwork
- Develop the ability to articulate ideas, analyze visual elements, and evaluate artistic choices, deepening their understanding of painting as a form of visual communication and personal expression

- Participate in group critiques and individual feedback sessions to reflect on their artwork, discuss strengths and areas for improvement, and receive constructive criticism from peers and the teacher
- Analyze and critique artwork, identifying formal qualities, thematic concerns, cultural contexts, and socio-political implications in paintings from diverse historical and cultural perspectives
- Deepen understanding of cultural and social issues in painting, exploring how art reflects and shapes individual and collective identities, beliefs, and values
- Examine paintings from diverse cultural perspectives, historical contexts, and social movements, considering issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in their own artwork and that of others

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Continue to develop painting portfolio, selecting and organizing a body of work that showcases artistic growth, skills, development, and creative achievements
- Curate, document, and present their paintings in a professional manner, reflecting on their artistic process, conceptual development, and personal artistic vision through artist statements, portfolio reviews, and exhibition opportunities
- Refine a portfolio of their best paintings, reflecting on their artistic growth, technical proficiency, conceptual development, and personal vision throughout the course
- Practice professional presentation techniques, documenting and presenting their paintings in physical and digital formats for exhibition, publication, or college admissions portfolios

Photography I

The focus of the photography I class in the Fine Arts Track is to introduce students to the art and techniques of capturing and creating images using digital or film cameras. Students will learn about camera operation, composition, lighting, and editing software to produce compelling photographs. Through hands-on projects and assignments, students will develop their technical skills and artistic vision, exploring various genres such as portrait, landscape, documentary, and experimental photography. The course aims to foster creativity, critical thinking, and visual literacy, while providing students with a foundation for further study or careers in photography.

Foundational Practices

- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through the medium of photography, exploring techniques, processes, and conceptual approaches to image-making
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in photography, with an emphasis on personal expression, technical proficiency, and conceptual depth
- Organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by experimenting with different photographic techniques, genres, styles, and subject matter, exploring fundamental principles and elements of photography
- Deepen ability to select, analyze, and interpret photographic works for presentation, considering factors such as composition, lighting, framing, perspective, and narrative content in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine and edit their photographs with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced techniques, printing methods, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic refinement
- Refine and edit photographs for presentation with increased attention to technical precision, aesthetic quality, visual impact, and communicative effectiveness, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to engage viewers and convey intended meaning
- Refine ability to select, analyze, and interpret photographs, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Deepen ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of photographs through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating photographs, considering elements such as technical proficiency, compositional strength, conceptual clarity, aesthetic appeal, and expressive intent in their own work and that of their peers
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating photographs, considering elements such as composition, lighting, perspective, subject matter, and narrative in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Deepen understanding of how photography relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of photography as a form of visual communication, cultural documentation, and personal expression

- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of photography history, theory, and technical practices to create original photographs that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Photography History and Theory

- Explore historical and contemporary photography styles, movements, and photographers, learning about significant figures, works, techniques, and ideas that have shaped the evolution of photography as an artistic practice
- Analyze photographs from different periods and cultures, identifying stylistic characteristics, thematic motifs, and technical innovations, and experimenting with elements of historical and contemporary photography in their own work
- Examine the historical and cultural contexts of photography, including key movements, innovations, and practitioners throughout history
- Explore photography's role in shaping and reflecting cultural identities, social change, and visual culture, considering diverse perspectives and narratives
- Identify ethical and legal issues related to photography, including copyright, intellectual property rights, privacy, and consent
- Demonstrate respect for the rights of subjects and collaborators, obtaining permission when necessary and practicing responsible image use and distribution

Critical Analysis and Critique

- Develop skills in critical analysis and visual literacy, learning to interpret and critique photographs with insight and understanding
- Analyze photographs for formal qualities, compositional elements, technical considerations, and contextual meanings, considering the intentions of the photographer and the impact on the viewer
- Examine photographs from diverse cultural perspectives, historical contexts, and social movements, considering issues of representation, identity, power, and social justice in their own photography and that of others
- Develop ability to articulate ideas, analyze visual elements, and evaluate photographic choices, deepening their understanding of photography as a form of visual communication and personal expression
- Participate in group critiques and individual feedback sessions to reflect on their photographs, discuss strengths and areas for improvement, and receive constructive criticism from peers and the teacher
- Deepen understanding of cultural and social issues in photography, exploring how photographs reflect and shape individual and collective identities, beliefs, and values

Fundamentals, Tools, and Techniques

- Investigate photographic equipment, including cameras, lenses, tripods, filters, and accessories, as well as digital and analog imaging technologies
- Learn the basic functions of a camera, including aperture, shutter speed, ISO, focus, and exposure
- Demonstrate familiarity with different types of cameras, lenses, and accessories, and learn how to operate them effectively
- Practice basic photographic techniques, such as exposure control, focus, aperture, shutter speed, ISO, depth of field, and compositionExplore foundational photographic techniques such as exposure control (aperture, shutter speed, ISO), white balance, focus, depth of field, composition, framing, and perspective, through hands-on exercises and guided projects

Photographic Genres and Styles

- Explore different photographic genres and styles, including portrait photography, landscape photography, documentary photography, still life photography, and abstract photograph
- Study the characteristics and conventions of each genre, analyzing examples from historical and contemporary photographers
- Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals and techniques of portrait photography
 - Practice portrait photography techniques, learning to capture the personality, expression, and character of their subjects through posing, lighting, composition, and interaction
 - Explore different portrait styles (formal, environmental, candid, etc.) and lighting setups (natural light, studio light, flash, etc.) to create compelling and expressive portraits
- Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals and techniques of landscape and nature photography
 - Explore landscape and nature photography techniques, learning to capture the beauty, mood, and atmosphere of outdoor environments through composition, lighting, and perspective
 - Study techniques for capturing landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, wildlife, and natural phenomena, experimenting with different camera settings and filters to enhance visual impact and evoke emotional response
- Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals and techniques of documentary and photojournalism
 - Engage in documentary and photojournalism projects, learning to document social issues, cultural events, and everyday life through photography
 - Explore ethical considerations, storytelling strategies, and journalistic practices in photography, learning to capture candid moments, convey authentic narratives, and engage viewers with thought-provoking imagery
- Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals and techniques of experimental and conceptual photography
 - Experiment with experimental and conceptual photography techniques, pushing the boundaries of traditional photographic practice and exploring innovative approaches to image-making
 - Explore techniques such as multiple exposures, long exposures, light painting, photomontage, and alternative printing processes to create visually dynamic and conceptually rich photographs

Subject Matter and Visual Storytelling

- Use photography as a medium for storytelling and narrative expression
- Develop visual narratives, themes, and stories in their photographs, exploring personal, social, or cultural issues and conveying meaning through visual imagery
- Develop narrative projects, sequences, or photo essays that convey a specific theme, message, or story through a series of interconnected photographs

Composition, Framing, and Lighting

- Explore techniques for visual storytelling, narrative sequencing, and thematic development in their photographic projects, learning to convey mood, emotion, and narrative through imagery
- Explore and study principles of composition and framing, including rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, symmetry, contrast, rhythm, perspective, and balance
- Practice composing visually compelling photographs, considering elements such as foreground, background, symmetry, and negative space
- Study principles of composition and lighting in photography, including rule of thirds, symmetry, balance, leading lines, framing, perspective, contrast, texture, and the use of natural and artificial light

- Experiment with different lighting setups, angles, and techniques to create visually compelling and emotionally resonant photographs
- Explore various lighting techniques, including natural light, artificial light, and mixed lighting conditions
- Manipulate light to create mood, atmosphere, and emphasis in their photographs, experimenting with directional light, diffused light, and reflected light

Digital Image Editing and Post-Processing

- Learn digital image capture techniques using digital cameras and smartphones, exploring different shooting modes, file formats, resolution settings, and white balance adjustments
- Enhance and manipulate photographs through adjustments to exposure, color balance, contrast, sharpness, and other image parameters
- Develop digital image editing and post-processing techniques using software such as Adobe, Lightroom, or other digital imaging tools
- Develop proficiency with techniques such as cropping, resizing, retouching, color correction, tonal adjustment, layering, masking, and special effects to enhance and manipulate their photographs

Portfolio Development

- Learn and use professional presentation techniques, preparing their photographs for exhibition, publication, or college admissions portfolios
- Curate, document, and present photographs in a professional manner, reflecting on their artistic process, conceptual development, and personal artistic vision through artist statements, portfolio reviews, and exhibition opportunities
- Develop a portfolio of photographic work, curating and organizing a selection of images that showcase technical skills, creative vision, and thematic interests
- Refine a portfolio of their best photographs, reflecting on their artistic growth, technical proficiency, conceptual development, and personal vision over time

Photography II

The focus of the photography I class in the Fine Arts Track is to introduce students to the art and techniques of capturing and creating images using digital cameras. Students will learn about camera operation, composition, lighting, and editing software to produce compelling photographs. Through hands-on projects and assignments, students will develop their technical skills and artistic vision, exploring various genres such as portrait, landscape, documentary, and experimental photography. The course aims to foster creativity, critical thinking, and visual literacy, while providing students with a foundation for further study or careers in photography.

Foundational Practices

- Develop the ability to generate and conceptualize advanced artistic ideas through the medium of photography, pushing boundaries by exploring innovative techniques, processes, and conceptual approaches to imagemaking
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring complex themes, concepts, and techniques in photography, with an emphasis on personal expression, technical mastery, and conceptual depth
- Continue to organize and develop artistic ideas and work by experimenting with advanced photographic techniques, genres, styles, and subject matter, delving deeper into the principles and elements of photography
- Refine and edit their photographs with meticulous attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced techniques, innovative printing methods, and diverse presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic refinement
- Deepen the ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of photographs through critical analysis, self assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Continue to refine and apply sophisticated criteria for evaluating photographs, considering elements such as innovative composition, creative lighting, unique perspective, compelling subject matter, and intricate narrative in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Deepen understanding of how photography relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of photography as a powerful form of visual communication, cultural documentation, and personal expression
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their advanced study of photography history, theory, and technical practices to create original photographs that reflect their unique interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Photography History and Theory

- Investigate historical and contemporary photography styles, movements, and photographers with a deeper focus on experimental and avant-garde practices
- Study significant figures, works, techniques, and ideas that have not only shaped but also challenged the evolution of photography as an artistic practice
- Conduct in-depth analysis of photographs from various periods and cultures, identifying complex stylistic characteristics, thematic motifs, and technical innovations
- Integrate and experiment with these elements to create unique and innovative photographic expressions
- Examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of photography, including key movements, innovations, and practitioners

- Focus on how photography has been used as a tool for social commentary and cultural critique, and explore the implications of these contexts in their own experimental work
- Consider diverse perspectives and narratives, with an emphasis on how experimental photography can influence and be influenced by societal issues
- Identify and critically evaluate ethical and legal issues related to photography, including topics in copyright, intellectual property rights, privacy, and consent
- Explore ethical considerations in experimental techniques, ensuring that innovative approaches maintain ethical integrity

Critical Analysis and Critique

- Develop advanced skills in critical analysis and visual literacy, interpreting and critiquing photographs with greater depth, sophistication, and understanding
- Conduct detailed analyses of photographs, focusing on formal qualities, complex compositional elements, technical innovations, and layered contextual meanings
- Examine photographs from diverse cultural perspectives, historical contexts, and social movements with a heightened awareness of issues related to representation, identity, power, and social justice
- Enhance the ability to articulate sophisticated ideas, analyze intricate visual elements, and critically evaluate photographic choices
- Deepen understanding of photography as a powerful form of visual communication and personal expression, particularly in experimental contexts
- Deepen the understanding of cultural and social issues in photography, with an emphasis on the role of experimental photography
- Explore how photographs can reflect, challenge, and shape individual and collective identities, beliefs, and values

Fundamentals, Tools, and Techniques

- Explore advanced photographic equipment, including specialized cameras, lenses, tripods, filters, and accessories
- Delve into both digital and analog imaging technologies, with a focus on their applications in experimental photography
- Achieve mastery in using advanced camera functions, including nuanced control of aperture, shutter speed, ISO, focus, and exposure
- Experiment with these settings to create innovative and conceptually driven photographs
- Demonstrate proficiency with a variety of specialized cameras, lenses, and accessories, learning to operate them effectively in diverse and experimental contexts
- Practice and refine advanced photographic techniques, such as precise exposure control, creative use of focus, intricate manipulation of aperture, shutter speed, ISO, depth of field, and complex compositional strategies
- Investigate and apply experimental photographic techniques, such as multiple exposures, long exposures, light painting, photomontage, and alternative printing processes
- Develop advanced skills in composition and framing, considering elements such as symmetry, balance, leading lines, perspective, and negative space with greater sophistication
- Experiment with unconventional framing techniques to enhance visual storytelling

Photographic Genres and Styles

- Explore various photographic genres and styles, including portrait photography, landscape photography, documentary photography, still life photography, abstract photography, and experimental photography with a focus on blending genres and pushing the boundaries of traditional definitions
- Investigate how genres have evolved and been reinterpreted through experimental practices
- Demonstrate advanced understanding and application of portrait photography techniques
 - Capture the personality, expression, and character of subjects through innovative posing, creative lighting, dynamic composition, and meaningful interaction
 - Experiment with non-traditional portrait techniques and styles
 - Explore a wide range of portrait styles including formal, environmental, and candid to create compelling and expressive portraits
 - Explore advanced lighting setups including natural light, studio light, flash, and mixed lighting to create compelling and expressive portraits
 - Experiment with unconventional approaches to portrait photography
- Demonstrate mastery of landscape and nature photography techniques, capturing the beauty, mood, and atmosphere of outdoor environments through advanced composition, lighting, and perspective
 - Experiment with techniques that enhance the emotional and conceptual impact of landscapes
 - Apply advanced techniques for capturing landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, wildlife, and natural phenomena
 - Experiment with different camera settings, filters, and post-processing methods to enhance visual impact and evoke deeper emotional responses
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of documentary and photojournalism techniques
 - Engage in projects that document social issues, cultural events, and everyday life with an emphasis on experimental approaches
 - Explore ethical considerations, advanced storytelling strategies, and innovative journalistic practices
 - Investigate and apply advanced ethical considerations, storytelling techniques, and journalistic practices in photography
 - Capture candid moments, convey authentic and powerful narratives, and engage viewers with thought-provoking and experimental imagery
- Deepen the exploration of experimental and conceptual photography techniques, pushing the boundaries of traditional photographic practice
- Investigate innovative approaches to image-making that challenge conventional norms
- Experiment extensively with advanced techniques such as multiple exposures, long exposures, light painting, photomontage, alternative printing processes, and digital manipulation
- Create visually dynamic and conceptually rich photographs that explore new territories of visual expression

Subject Matter and Visual Storytelling

- Utilize photography as an advanced medium for complex storytelling and narrative expression
- Explore innovative methods to convey intricate stories, emotions, and concepts through visual imagery, with a strong emphasis on experimental techniques
- Develop complex visual narratives, themes, and stories in their photographs, delving deeply into personal, social, cultural, and global issues
- Use advanced techniques and experimental approaches to convey layered meanings and provoke thoughtful engagement from viewers

- Create sophisticated narrative projects, sequences, or photo essays that convey specific, multifaceted themes, messages, or stories through a series of interconnected photographs
- Employ experimental storytelling techniques in their photographic projects, such as non-linear narratives, mixed media, multimedia integration, and innovative sequencing
- Explore how unconventional methods can enhance the narrative impact and viewer engagement
- Develop projects that explore themes with greater conceptual depth and complexity

Composition, Framing, and Lighting

- Explore and master advanced techniques for visual storytelling, narrative sequencing, and thematic development in photographic projects
- Learn to convey complex moods, emotions, and narratives through sophisticated and experimental imagery
- Conduct an in-depth study of advanced principles of composition and framing, including but not limited to the rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, symmetry, contrast, rhythm, perspective, balance, and the dynamic interplay of these elements
- Investigate how these principles can be creatively manipulated for experimental purposes
- Practice composing visually compelling and innovative photographs, considering advanced elements such as layered foreground and background, dynamic symmetry, intentional use of negative space, and unconventional perspectives
- Emphasize creating strong visual impact through experimentation with composition
- Study and apply advanced principles of composition and lighting in photography, including complex uses of symmetry, balance, leading lines, framing, perspective, contrast, texture, and the interplay between natural and artificial light
- Experiment with diverse and innovative lighting setups, angles, and techniques to create visually compelling and emotionally resonant photographs
- Explore how unconventional lighting can transform and enhance the narrative and aesthetic qualities of an image
- Explore a wide range of lighting techniques, including natural light, artificial light, mixed lighting conditions, and the creative use of shadows and reflections
- Experiment with light modifiers, colored gels, and mixed light sources to achieve unique visual effects
- Manipulate light to create specific moods, atmospheres, and points of emphasis in photographs
- Engage in experimental approaches to composition and lighting, challenging traditional norms and pushing the boundaries of conventional photographic practices
- Investigate how breaking and bending compositional and lighting rules can lead to novel and compelling visual outcomes

Digital Image Editing and Post-Processing

- Master advanced digital image capture techniques using a variety of digital cameras and smartphones. Explore and experiment with advanced shooting modes, file formats, high-resolution settings, custom white balance adjustments, and RAW file processing to achieve optimal image quality and flexibility in post-processing
- Enhance and manipulate photographs with a focus on advanced adjustments to exposure, color balance, contrast, sharpness, and other image parameters
- Experiment with high dynamic range (HDR) techniques, color grading, and advanced tonal adjustments to achieve specific artistic effects and conceptual goals
- Develop proficiency with digital image editing and post-processing software such as Adobe Lightroom and other professional digital imaging tools

- Explore the full range of capabilities of editing tools to push the boundaries of traditional editing
- Experiment with digital manipulation to create visually striking and conceptually rich photographs
- Engage in creative and experimental post-processing techniques, such as digital collage, photomontage, glitch art, and the incorporation of mixed media elements
- Investigate how experimental techniques can enhance the narrative and aesthetic qualities of their work
- Integrate non-destructive editing techniques, the use of adjustment layers, and the management of complex project files
- Experiment with the use of advanced filters, effects, and plug-ins to transform and enhance photographs
- Apply experimental post-processing techniques to final output formats, exploring the impact of digital manipulation on print quality, digital displays, and multimedia presentations
- Explore how experimental techniques influence viewer's perception and engagement with the photographic work

Portfolio Development

- Learn and use professional presentation techniques, preparing their photographs for exhibition, publication, or college admissions portfolios
- Curate, document, and present photographs in a professional manner, reflecting on their artistic process, conceptual development, and personal artistic vision through artist statements, portfolio reviews, and exhibition opportunities
- Develop a portfolio of photographic work, curating and organizing a selection of images that showcase technical skills, creative vision, and thematic interests
- Refine a portfolio of their best photographs, reflecting on their artistic growth, technical proficiency, conceptual development, and personal vision over time

Printmaking

The focus of the printmaking class in the Fine Arts Track is to teach students the techniques and processes of creating printed artworks using various methods such as relief, intaglio, lithography, and screen printing. Students will learn about tools, materials, and printing presses while experimenting with different printmaking techniques to create unique prints. Through hands-on projects and guided instruction, students will explore concepts of composition, texture, color, and repetition, fostering creativity and artistic expression. The course aims to provide students with a foundation in printmaking, allowing them to explore this versatile medium and develop their artistic skills.

Foundational Practices

- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through the medium of printmaking, exploring techniques, processes, and conceptual approaches to image-making
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in printmaking, with an emphasis on personal expression, technical proficiency, and conceptual depth
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by experimenting with different printmaking techniques, materials, styles, and subject matter, exploring fundamental principles and elements of printmaking
- Deepen the ability to select, analyze, and interpret printmaking works for presentation, considering factors such as print quality, editioning, registration, and paper choice in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine and edit prints for presentation with increased attention to technical precision, aesthetic quality, visual impact, and communicative effectiveness, exploring different presentation formats and contexts to engage viewers and convey intended meaning
- Refine and edit their prints with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced techniques, printing methods, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic refinement
- Refine ability to select, analyze, and interpret prints, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Deepen ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of prints through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating prints, considering elements such as composition, texture, line quality, value, contrast, and concept in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating prints, considering elements such as technical proficiency, conceptual clarity, formal experimentation, aesthetic appeal, and expressive intent in their own work and that of their peers
- Deepen understanding of how printmaking relates to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of printmaking as a form of cultural expression, social commentary, and personal reflection
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of printmaking history, theory, and technical practices to create original prints that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

History, Theory, and Critique

- Explore historical and contemporary printmaking styles, movements, and artists, learning about significant figures, works, techniques, and ideas that have shaped the evolution of printmaking as an artistic practice
- Analyze prints from different periods and cultures, identifying stylistic characteristics, thematic motifs, and technical innovations, and experimenting with elements of historical and contemporary printmaking in their own work
- Develop ability to articulate ideas, analyze visual elements, and evaluate printmaking choices, deepening their understanding of printmaking as a form of visual communication and personal expression
- Articulate artistic intentions, analyze formal qualities and technical aspects, and reflect on the conceptual and expressive aspects of their prints
- Engage in critique and reflection, participating in peer reviews and self-assessment activities to evaluate their own prints and the prints of others
- Participate in group critiques and individual feedback sessions to reflect on their prints, discuss strengths and areas for improvement, and receive constructive criticism from peers and the teacher

Artistic Expression and Experimentation

- Develop artistic expression and conceptual ideas through printmaking
- Explore themes, narratives, or concepts in their prints, considering visual communication, symbolism, and personal or cultural significance
- Experiment with combining different printmaking techniques and materials to create innovative effects and textures

Introduction to Printmaking Techniques

- Explore foundational printmaking concepts such as image transfer, ink application, paper preparation, registration, and editioning
- Explore various printmaking techniques and processes, including relief printing, intaglio printing, planographic printing, stencil printing, lithography, screen printing, and monotype
- Learn the basics of printmaking techniques and processes, including relief printing (linocut, woodcut), intaglio printing (etching, drypoint), planographic printing (lithography), and stencil printing (screen printing)
- Practice basic printmaking techniques, such as carving, etching, drawing, painting, stenciling, and transferring images, through hands-on exercises and guided projects
- Learn the tools, materials, and processes specific to each technique, including carving, etching, inking, and printing onto different surfaces
- Study principles of design and composition in printmaking, including balance, unity, rhythm, contrast, repetition, movement, and focal point
- Explore compositional strategies and experiment with visual elements such as line, shape, texture, value, and space to create dynamic and visually compelling prints
- Explore a variety of printmaking materials and surfaces, such as paper, fabric, wood, linoleum, metal, plastic, and glass
- Experiment with different types of inks, pigments, papers, and substrates to achieve varied effects and textures in their prints

Traditional and Experimental Printmaking Techniques

- Explore traditional printmaking techniques, such as relief carving, etching, engraving, aquatint, lithographic drawing, and screen printing
- Learn and apply color theory principles, including color mixing, color harmony, and color contrast
- Practice multi-color printing techniques, learning to create layered prints with precise registration and alignment of colors
- Demonstrate proficiency with relief printing techniques and processes
 - Explore relief printing techniques such as linocut, woodcut, and collagraphy, learning to carve and incise into printing blocks to create images with raised surfaces
 - Experiment with different carving tools, mark-making techniques, and printing methods to create expressive and visually dynamic relief prints
 - Practice carving or building up the printing surface, inking the surface, and transferring the image onto paper or other substrates using a printing press or hand-rubbing method
- Demonstrate proficiency with intaglio printing techniques and processes
 - Explore intaglio printing techniques, such as etching, drypoint, and aquatint, learning to incise or etch into metal plates to create recessed images
 - Create incised lines or textures on a metal or plastic plate, ink the plate, wipe off excess ink, and print the image onto paper using a printing press.
 - Experiment with different etching grounds, mark-making tools, and printing processes to create detailed and textured intaglio prints
- Demonstrate proficiency with stencil printing techniques and processes
 - Explore stencil printing techniques, such as screen printing and pochoir
 - Create stencils using various materials, such as paper, fabric, or photo emulsion, and print the image onto paper or fabric using a squeegee or brush
- Demonstrate proficiency with lithography techniques and processes
 - Explore lithography techniques, learning to create images on a flat stone or metal plate using greasy drawing materials and chemical processes
 - Experiment with different drawing materials (crayon, tusche, ink, etc.), chemical treatments, and printing surfaces to create lithographic prints with varied textures and tones
- Demonstrate proficiency with screen printing techniques and processes
 - Explore screen printing techniques, learning to create stencils on a fine mesh screen and transfer ink through the stencil onto a printing surface
 - Experiment with different stencil-making methods (hand-cut, photo emulsion, digital, etc.), ink types (water-based, solvent-based, discharge, etc.), and substrates to create multi-layered and vibrant screen prints
- Experiment with experimental and mixed media approaches to printmaking, integrating other artistic materials, techniques, and processes (collage, monoprint, chine-collé, embossing, etc.) into their prints to create layered, textured, and multidimensional artworks
- Investigate the expressive potential of mixed media combinations, juxtaposing different materials, textures, and visual elements to create visually dynamic and conceptually rich prints

Print Series and Editioning

- Develop print series and explore the concept of editioning, creating multiple prints of the same image or theme with variations in color, composition, or technique
- Learn the importance of editioning, numbering, signing, and documenting prints, as well as considerations for paper selection, ink mixing, registration, and printing consistency
- Create editions of prints, producing multiple copies of the same image in a consistent manner

- Sign and number each print in the edition, document the process and materials used, and assess the quality and consistency of each print

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Compile and refine a portfolio of their best prints, reflecting on their artistic growth, technical proficiency, conceptual development, and personal vision over time
- Curate, document, and present their prints in a professional manner, reflecting on their artistic process, conceptual development, and personal artistic vision through artist statements, portfolio reviews, and exhibition opportunities

Sculpture and Ceramics

The focus of the sculpture and ceramics class in the Fine Arts Track is to offer students the opportunity to explore three-dimensional art forms through the creation of sculptures and ceramics. Students will learn various techniques such as hand-building, modeling, carving, and glazing to create artworks in clay, plaster, metal, wood, or other materials. Through hands-on projects and guided instruction, students will develop their skills in form, texture, composition, and craftsmanship, while also exploring concepts of space and volume. The course aims to provide students with a foundation in sculptural techniques and ceramic arts, fostering creativity, experimentation, and expression in three-dimensional art.

Foundational Practices

- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in sculpture and ceramics, with an emphasis on personal expression, technical proficiency, and conceptual depth
- Develop their ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through the mediums of sculpture and ceramics, exploring techniques, processes, and conceptual approaches to three-dimensional art-making
- Organize and develop their artistic ideas and work by experimenting with different sculptural and ceramic techniques, materials, styles, and forms, exploring fundamental principles and elements of three-dimensional art
- Deepen ability to select, analyze, and interpret sculptural and ceramic works for presentation, considering factors such as scale, composition, texture, surface treatment, and spatial context in their curatorial choices and presentation strategies
- Refine ability to select, analyze, and interpret sculptures and ceramics, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Refine and finish sculptures and ceramics for presentation with increased attention to technical precision, aesthetic quality, tactile appeal, and spatial relationships, exploring different display methods and environments to engage viewers and convey intended meaning
- Refine and edit sculptures and ceramics with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced techniques, materials, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic refinement
- Deepen ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of sculptures and ceramics through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating sculptures and ceramics, considering elements such as form, texture, surface treatment, scale, context, and concept in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating sculptures and ceramics, considering elements such as craftsmanship, conceptual coherence, formal integrity, expressive intent, and cultural significance in their own work and that of their peers
- Deepen understanding of how sculpture and ceramics relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of three-dimensional art as a form of cultural expression, social commentary, and personal reflection

- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of sculpture and ceramics history, theory, and technical practices to create original artworks that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, demonstrating increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

History, Theory, and Critique

- Study historical and cultural contexts of sculpture and ceramics, including traditions, movements, and artists from diverse cultures and time periods
- Study traditional and contemporary sculpture and ceramics styles, movements, and artists, learning about significant figures, works, techniques, and ideas that have shaped the evolution of sculpture and ceramics as artistic practices
- Analyze sculptures and ceramics from different periods and cultures, identifying stylistic characteristics, thematic motifs, and technical innovations, and experimenting with elements of traditional and contemporary sculpture and ceramics in their own work
- Analyze and critique artwork, identifying formal qualities, thematic concerns, cultural contexts, and socio-political implications in sculpture and ceramics
- Develop ability to articulate ideas, analyze visual elements, and evaluate sculptural and ceramic choices, deepening their understanding of sculpture and ceramics as forms of visual communication and personal expression
- Participate in group critiques and individual feedback sessions to reflect on their sculptures and ceramics, discuss strengths and areas for improvement, and receive constructive criticism from peers and the teacher
- Deepen understanding of cultural and social issues in sculpture and ceramics, exploring how sculptures and ceramics reflect and shape individual and collective identities, beliefs, and values
- Examine sculptures and ceramics from diverse cultural perspectives, historical contexts, and social movements, considering issues of representation, identity, power, and social justice in their own work and that of others
- Learn and apply safety procedures and studio practices specific to sculpture and ceramics, including proper use of tools, equipment, and materials
- Practice safe handling and storage of materials, proper ventilation, and kiln firing protocols to ensure a safe working environment

Concept, Design, and Composition

- Engage in the artistic process, from initial concept development and planning to final execution and reflection
- Generate ideas, experiment with materials and techniques, and solve creative problems through iterative exploration and critical thinking
- Develop concepts and themes for sculptural and ceramics projects, exploring personal, cultural, social, and environmental topics
- Consider symbolism, narrative, metaphor, and abstraction in their work, using sculpture and ceramics as a means of expression and communication
- Study principles of design and composition in sculpture and ceramics, including balance, proportion, rhythm, movement, texture, pattern, and spatial relationship
- Explore compositional strategies and experiment with formal elements such as form, volume, mass, line, and color to create dynamic and visually compelling sculptures and ceramics
- Explore a variety of sculpture and ceramics materials and surfaces, such as clay, metal, found objects, glazes, and finishes

- Experiment with different techniques for manipulating, texturing, and finishing surfaces to achieve varied effects and tactile qualities in their sculptures and ceramics
- Learn principles of three-dimensional design, including form, volume, space, mass, balance, proportion, scale, texture, and rhythm
- Apply principles of three-dimensional design in creation of sculptures and ceramics objects, considering the relationship between form and content
- Explore both functional and non-functional approaches to ceramics
- Create utilitarian objects such as bowls, cups, plates, and vases, as well as sculptural objects that emphasize form, texture, and surface decoration
- Explore conceptual approaches to mixed media and installation art, considering themes such as identity, memory, environment, and social commentary in their creative explorations

Sculpture Techniques and Processes

- Explore various sculpture techniques and materials, including modeling, carving, casting, construction, assemblage, and mixed media approaches
- Explore the basics of sculpture techniques and processes, including additive (modeling, assemblage), subtractive (carving, construction), and casting methods (plaster, resin, metal)
- Explore foundational sculptural concepts such as form, volume, space, texture, composition, and proportion
- Explore sculptural form and composition, learning to manipulate materials and space to create expressive and dynamic sculpture
- Practice basic sculpture techniques, such as additive and subtractive processes, armature building, mold making, and surface finishing, through hands-on exercises and guided projects
- Experiment with different sculptural materials (clay, wood, metal, found objects, etc.) and techniques (modeling, carving, welding, etc.) to create artworks with varied textures, shapes, and spatial relationships
- Explore techniques such as carving, modeling, casting, assemblage, construction, and installation in their sculptural work

Ceramics Techniques and Processes

- Explore foundational ceramic concepts such as clay properties, construction methods, firing temperatures, glaze chemistry, and kiln operation
- Explore ceramic form and function, learning to create functional and decorative ceramic objects such as vessels, bowls, cups, plates, and sculptures
- Explore the basics of ceramics techniques and processes, including hand-building (pinch, coil, slab), molding, glazing, firing, and surface decoration
- Practice basic ceramics techniques, such as pinch, coil, and slab building techniques, as well as glaze application and firing methods, through hands-on exercises and guided projects
- Prepare clay, create forms using various techniques, apply glazes and surface treatments, and fire ceramics in kilns

Portfolio Development and Presentation

- Learn and apply professional presentation techniques, documenting and presenting their sculptures and ceramics objects in physical and digital formats for exhibition, publication, or college admissions portfolios
- Develop a portfolio of their sculptural and ceramics work, selecting and organizing a selection of pieces that demonstrate their technical skills, creative vision, and thematic interests

- Curate, document, and present their sculptures and ceramics in a professional manner, reflecting on their artistic process, conceptual development, and personal artistic vision through artist statements, portfolio reviews, and exhibition opportunities

Senior Thesis and Showcase

The focus of the senior thesis and showcase class in the Fine Arts Track is to be a capstone project where graduating students explore a self-directed artistic inquiry or theme, culminating in a cohesive body of work. Students will conduct research, develop concepts, and create artworks in various mediums such as painting, sculpture, photography, or mixed media. Through mentorship, critique, and reflection, students will refine their artistic vision and communication skills. The class aims to foster independent thinking, creative problem-solving, and professional presentation skills, preparing students for future academic or artistic pursuits in the field of visual arts.

Foundational Practices

- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse visual and conceptual sources
- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize complex artistic ideas across various mediums and genres, demonstrating originality, innovation, and depth in their creative practice
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in their chosen medium(s), with an emphasis on personal expression, technical proficiency, and conceptual depth
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work through sustained inquiry, experimentation, and revision, demonstrating growth, coherence, and sophistication in their artistic practice
- Develop the ability to select, analyze, and interpret artworks for presentation in their senior thesis exhibition, demonstrating curatorial skills, aesthetic judgment, and thematic coherence in their selection and arrangement of artworks
- Refine and prepare artworks for presentation in their senior thesis exhibition, demonstrating technical proficiency, craftsmanship, and attention to detail in their execution, presentation, and documentation of artworks
- Refine ability to select, analyze, and interpret their own artwork and that of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Refine and edit artwork with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced techniques, materials, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic refinement
- Deepen ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of artwork through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating artwork, considering elements such as composition, technique, craftsmanship, concept, and originality in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Engage in critical reflection and evaluation of their own artworks and the artworks of their peers, demonstrating insight, discernment, and open-mindedness in their responses and critiques
- Develop and apply criteria for evaluating artworks, considering elements such as concept development, technical skill, formal composition, thematic coherence, and emotional resonance in their assessments
- Deepen understanding of how art reflects and responds to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, exploring themes such as identity, memory, justice, and sustainability in their artworks
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of art history, theory, and practice to create original artworks that reflect their personal experiences, perspectives, and values, demonstrating authenticity, integrity, and self-expression in their artistic endeavors

Conceptual Development

- Engage in thematic exploration and conceptual development, identifying meaningful topics, questions, and ideas to investigate in their senior thesis artworks
- Conduct research and conceptual development to explore themes, concepts, and ideas for their senior thesis art project
- Engage in brainstorming, sketching, journaling, and other creative processes to generate and refine artistic ideas, considering personal interests, experiences, and artistic influences
- Develop a coherent body of artwork that reflects their chosen theme or concept, exploring diverse artistic approaches, mediums, and techniques to express their ideas and perspectives
- Explore diverse artistic approaches, styles, and traditions, drawing inspiration from art history, culture, nature, and contemporary issues to inform their creative practice
- Demonstrate technical proficiency and craftsmanship in the execution of their artworks, showing mastery of artistic techniques, materials, and processes

Proposal and Planning

- Develop a written proposal and plan for their senior thesis art project, outlining the concept, objectives, materials, techniques, timeline, and resources needed for its realization
- Identify a central theme or concept to explore through their artwork and articulate their intentions for the thesis project
- Conduct research on relevant artists, art movements, historical contexts, and theoretical frameworks related to their thesis topic
- Analyze and critique artwork, texts, and other sources to inform their artistic practice and contextualize their own work within broader art historical and contemporary discourses
- Develop an understanding of art historical, theoretical, and critical perspectives relevant to their senior thesis artworks, integrating insights and influences from diverse sources into their creative process
- Consult with teacher and peers to receive feedback and guidance on their proposal, ensuring clarity, feasibility, and artistic integrity in their project plan

Artistic Process and Production

- Engage in the artistic process, from concept development and experimentation to final execution and presentation
- Produce and execute their senior thesis art project, applying technical skills, craftsmanship, and creative vision to bring their artistic ideas to fruition
- Engage in a rigorous studio practice and artistic process, experimenting with different mediums, techniques, and processes to develop their senior thesis artworks
- Work independently and collaboratively as needed, experimenting with materials, processes, and presentation formats to realize their artistic vision with precision and innovation
- Demonstrate technical proficiency, craftsmanship, and innovation in the execution of their artworks, pushing the boundaries of their artistic abilities and exploring new artistic possibilities
- Create a body of artwork that reflects their exploration of the thesis topic, experimenting with different media, techniques, and formats as appropriate

Senior Thesis Exhibition and Communication

- Learn and apply professional practices related to presenting and documenting artwork for exhibition, publication, or portfolio purposes

- Plan and organize a senior thesis exhibition or showcase to present their artworks to the school community and/or public audience, demonstrating professionalism, presentation skills, and pride in their artistic achievements
- Curate and install artworks in the exhibition space, considering factors such as spatial layout, lighting, signage, and audience engagement to enhance the viewing experience
- Gain experience in exhibition design, installation, and marketing, as well as engage with audiences to share their artistic vision and ideas
- Present thesis projects to a panel of faculty, peers, and community members during a public presentation and defense
- Articulate artistic intentions, research findings, and creative process, responding to questions and feedback from the panel
- Practice public speaking and communication skills by presenting their artwork to visitors during the senior art show
- Engage with the school community and/or public audience through the senior art show, sharing their artwork with peers, teachers, family members, and visitors
- Reflect on their artistic journey and growth throughout the course, identifying strengths, challenges, breakthroughs, and lessons learned in their creative practice
- Explore the role of art in society, considering the power of art to inspire, provoke, and transform individuals and communities, and reflecting on their own contributions to the cultural and artistic landscape

Thesis Documentation and Reflection

- Engage in ongoing reflection and iteration throughout the creation of their senior thesis art project, evaluating their progress, making adjustments, and refining their work based on feedback and self-assessment
- Document artistic process, challenges, breakthroughs, and insights through written reflections, sketchbook entries, process documentation, and other means, demonstrating a thoughtful and iterative approach to artistic creation
- Document artistic process, including sketches, studies, experiments, revisions, and reflections, providing insight into their creative journey and decision-making process
- Document completed senior thesis art project through photography, video, or other means, capturing images that accurately represent their artwork in its final form
- Compile documentation into a written thesis document that articulates their thesis statement, research findings, artistic process, and reflections on their work
- Write an artist statement that articulates their thematic concept, artistic goals, creative process, and reflections on their senior thesis artworks, providing context and insight for viewers
- Reflect on the senior thesis experience, identifying strengths, challenges, breakthroughs, and lessons learned in their artistic practice and personal growth
- Engage in peer critique, self-assessment, and feedback from teachers and mentors to evaluate their senior thesis artworks, considering criteria such as concept development, technical skill, formal composition, thematic coherence, and emotional impact

Critique and Feedback

- Present their work-in-progress, discuss their artistic choices, respond to questions and comments, and incorporate constructive criticism into their artistic practice, demonstrating openness to feedback and a commitment to artistic growth

- Participate in individual and group critiques to receive feedback on their senior thesis art project from their teacher and peers
- Learn to provide thoughtful feedback to peers, offering insights, suggestions, and questions to help refine and strengthen their artistic ideas and execution
- Celebrate the completion of senior thesis art project and the culmination of their high school art education, recognizing their achievements, growth, and artistic contributions
- Receive feedback, encouragement, and recognition from their peers, teachers, and community members, acknowledging their creativity, dedication, and artistic vision in the senior thesis art class

Professional Practices

- Reflect on artistic identity, interests, strengths, and aspirations as they prepare for graduation and post-secondary pathways
- Explore career opportunities in the visual arts, including fine arts, design, illustration, art education, art therapy, art administration, and other related fields
- Gain experience in gallery management and curation by planning and organizing their senior art show
- Learn and apply professional practices related to presenting artwork in a gallery or exhibition setting
- Learn about exhibition design, layout, installation, and marketing strategies to attract an audience to the show
- Learn about framing, matting, hanging, and lighting artwork, as well as preparing artist statements, resumes, and promotional materials
- Consider the role of art in society and their responsibility as artists to engage with and contribute to their communities
- Explore ways to use art as a tool for social change, advocacy, and cultural expression, addressing issues relevant to their local or global communities

Textiles

The focus of the textiles class in the Fine Arts Track is to introduce students to the art and techniques of creating textiles through weaving, sewing, dyeing, and surface design. Students will learn about fabric types, construction methods, and textile traditions from different cultures. Through hands-on projects and experimentation with various materials and techniques, students will develop their skills in textile design, construction, and decoration. The course aims to provide students with a foundation in textile arts, fostering creativity, craftsmanship, and an understanding of textile design principles and applications.

Foundational Practices

- Develop ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas through exploration, experimentation, and synthesis of diverse textile techniques, materials, and concepts
- Develop original ideas for textile projects, drawing inspiration from personal experiences, cultural heritage, and contemporary issues
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by exploring various themes, concepts, and techniques in textile design and production, with an emphasis on personal expression, technical proficiency, and conceptual depth
- Refine ability to select, analyze, and interpret textiles, both their own and those of others, considering formal elements, expressive qualities, and conceptual significance with greater depth and sophistication
- Refine and edit textiles with increased attention to detail, craftsmanship, and intentionality, experimenting with advanced techniques, materials, and presentation formats to enhance visual impact, conceptual coherence, and aesthetic refinement
- Deepen ability to reflect on and assess the characteristics and merits of textiles through critical analysis, self-assessment, and peer critique, demonstrating greater insight, discernment, and articulation in their evaluations
- Further develop and apply criteria for evaluating textiles, considering elements such as composition, technique, craftsmanship, concept, and functionality in their own work and that of their peers, with heightened discernment and sophistication
- Deepen understanding of how artistic ideas and works relate to societal, cultural, and historical contexts, encouraging exploration of textiles as reflections of human experience and cultural identity
- Synthesize and relate knowledge gained from their study of textile history, theory, and technical practices to create original textiles that reflect their interests, observations, and creative vision, with increased depth, complexity, and personal resonance

Textiles History and Culture

- Study the historical and cultural significance of textiles, including traditional textile techniques, motifs, and symbols from diverse cultures and time periods
- Analyze the role of textiles in society, including their use in clothing, art, ritual, ceremony, and trade
- Deepen understanding of cultural and social issues in textiles, exploring how textiles reflect and shape individual and collective identities, traditions, rituals, and values
- Investigate textiles from diverse cultural perspectives, historical contexts, and social movements, considering issues of identity, heritage, globalization, and social justice in their own textile creations and interpretations
- Study traditional and contemporary textile styles, cultures, and artists, learning about significant figures, works, techniques, and ideas that have shaped the evolution of textiles as an art form and cultural practice

- Analyze textiles from different periods and cultures, identifying stylistic characteristics, thematic motifs, and technical innovations, and experimenting with elements of traditional and contemporary textile design in their own work
- Explore the cultural and historical significance of textiles, examining how different societies and traditions have utilized fibers and fabrics for functional, symbolic, and expressive purposes
- Investigate contemporary issues related to textile production, consumption, and sustainability, considering the ethical implications of their artistic practice
- Integrate knowledge gained from art history, cultural studies, and personal experiences into their textile projects, creating works that reflect their individual identities and perspectives
- Explore various applications of textiles in industries such as fashion, interior design, product design, art, and technology

Sustainability and Ethical Practices in Textiles

- Learn about sustainable textile production methods, recycling, upcycling, and ethical sourcing of materials
- Explore alternative and eco-friendly materials, techniques, and production methods in textiles, advocating for responsible and conscientious approaches to textile design and consumption
- Practice safe handling and use of textiles materials and equipment, following proper safety protocols in the studio

Textiles Materials and Techniques

- Explore various textile techniques and materials, including weaving, knitting, crocheting, felting, dyeing, printing, and embellishment
- Practice basic textile techniques, such as warp and weft structures, stitch patterns, surface treatments, and color manipulation, through hands-on exercises and guided projects
- Explore a variety of textiles materials, including natural fibers (such as cotton, wool, silk) and synthetic fibers (such as polyester, nylon)
- Learn and apply textile techniques such as weaving, knitting, crocheting, felting, dyeing, printing, and embellishment
- Explore a variety of textile processes and applications, such as flat and three-dimensional construction, surface design, patternmaking, and textile manipulation
- Experiment with different techniques for manipulating, embellishing, and finishing textiles to achieve varied effects and tactile qualities in their textile creations

Design Principles in Textiles

- Study principles of design in textiles, including balance, proportion, rhythm, harmony, contrast, unity
- Apply principles of textile design in the design and construction of textile products, including clothing, accessories, home furnishings, and decorative items
- Explore compositional strategies and experiment with formal elements such as line, shape, texture, pattern, and color to create dynamic and visually compelling textile designs
- Explore the relationship between form and function in textiles, considering factors such as comfort, durability, functionality, and wearability in their textile designs
- Create textiles that are intended for practical use or wearable applications, such as clothing, accessories, household items, or decorative objects, incorporating ergonomic considerations and user preferences into their design process
- Investigate advancements in textile technology and innovation, including digital fabrication, smart textiles, wearable technology, and 3D printing

- Experiment with new materials and processes to create innovative textile products that address contemporary challenges and opportunities

Creative Process, Exhibition, and Portfolio

- Plan and execute textile projects, considering elements such as composition, color theory, and design principles
- Experiment with different materials, textures, and structures to develop their artistic ideas into cohesive textile pieces
- Explore various techniques such as weaving, embroidery, felting, and surface design to translate their ideas into tangible textile artworks
- Prepare textile projects for presentation and exhibition in a gallery or other public venue
- Curate and present their own textile pieces, making informed choices regarding display methods and exhibition contexts
- Refine textile artworks through iterative processes, seeking feedback from peers and instructors to improve craftsmanship and aesthetic appeal
- Learn presentation techniques such as mounting, framing, and installation to enhance the visual impact of their work
- Develop a portfolio of textile designs and creations that demonstrates their artistic growth, skills, and creative achievements over time
- Curate, document, and present their textiles in a professional manner, reflecting on their artistic process, conceptual development, and personal aesthetic through artist statements, portfolio reviews, and exhibition opportunities

Critique and Reflection

- Analyze and interpret textile artworks, both historical and contemporary, considering their cultural significance and artistic merits
- Engage in reflective practices, evaluating their own textile projects and the work of their peers based on criteria such as creativity, technical skill, and conceptual depth
- Develop criteria for evaluating textile artworks, considering elements such as craftsmanship, originality, cultural context, and thematic coherence
- Participate in critiques and discussions to develop critical thinking skills and gain insights into the diverse approaches to textile art
- Analyze and evaluate their own work and that of their peers, providing constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement
- Engage in critiques and reflections on their textile projects, considering aesthetic, technical, and conceptual aspects
- Articulate assessments thoughtfully, providing constructive feedback to their peers and justifying their aesthetic preferences and artistic judgments

Music Academy

The Upper School Music Academy objectives are based upon the music standards as outlined by the National Association for Music Education, the national core arts standards as outlined by the National Art Education Association, the national standards for music education as outlined by the Music Stand Foundation, and the TEKS established by the Texas Music Educators Association.

National Arts Standards for Music

Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.

12. Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

- The creative ideas, concepts, and feelings that influence musicians' work emerge from a variety of sources.

13. Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

- Musicians' creative choices are influenced by their expertise, context, and expressive intent.

14. Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.

- Musicians evaluate, and refine their work through openness to new ideas, persistence, and the application of appropriate criteria.
- Musicians' presentation of creative work is the culmination of a process of creation and communication

Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation, presentation, and sharing.

15. Anchor Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.

- Performers' interest in and knowledge of musical works, understanding of their own technical skill, and the context for a performance influence the selection of repertoire.
- Analyzing creators' context and how they manipulate elements of music provides insight into their intent and informs performance.
- Performers make interpretive decisions based on their understanding of context and expressive intent.

16. Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.

- To express their musical ideas, musicians analyze, evaluate, and refine their performance over time through openness to new ideas, persistence, and the application of appropriate criteria.

17. Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.^[1]_[SEP]

- Musicians judge performance based on criteria that vary across time, place, and cultures. The context and how a work is presented influence the audience response.

Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.

18. Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work Enduring Understanding: Individuals' selection of musical works is influenced by their interests, experiences, understandings, and purposes.

- Response to music is informed by analyzing context (social, cultural, and historical) and how creators and performers manipulate the elements of music.

19. Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.^[1]_[SEP]

- Through their use of elements and structures of music, creators and performers provide clues to their expressive intent.

20. Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

- The personal evaluation of musical work(s) and performance(s) is informed by analysis, interpretation, and established criteria.

Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

21. Anchor Standard 10: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

- Musicians connect their personal interests, experiences, ideas, and knowledge to creating, performing, and responding.

22. Anchor Standard 11: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

- Understanding connections to varied contexts and daily life enhances musicians' creating, performing, and responding.

Foundations of Music Theory

The focus of the foundations of music theory class is to introduce students to the fundamental principles of music theory. Students will learn about notation, rhythm, scales, chords, harmony, and basic analysis techniques. Through listening, notation exercises, and practical application, students will develop a solid understanding of music theory concepts and terminology. The course aims to provide students with a strong foundation in music theory, enabling them to read and interpret music notation, analyze musical structures, and communicate effectively about music.

Foundational Practices

- Demonstrate the ability to create and compose music using foundational music theory concepts, including melody, harmony, rhythm, form, and structure
- Create musical compositions, arrangements, and exercises using foundational music theory concepts
- Select, analyze, and interpret music notation, scores, and exercises
- Develop performance skills through sight-reading, singing, playing, and improvising music notation, demonstrating fluency in applying music theory concepts to performance
- Develop critical listening skills and analytical abilities to respond thoughtfully and perceptively to music, including identifying elements of melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture, and expression
- Demonstrate an understanding of music theory concepts and evaluate compositions and arrangements
- Relate music theory to other art forms, historical contexts, and cultural traditions
- Explore connections between music theory and other disciplines, contexts, and applications, recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of music theory as it relates to history, culture, aesthetics, and creativity

Historical and Cultural Context

- Explore key figures and texts in the history of music theory, including Pythagoras, Guido of Arezzo, Johann Fux, and Jean-Philippe Rameau
- Explore the historical development of music theory, including ancient, medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque theoretical systems
- Explore the historical development of music theory, including major theorists, treatises, and milestones in music theory history
- Explore the cultural and social contexts of music theory, including its relationship to historical periods, cultural traditions, and musical styles
- Identify and understand the historical and cultural contexts of music theory, including the development of musical notation, theoretical systems, and compositional practices
- Analyze how cultural and technological developments have influenced the evolution of music theory over time

Elements of Music and Melody

- Identify and explore the elements of music, including pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, dynamics, and texture
- Explore music notation symbols, terminology, and conventions for representing musical elements in written notation
- Study melody construction, including pitch, contour, intervallic relationships, scale degrees, and melodic motion (step, skip, leap)
- Analyze melodic structures, including motifs, phrases, periods, and melodic development in musical compositions

- Analyze musical compositions and scores to identify structural elements, harmonic progressions, and formal patterns
- Explore texture in music, including monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic, and heterophonic textures
- Study voicing and instrumentation, including the arrangement of voices and instruments within musical compositions to create harmonic and contrapuntal effects

Fundamentals of Music Notation

- Identify basic music notation symbols, including clefs, staff lines, note values, rests, time signatures, key signatures, and accidentals
- Practice reading, writing, and interpreting music notation in both treble and bass clefs, including identifying pitches, rhythms, and symbols
- Develop proficiency in reading and interpreting music notation, including treble clef, bass clef, and grand staff notation
- Develop proficiency in reading, writing, and interpreting music notation, including pitch notation, rhythmic notation, and symbols for articulation and expression
- Identify and explain symbols for articulation, dynamics, tempo markings, and other expressive indications
- Practice score reading skills through exercises and assignments

Harmonic Foundations

- Identify and explain harmonic concepts, including chords, chord progressions, chord functions, and harmonic analysis
- Study harmonic structures, including triads (major, minor, diminished, augmented), seventh chords, inversions, and chord extensions in tonal harmony
- Develop and practice skills in chord construction, chord symbols, chord inversions, and chord progressions
- Explore common chord progressions, including primary chords (tonic, subdominant, dominant) and cadential progressions
- Analyze harmonic function and voice leading in chord progressions
- Explore harmonic functions, cadences, chord qualities, and common chord progressions in tonal music
- Explore the elements of melody, including contour, intervallic relationships, and phrase structure
- Explore basic principles of harmony, including consonance, dissonance, chord progressions, and cadence
- Analyze melodies and harmonic progressions in musical examples from various genres and styles

Rhythmic Fundamentals

- Identify and explore basic rhythmic patterns, including simple meters (duple, triple) and compound meters
- Explore syncopation, hemiola, and other rhythmic devices
- Explore rhythmic notation, including note values, rests, time signatures, tempo markings, and rhythmic patterns
- Practice rhythmic dictation, sight-reading, and rhythmic improvisation exercises using various meters and rhythmic subdivisions
- Practice melodic dictation, transcribing melodies from oral and written sources
- Practice rhythmic dictation, transcribing rhythms using rhythmic notation and counting systems
- Demonstrate understanding of rhythmic notation, including note values, rests, and time signatures

Form and Structure

- Develop an understanding of musical form and structure, including binary form, ternary form, rondo form, theme and variations, and sonata-allegro form
- Analyze musical scores and compositions to identify formal structures, thematic development, and harmonic progressions
- Analyze formal structures in musical compositions, including identifying sections, transitions, repeats, and developmental techniques
- Analyze formal structures in musical examples, including themes, motives, and developmental techniques
- Explore variations and embellishments within formal structures

Scales and Key Signatures

- Demonstrate understanding of the concept of pitch and the musical alphabet
- Identify and understand scales and modes, including major scales, minor scales, and other diatonic scales
- Explore enharmonic equivalents, key signatures, and the Circle of Fifths
- Identify and explore key signatures, major scales, and modes, including the construction of scales, scale degrees, and scale patterns
- Develop an understanding of intervals, including interval identification, interval qualities, and interval inversion
- Practice identifying and transposing scales, intervals, and melodies in different keys and modes.
- Demonstrate an understanding of major and minor scales, including scale construction, key signatures, intervals, and modes
- Explore the relationships between scales, keys, and chords, including diatonic harmony and the circle of fifths
- Explore counterpoint principles and techniques, including species counterpoint, voice leading, and contrapuntal textures

Ear Training and Aural Skills

- Develop ear training and aural skills through listening, singing, and identifying musical elements such as pitch, rhythm, intervals, chords, and melodies
- Develop and practice ear training skills, including pitch recognition, interval identification, chord recognition and identification, and rhythmic dictation
- Practice sight-singing skills, including solfège syllables, scale degrees, and melodic patterns
- Practice melodic dictation, harmonic dictation, rhythmic dictation, and sight-singing exercises to develop musical literacy and fluency
- Practice rhythmic dictation exercises to transcribe rhythmic patterns and melodies
- Engage in sight-singing exercises to develop vocal pitch accuracy and musical memory

Music Theory

The focus of the music theory class is to delve into the study of advanced principles and structures of music. Students will explore topics such as harmony, counterpoint, form, analysis, and composition. Through listening, analysis, and practical exercises, students will deepen their understanding of how music works and develop skills in musical notation, ear training, and composition. The course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of music theory principles and prepare them for further study or professional pursuits in music.

Foundational Practices

- Demonstrate the ability to create and compose music using foundational music theory concepts, including melody, harmony, rhythm, form, and structure
- Create musical compositions, arrangements, and exercises applying music theory concepts
- Select, analyze, and interpret music notation, scores, and compositions from various styles and periods
- Develop performance skills through sight-singing, playing, and improvising music notation, demonstrating fluency in applying music theory concepts to performance
- Develop critical listening skills and analytical abilities to respond thoughtfully and perceptively to music, including identifying elements of melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture, and expression
- Demonstrate an understanding of music theory concepts and evaluate compositions, arrangements, and performances
- Relate music theory to other art forms, historical contexts, and cultural traditions
- Explore connections between music theory and other disciplines, contexts, and applications, recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of music theory as it relates to history, culture, aesthetics, and creativity

Historical and Cultural Context

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of music theory, including major theorists, treatises, and milestones in music theory history
- Explore the cultural and social contexts of music theory, including its relationship to historical periods, cultural traditions, and musical styles
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of music theory, including the development of theoretical systems, compositional practices, and stylistic conventions
- Explore the historical development of music theory, including theoretical treatises, theoretical systems, and key figures in music theory history
- Explore the relationship between music theory and compositional practices in different historical periods and cultural contexts
- Analyze how innovations in music theory have influenced the evolution of musical styles, genres, and forms over time

Elements of Music and Melody

- Explore melodic construction, including contour, intervallic patterns, and motivic development
- Analyze melodic structures, including motifs, phrases, periods, and melodic development in musical compositions
- Study melodic principles, including contour, direction, intervals, motifs, and thematic development
- Explore counterpoint principles and techniques, including species counterpoint, voice leading, and contrapuntal textures
- Analyze harmonic principles, including chord types, chord progressions, and harmonic function

- Analyze melodies and harmonic progressions in musical examples, including counterpoint and voice leading

Texture and Voicing

- Study principles of counterpoint, including species counterpoint and contrapuntal techniques
- Explore textures in music, including monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic, and heterophonic textures
- Analyze contrapuntal and textural elements in musical compositions from different historical periods and styles
- Explore and analyze voicing and instrumentation, including the arrangement of voices and instruments within musical compositions to create harmonic and contrapuntal effects

Fundamentals of Music Notation

- Demonstrate an understanding of basic music notation symbols, including clefs, staff lines, note values, rests, time signatures, key signatures, and accidentals
- Practice reading, writing, and interpreting music notation in both treble and bass clefs, including identifying pitches, rhythms, and symbols
- Develop proficiency in reading, writing, and interpreting music notation, including pitch notation, rhythmic notation, and symbols for articulation, dynamics, and expression
- Develop advanced skills in reading and interpreting music notation, including complex rhythms, extended techniques, and contemporary notation systems
- Analyze cores and musical compositions to identify thematic development, harmonic progressions, formal structures, and stylistic characteristics
- Engage in score study exercises to deepen understanding of compositional techniques and expressive elements

Harmonic Foundations

- Demonstrate an understanding of harmonic concepts, including chords, chord progressions, chord functions, and harmonic analysis
- Study of harmonic structures, including triads, seventh chords, inversions, and chord extensions in tonal harmony.
- Practice and improve skills in chord construction, chord symbols, chord inversions, and harmonic progressions
- Analyze harmonic functions, cadences, chord qualities, & common chord progressions in tonal music
- Study common chord progressions, including cadences, harmonic sequences, and modulation
- Analyze harmonic tension and resolution in chord progressions and harmonic sequences

Rhythmic Fundamentals

- Demonstrate an understanding of rhythmic notation, including note values, rests, time signatures, meter, tempo markings, and rhythmic patterns
- Practice rhythmic dictation, sight-reading, and rhythmic improvisation exercises using various meters and rhythmic subdivision
- Study rhythmic patterns, syncopation, polyrhythms, and metric modulation
- Analyze rhythmic structures in musical compositions from various historical periods and styles

Form and Structure

- Demonstrate an understanding of musical form and structure, including binary form, ternary form, rondo form, theme and variations, and sonata-allegro form

- Analyze formal structures in musical compositions, including identifying sections, transitions, repeats, and developmental techniques
- Analyze formal structures in musical examples, including thematic development, repetition, and variation
- Analyze musical scores and compositions, identifying formal structures, thematic development, and harmonic relationships
- Explore compositional techniques for organizing musical ideas within formal structures

Scales and Key Signatures

- Demonstrate understanding of the concept of pitch, frequency, and pitch notation systems
- Demonstrate understanding of diatonic scales, including major and minor scales, modes, and chromatic scales
- Demonstrate understanding of pitch intervals, intervallic relationships, and enharmonic equivalents
- Demonstrate understanding of key signatures, major scales, and modes, including the construction of scales, scale degrees, and scale patterns
- Practice identifying and transposing scales, intervals, and melodies in different keys and modes
- Demonstrate understanding of major and minor scales, including scale construction, key signatures, intervals, and modes
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationships between scales, keys, and chords, including diatonic harmony, modulation, and the circle of fifths

Ear Training and Aural Skills

- Continue to develop ear training skills, including pitch recognition, interval identification, chord identification, and rhythmic dictation
- Practice and improve ear training and aural skills through listening, singing, and identifying musical elements such as pitch, rhythm, intervals, chords, and melodies
- Practice and improve melodic dictation, harmonic dictation, rhythmic dictation, and sight-singing exercises to develop musical literacy and fluency
- Practice and improve sight-singing skills, including solfège syllables, scale degrees, and melodic dictation

Advanced Topics and Composition

- Explore composition techniques, including melody writing, harmonic progression, counterpoint, and form
- Explore advanced topics in music theory, including chromatic harmony, modal mixture, extended tertian harmonies, non-chord tones, secondary dominants, and modulation
- Apply advanced harmonic and contrapuntal techniques to analysis, composition, and arrangement in various musical styles and genres
- Create original musical compositions and arrangements applying music theory concepts

Music Ensemble

The focus of the music ensemble class is to provide students with the opportunity to collaborate and perform music together as a group. Students will join instrumental or vocal ensembles such as bands, orchestras, choirs, or chamber groups, depending on their interests and abilities. Through rehearsals, performances, and feedback sessions, students will develop their musical skills, ensemble playing, and musicianship. The course aims to cultivate teamwork, discipline, and artistic expression while fostering a sense of community and pride in musical achievement.

Foundational Practices

- Demonstrate the ability to create and arrange music for ensemble performance, including selecting repertoire, adapting arrangements, and creating original compositions
- Create musical performances and interpretations in ensemble settings
- Select, analyze, and interpret ensemble repertoire for performance
- Develop performance skills through ensemble rehearsals and concerts, demonstrating technical proficiency, expressive interpretation, and collaborative musicianship
- Develop critical listening skills and analytical abilities to respond thoughtfully and perceptively to ensemble performances, including identifying elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics, balance, blend, and expression
- Demonstrate an understanding of ensemble performance practices and evaluate performances
- Relate ensemble performance to other art forms, historical contexts, and cultural traditions
- Explore connections between ensemble music and other disciplines, contexts, and applications, recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of ensemble music as it relates to history, culture, aesthetics, and creativity

Historical and Cultural Context

- Explore the historical development of ensemble music, including major composers, styles, forms, and performance practices
- Explore the cultural and social contexts of ensemble music, including its role in different societies, traditions, and artistic movements

Repertoire Studies

- Explore representative works from different composers, historical periods, cultures, and genres, spanning a wide range of musical styles and forms
- Explore historical and cultural contexts of ensemble repertoire selections, understanding their significance and relevance
- Study and perform a diverse repertoire of musical compositions representing various styles, genres, historical periods, and cultural traditions
- Study and perform a diverse repertoire of ensemble music, including traditional, classical, contemporary, jazz, folk, world, and popular styles
- Select repertoire for the ensemble based on musical criteria such as difficulty level, instrumentation, style, and educational objectives
- Analyze musical compositions to understand formal structures, harmonic progressions, melodic motifs, rhythmic patterns, and expressive elements
- Listen, analyze, and discuss ensemble music repertoire from different styles, genres, composers, and historical periods, deepening understanding and appreciation of ensemble music

- Explore recordings, live performances, and masterclasses to broaden musical perspectives and critical listening skills
- Interpret musical compositions with sensitivity to stylistic elements, expressive nuances, historical context, and composer intent

Musical Interpretation and Expression

- Develop and practice ensemble listening skills, responding to conductor cues and adjusting their performance based on ensemble feedback
- Study and analyze each piece's musical structure, historical context, composer's intent, and performance practice considerations
- Interpret musical compositions with attention to stylistic elements, historical context, composer intent, and expressive markings
- Engage in interpretation and expression of ensemble music through attention to dynamics, phrasing, articulation, tempo, style, character, and mood
- Explore musical interpretation and expression, including dynamics, phrasing, articulation, tempo, style, and emotional communication
- Convey musical expression and emotion through performance, demonstrating dynamic contrast, phrasing, articulation, and interpretation
- Convey musical expression and emotion through nuanced performance techniques such as dynamic contrast, rubato, vibrato, and phrasing
- Engage in creative interpretation and individual expression within the parameters of ensemble performance

Rehearsal Techniques and Ensemble Skills

- Identify and practice ensemble rehearsal techniques, including warm-up exercises, sectionals, ensemble balance, blend, tuning, and dynamics
- Develop rehearsal techniques and ensemble skills for participating in instrumental or vocal ensembles, including listening, blending, balance, intonation, rhythm, synchronization, and communication with other musicians
- Practice sight-reading skills, learning to interpret ensemble scores and perform music accurately and expressively
- Practice ensemble skills such as cueing, entrances, releases, tempo adjustments, and transitions between musical sections
- Engage in effective rehearsal strategies, including score study, sectional rehearsals, ensemble drills, and feedback processes to improve ensemble performance
- Practice in ensemble rehearsals to prepare repertoire pieces for performances, focusing on musical interpretation, expressive performance, and ensemble cohesion
- Practice in sectional rehearsals to address specific challenges and technical passages within the ensemble repertoire
- Engage in individual practice and skill development, including exercises, scales, etudes, and repertoire assignments tailored to each student's needs
- Participate effectively in ensemble settings, demonstrating skills in collaboration, communication, listening, balance, blend, and ensemble cohesion
- Foster a collaborative and supportive ensemble environment that encourages active participation, communication, and mutual respect among ensemble members
- Identify and explore conducting and leadership skills for ensemble directors or student leaders, including baton technique, score reading, rehearsal techniques, and leadership principles

- Practice conducting rehearsals, leading sectional rehearsals, giving musical directions, and providing constructive feedback to ensemble members

Performance Skills

- Develop proficiency in instrumental or vocal performance techniques, including tone production, intonation, articulation, phrasing, and expression.
- Develop and practice collaborative performance skills through ensemble playing or singing, chamber music, small group collaborations, or collaborative projects with other instrumentalists or vocalists
- Collaborate with peers in ensemble settings, demonstrating effective communication, cooperation, and teamwork
- Focus on communication, synchronization, musical interaction, and ensemble cohesion in collaborative performances
- Engage in musical dialogue, listening to and responding to each other's musical ideas, interpretations, and contributions

Performance Preparation, Presentation, and Etiquette

- Prepare and present ensemble performances in various settings, including concerts, festivals, competitions, and community events
- Prepare for ensemble performances through thorough rehearsal, memorization (where applicable), and mastery of the repertoire
- Prepare for ensemble performances, including setting goals, planning rehearsal schedules, and implementing effective practice strategies to achieve musical excellence
- Engage in performance practice techniques such as run-throughs, dress rehearsals, and mock performances to simulate concert conditions
- Practice stage presence, audience engagement, and professionalism in ensemble performance, including introductions, announcements, and interactions with the audience
- Present polished and expressive performances in various venues, including concerts, festivals, competitions, community events, and outreach programs
- Demonstrate appropriate performance etiquette, including stage presence, audience engagement, concert attire, and professional conduct

Feedback and Assessment

- Using various assessment methods such as teacher evaluations, peer evaluations, recordings, self-assessments, and performance critiques to measure progress and achievement
- Accept and implement constructive feedback and assessment on individual performance skills, ensemble contributions, and musical growth
- Use assessment data to inform instructional decisions, identify areas for improvement, and set goals for future development
- Engage in self-assessment and reflection on individual performance skills, ensemble contributions, and areas for improvement

Survey of Music History

The focus of the survey of music history class is to offer students an overview of significant musical developments, styles, and composers from various historical periods and cultures. Students will explore key musical genres, movements, and innovations, from ancient to contemporary times, through listening, analysis, and discussion. The course aims to provide students with a broad understanding of music's historical context, cultural significance, and evolution over time, fostering appreciation for the diversity and richness of musical traditions worldwide.

Foundational Practices

- Explore and create musical compositions and arrangements representative of various musical styles and genres
- Analyze and interpret musical compositions from diverse historical periods, cultures, and genres
- Demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, structures, and contexts through critical listening and analysis
- Relate music to other art forms, cultural contexts, and historical events, understanding its interdisciplinary connections

Historical and Cultural Context

- Identify and analyze the characteristics, aesthetics, and cultural significance of different musical genres and styles
- Identify and analyze various musical styles, genres, forms, and techniques from different historical periods, including classical, romantic, baroque, medieval, renaissance, and contemporary music
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, and political contexts of music within different historical periods and geographical regions
- Explore the history of Western classical music, including major composers, compositions, styles, and historical periods (e.g., Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern)
- Explore musical traditions from around the world, including African, Asian, Latin American, and indigenous music
- Analyze the social, political, religious, and technological factors that influenced the evolution of music throughout history
- Explore the diversity of musical traditions and practices from around the world, including indigenous music cultures, folk music traditions, classical music traditions, and contemporary global music trends
- Explore the interconnectedness of music with culture, society, identity, and globalization, recognizing the richness and complexity of musical expression across different cultures and regions
- Recognize and explain the diversity of musical traditions and practices across different cultures, ethnicities, and geographic regions, including Western and non-Western music
- Analyze cross-cultural influences, fusion genres, and globalization in contemporary world music
- Analyze the role of music in society, including its function in religious rituals, ceremonial events, social gatherings, political movements, and cultural expressions
- Explore how music reflects and shapes social, political, and cultural ideologies, identities, and values in different historical periods and cultural contexts
- Explore the intersection of music with historical events, social movements, cultural trends, and technological developments

Critical Listening and Analysis

- Explore various musical ensembles and performance contexts, including orchestras, bands, choirs, chamber groups, and electronic music ensembles
- Identify and analyze different musical instruments, including their classification, construction, sound production, and performance techniques
- Develop and practice analytical skills to analyze and interpret musical compositions from different historical periods, styles, genres, and cultural contexts
- Develop critical listening skills to discern and evaluate musical qualities, characteristics, and expressive elements in historical recordings, live performances, and multimedia presentations
- Develop critical listening skills, analyzing musical performances, recordings, and compositions with discernment and depth
- Engage in active listening, analysis, and discussion of musical recordings, performances, and documentaries to deepen their understanding and appreciation of music history
- Explore musical elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture, instrumentation, and expression in their analysis of representative works from music history
- Identify fundamental musical elements, including pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, dynamics, and texture
- Analyze musical compositions, identifying key musical elements, structures, techniques, and expressive qualities
- Analyze musical structures, including musical forms (e.g., binary, ternary, rondo), harmonic progressions, and rhythmic patterns
- Interpret musical compositions, understanding their historical context, cultural significance, and artistic intent
- Evaluate musical works, considering aesthetic qualities, technical proficiency, expressive interpretation, and cultural context

Ancient and Medieval Music

- Explore and analyze music in ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, including religious, ceremonial, and secular music practices
- Explore and analyze medieval music traditions such as Gregorian chant, secular song, medieval polyphony, troubadour songs, and Ars Nova
- Analyze the development of musical notation and theoretical concepts in the medieval period

Renaissance Music

- Explore and analyze the music of the Renaissance period, including sacred music, secular vocal music, madrigals, chansons, instrumental music, and early opera
- Explore and analyze the contributions of Renaissance composers such as Josquin des Prez, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Orlando di Lasso, and William Byrd
- Analyze the stylistic characteristics and formal structures of Renaissance music

Baroque Music

- Explore and analyze Baroque music styles and genres, including the development of opera, orchestral music, keyboard music, chamber music, and sacred music
- Explore and analyze the music of the Baroque period, including vocal and instrumental genres such as opera, cantata, oratorio, concerto, and suite
- Explore and analyze Baroque composers such as Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel, Claudio Monteverdi, and Antonio Vivaldi

- Analyze the development of tonal harmony, counterpoint, and musical forms in the Baroque era

Classical Music

- Explore and analyze the music of the Classical period, including symphony, sonata, string quartet, opera buffa, chamber music, and concerto
- Explore and analyze the contributions of Classical composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Joseph Haydn, and Christoph Willibald Gluck
- Analyze the formal structures, stylistic characteristics, and aesthetic principles of Classical music

Romantic Music

- Explore and analyze Romantic music styles and genres, including program music, art song, opera, symphonic poem, character piece, and nationalism
- Explore and analyze Romantic composers such as Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Frédéric Chopin, Johannes Brahms, Richard Wagner, and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
- Analyze the expressive qualities, emotional depth, and thematic content of Romantic music

Modern and Contemporary Music

- Explore and analyze modern and contemporary music styles and movements, including Impressionism, Expressionism, Neoclassicism, Serialism, Minimalism, Jazz, Blues, Rock, and World Music
- Explore and analyze modern and contemporary composers such as Igor Stravinsky, Arnold Schoenberg, Claude Debussy, Aaron Copland, John Cage, Philip Glass, Miles Davis, and The Beatles
- Analyze innovations in musical language, techniques, and aesthetics in contemporary music

Music Technology and Innovation

- Explore and analyze the impact of technology on music production, distribution, and consumption throughout history, from the invention of musical instruments and notation to the development of recording technology, radio, television, and digital media
- Explore and analyze developments in music technology, including recording technology, electronic instruments, synthesizers, and digital audio software
- Identify and analyze technological innovations in music, including electronic instruments, recording equipment, digital audio software, and multimedia applications
- Explore and analyze the impact of music technology on music production, recording, distribution, and consumption
- Examine the impact of technological advancements on music production, distribution, and consumption throughout history
- Examine how technological advancements have influenced musical creativity, performance practices, and cultural trends in the modern era

History of Rock

The focus of the history of rock class is to trace the evolution of rock music from its roots to modern forms, exploring its cultural, social, and artistic significance. Students will study influential artists, bands, genres, and movements through listening, analysis, and discussion. The course covers topics such as rock's origins in blues, jazz, and folk music, the impact of technology and social change, and the development of subgenres like punk, metal, and alternative rock. Through exploring the history of rock, students will gain insight into its role as a reflection of society and a catalyst for cultural transformation.

Foundational Practices

- Explore the evolution of rock music styles and create compositions or arrangements influenced by rock music
- Analyze and interpret rock music compositions from various eras, styles, and artists
- Demonstrate an understanding of rock music history, aesthetics, and cultural significance through critical listening and analysis
- Explore the connections between rock music and other art forms, cultural movements, and historical events

Historical and Cultural Context

- Explore the historical development of rock music from its roots in blues, jazz, folk, and country music to its evolution into various subgenres and styles
- Analyze the social, cultural, political, and technological factors that influenced the emergence and evolution of rock music throughout the 20th and 21st centuries
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, and political contexts of rock music within different decades and cultural movements
- Explore how rock music reflects and responds to social, political, and cultural issues such as civil rights, gender equality, war, protest, and counterculture movements
- Explore the role of rock music in reflecting and shaping cultural attitudes, values, and movements
- Examine the role of rock music in social and political movements, including its contributions to civil rights, feminism, LGBTQ+ rights, environmentalism, and anti-establishment activism
- Identify and analyze protest songs, anthems, and politically charged lyrics in rock music from different decades and cultural contexts
- Analyze the ways in which rock musicians and bands have used their platform to advocate for social change and challenge the status quo
- Explore the global spread and influence of rock music, including its reception and adaptation in different countries, cultures, and musical traditions
- Investigate the cultural impact of rock music on society, including its influence on youth culture, rebellion, identity, fashion, language, attitudes and values
- Explore the tradition of live performance in rock music, including concert culture, festivals, venues, and the live music experience
- Analyze iconic rock concerts, performances, and tours, understanding their impact on audiences and popular culture

Critical Listening and Analysis

- Engage in active listening, analysis, and discussion of rock music recordings, live performances, and multimedia presentations to deepen their understanding and appreciation of rock music history

- Examine the contributions of influential artists, bands, producers, and engineers to the development of rock music and its subgenres
- Engage in critical listening and analysis of rock music compositions, examining elements such as instrumentation, song structure, lyrics, production techniques, and performance styles
- Engage in critical listening and music criticism, evaluating the artistic quality, cultural relevance, and historical significance of rock music recordings
- Develop and practice critical listening skills to discern and evaluate musical qualities, characteristics, and expressive elements in rock songs from different styles, eras, and cultural contexts
- Develop and practice analytical skills to analyze and interpret musical elements in rock songs, including instrumentation, rhythm, harmony, melody, form, lyrics, production techniques, and performance styles

Origins and Evolution of Rock Music

- Identify and explore significant rock artists, bands, and musicians who have made enduring contributions to the genre
- Analyze the biographies, discographies, musical influences, artistic innovations, and cultural impact of significant rock artists and bands
- Explore the musical influences and precursors of rock music, including blues, jazz, gospel, folk, country, rhythm and blues (R&B), and early rock and roll pioneers
- Examination of key artists, songs, recordings, and events that contributed to the development of rock music in the 1950s, such as Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Elvis Presley, and the birth of rock and roll
- Analyze the social and cultural significance of early rock and roll music in the 1950s
- Analyze the evolution of rock music styles and subgenres, including rock and roll, rockabilly, surf rock, psychedelic rock, garage rock, punk rock, new wave, alternative rock, grunge, metal, and hip-hop/rap rock
- Analyze characteristic features, instrumentation, song structures, lyrical themes, and performance practices of different rock styles

The British Invasion and Classic Rock

- Identify and explore the British Invasion bands and artists of the 1960s, including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, and The Kinks, and their impact on the global popularity of rock music
- Explore the emergence of classic rock bands and artists in the 1960s and 1970s, such as Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, The Doors, Jimi Hendrix, and their contributions to the development of rock music
- Analyze the stylistic diversity and cultural influence of British Invasion bands on subsequent generations of rock musicians

Psychedelic Rock and Counterculture Movements

- Explore the psychedelic rock movement of the 1960s, including its musical experimentation, drug culture, and spiritual influences
- Identify and explore key artists and bands associated with the psychedelic movement, such as Pink Floyd, The Doors, The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin, and Jimi Hendrix
- Analyze psychedelic rock music and its association with the counterculture movements of the 1960s, including the Summer of Love, hippie culture, psychedelic drugs, and social experimentation
- Analyze the intersection of rock music with the broader counterculture movements of the 1960s, including the civil rights movement, anti-war protests, and hippie culture

Blues and Folk Rock

- Explore blues rock bands and artists who blended blues and rock elements in their music, such as The Rolling Stones, Cream, Eric Clapton, and Led Zeppelin

- Explore folk rock artists who incorporated folk music influences into rock music, including Bob Dylan, The Byrds, Simon & Garfunkel, and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young

Hard Rock and Heavy Metal

- Trace the development of hard rock and heavy metal music from the late 1960s to the present day
- Analyze hard rock and heavy metal bands and artists known for their aggressive sound and energetic performances, including Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, Deep Purple, AC/DC, and Iron Maiden.
- Analyze the musical characteristics, lyrical themes, and cultural significance of hard rock and heavy metal genres
- Examine progressive rock bands and artists who pushed the boundaries of rock music with complex compositions, virtuosic instrumentation, and experimental approaches, such as Pink Floyd, Yes, Genesis, and King Crimson

Punk Rock and New Wave

- Examine the emergence of punk rock and new wave music in the 1970s and 1980s
- Identify and explore punk rock bands and artists who embraced a DIY ethos, rebellious attitude, and raw sound, including The Ramones, The Sex Pistols, The Clash, and Patti Smith
- Explore new wave bands and artists who fused punk rock with elements of pop, electronic music, and avant-garde art, such as Blondie, Talking Heads, Devo, and The B-52's
- Explore the DIY ethos, political activism, and cultural rebellion of the punk and new wave movements
- Analyze the influence of punk and new wave music on subsequent generations of alternative and indie rock musicians

Alternative and Indie Rock

- Examine the rise of alternative and indie rock music in the 1980s and 1990s
- Analyze alternative rock bands and artists who emerged in the 1980s and 1990s with a diverse range of styles and sounds, including R.E.M., Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Sonic Youth, Radiohead, and Red Hot Chili Peppers
- Explore the diverse subgenres and stylistic innovations within the alternative and indie rock scenes
- Analyze cultural impact and commercial success of alternative and indie rock bands in the post-punk era
- Examine indie rock bands and artists who operated outside the mainstream music industry and embraced DIY ethics, including Sonic Youth, Pixies, Pavement, and Arcade Fire

Rock Legacy and Contemporary Trends

- Examine the enduring popularity and ongoing relevance of rock music in contemporary music culture
- Assess the legacy and influence of rock music on subsequent generations of musicians, artists, and cultural movements
- Explore rock revival movements and contemporary trends in rock music, including garage rock revival, post-punk revival, emo, pop punk, alternative metal, and indie pop
- Identify and explore influential bands and artists in the 21st century rock music landscape, including The White Stripes, The Strokes, Arctic Monkeys, Foo Fighters, Muse, and Twenty-One Pilots
- Investigate technological innovations and industry developments that have influenced the production, distribution, and consumption of rock music
- Identify and explore recording technologies, sound engineering techniques, digital music formats, and the impact of the internet on the music industry

Global Perspectives

- Investigate global perspectives on rock music, including international rock scenes, cross-cultural collaborations, and the globalization of rock music through technology, media, and the internet
- Identify and examine influential rock bands and artists from different countries and regions around the world, such as The Beatles (UK), AC/DC (Australia), Queen (UK), Santana (USA/Mexico), and BTS (South Korea)
- Explore the global spread and adaptation of rock music in different countries and cultural contexts, including Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America
- Identify regional rock music scenes, subcultures, and fusion genres influenced by local traditions and global trends
- Analyze cross-cultural collaborations, transnational influences, and the globalization of rock music in the 21st century

Music History: Baroque and Classical

The focus of the music history: Baroque and Classical class is to explore the musical styles, composers, and innovations of the Baroque and Classical periods. Students will study key composers such as Bach, Handel, Mozart, and Haydn, and examine musical forms such as fugues, concertos, symphonies, and sonatas. Through listening, analysis, and historical context, students will gain an understanding of the distinctive characteristics and cultural influences of these musical eras. The course aims to deepen students' appreciation for the rich heritage of Baroque and Classical music while developing their critical listening and analytical skills.

Foundational Practices

- Analyze and interpret musical compositions from the Baroque and Classical periods and create compositions or arrangements influenced by these styles
- Analyze and interpret Baroque and Classical music compositions, understanding their stylistic characteristics, forms, and historical contexts
- Demonstrate an understanding of Baroque and Classical music history, aesthetics, and cultural significance through critical listening and analysis
- Explore the connections between Baroque and Classical music and other art forms, historical events, and cultural movements

Historical and Cultural Context

- Explore the historical development of music during the Baroque and Classical periods, including significant composers, compositions, stylistic characteristics, and cultural contexts
- Analyze the historical context and cultural characteristics of the Baroque and Classical periods, including major historical events, social contexts, and artistic developments
- Analyze the social, political, religious, and technological factors that influenced music during the Baroque and Classical eras
- Explore connections between music and other art forms, such as visual arts, literature, and architecture, in the Baroque and Classical periods
- Investigate the cultural significance of music during the Baroque and Classical periods, including its role in courtly, religious, theatrical, and public settings
- Investigate the cultural contexts and influences on Baroque and Classical music, including patronage systems, courtly life, religious institutions, and the rise of the public concert
- Explore how music reflects and shapes social, intellectual, and artistic trends of the Baroque and Classical eras, such as the Enlightenment, patronage system, and rise of public concerts
- Examine the cultural significance of music during the Baroque and Classical periods, including its role in religious, secular, and courtly contexts, as well as its impact on society, politics, and artistic expression.
- Examine the transition from the Baroque to the Classical era, understanding key innovations, shifts in musical style, and the emergence of new forms and genres
- Assess the legacy and impact of Baroque and Classical music on subsequent generations of composers, musicians, and artistic movements
- Examine the enduring popularity and ongoing relevance of Baroque and Classical music in contemporary music culture and education

Critical Listening and Analysis

- Develop and practice critical listening skills to discern and evaluate musical qualities, characteristics, and expressive elements in Baroque and Classical compositions
- Develop and practice analytical skills to analyze and interpret musical elements in Baroque and Classical compositions, including melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture, instrumentation, and expression
- Engage in active listening, analysis, and discussion of Baroque and Classical music recordings, live performances, and multimedia presentations to deepen their understanding and appreciation of music history
- Engage in critical listening and analysis of musical compositions from the Baroque and Classical periods, examining elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, form, and expressive qualities
- Examine the compositional techniques, structures, and forms typical of the Baroque and Classical periods, such as fugue, sonata-allegro form, theme and variations, and the Classical symphony

Style, Genre, and Form

- Identify and analyze various musical styles, genres, forms, and techniques characteristic of the Baroque and Classical periods, including instrumental and vocal music, opera, oratorio, symphony, concerto, and chamber music
- Analyze common musical forms and genres from the Baroque and Classical periods, including fugue, concerto grosso, sonata, symphony, opera, oratorio, and chamber music
- Explore the structural features, compositional techniques, and expressive qualities of these musical forms and genres
- Analyze formal structures and compositional techniques used in Baroque and Classical music, including binary form, ternary form, sonata-allegro form, theme and variations, and rondo form
- Analyze examples of musical forms and structures in representative compositions from the Baroque and Classical periods
- Explore the evolution of musical forms and structures over time and their influence on subsequent musical developments

Baroque Music and Performance

- Identify and explore the musical styles, forms, and genres of the Baroque period, including vocal music (opera, oratorio, cantata), instrumental music (concerto, suite, sonata), and keyboard music (organ, harpsichord, clavichord)
- Identify and explore Baroque composers such as Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel, Antonio Vivaldi, Claudio Monteverdi, Henry Purcell, and their contributions to the development of Baroque music
- Identify and analyze the musical characteristics and stylistic innovations of the Baroque period, including ornamentation, polyphony, basso continuo, figured bass notation, and the use of tonal harmony
- Analyze representative genres and forms of Baroque music, including the fugue, suite, concerto grosso, and opera seria
- Explore and analyze Baroque instrumental music
 - Analyze the development of instrumental music during the Baroque period, including the emergence of the sonata, concerto, and orchestral suite
 - Explore the contributions of Baroque composers to instrumental genres such as the solo sonata, trio sonata, and orchestral concerto

- Analyze examples of instrumental masterpieces from the Baroque period, including Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, Handel's Water Music, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons
- Explore and analyze Baroque vocal music
 - Explore the diversity of vocal music genres and styles in the Baroque period, including opera, oratorio, cantata, and choral music
 - Analyze the characteristics of Baroque vocal music, including virtuosic vocal writing, expressive text setting, and dramatic storytelling
 - Analyze representative examples of Baroque vocal works, including Handel's Messiah, Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and Monteverdi's L'Orfeo
- Examine Baroque performance practices and conventions, including ornamentation, improvisation, basso continuo, figured bass notation, and historical performance techniques
- Identify and analyze Baroque instrumental and vocal techniques, articulation, phrasing, and expressive gestures in Baroque music performance

Classical Music and Performance

- Identify and explore the musical styles, forms, and genres of the Classical period, including symphony, sonata, concerto, opera buffa, chamber music, and art song
- Identify and explore Classical composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Joseph Haydn, Franz Schubert, and their contributions to the development of Classical music
- Identify and analyze the characteristics of Classical music, including clarity, balance, symmetry, homophonic textures, and formal structures such as sonata-allegro form, theme and variations, and rondo form
- Identify and analyze the musical characteristics and stylistic features of the Classical period, including clarity, symmetry, balance, elegance, and emotional restraint
- Analyze representative genres and forms of Classical music, including the symphony, sonata, string quartet, concerto, and opera buffa
- Analyze Classical forms and structures, including sonata-allegro form, theme and variations, rondo form, minuet and trio, and ternary form
- Examine compositional techniques such as thematic development, motivic transformation, sequence, modulation, and recapitulation in Classical music compositions
- Explore and analyze Classical instrumental music
 - Analyze the development of instrumental music during the Classical period, including innovations in form, structure, and expressive techniques
 - Explore the contributions of Classical composers to instrumental genres such as the symphony, sonata, string quartet, and piano concerto
 - Analyze examples of instrumental masterpieces from the Classical period, including Mozart's Symphony No. 40, Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 14 "Moonlight," and Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony
- Explore and analyze Classical vocal music
 - Analyze the evolution of vocal music genres and styles in the Classical period, including opera buffa, opera seria, singspiel, and art song
 - Identify and analyze the characteristics of Classical vocal music, including lyrical melodies, clear diction, and balanced ensemble writing
 - Analyze representative examples of Classical vocal works, including Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," Beethoven's "Fidelio," and Schubert's Lieder
- Identify and analyze the Viennese Classical style and its characteristic features, including clarity, balance, elegance, symmetry, and emotional restraint

- Identify and analyze the contributions of Viennese composers such as Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven to the development of Classical music aesthetics and style

Opera, Oratorio, and Chamber Music

- Examine the development of opera and oratorio during the Baroque and Classical periods, including the evolution of opera seria, opera buffa, singspiel, and grand opera
- Identify and explore notable operatic composers such as Claudio Monteverdi, Christoph Willibald Gluck, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Ludwig van Beethoven
- Explore keyboard music and chamber music genres and forms popular during the Baroque and Classical periods, including the keyboard sonata, string quartet, piano trio, and solo keyboard works
- Analyze keyboard and chamber music compositions by Baroque and Classical composers, including Bach's keyboard suites, Handel's keyboard works, Haydn's string quartets, and Mozart's piano sonatas

Performance, Practice, and Interpretation

- Examine historical performance practices and interpretive traditions associated with Baroque and Classical music, including aspects such as tempo, articulation, dynamics, and ornamentation
- Analyze period instruments, performance techniques, and treatises on musical interpretation from the Baroque and Classical periods
- Explore and analyze historical performance practices and stylistic conventions of the Baroque and Classical periods, including aspects such as ornamentation, articulation, improvisation, phrasing, tempo, and instrumental techniques
- Examine primary sources, historical treatises, and performance traditions to inform their understanding of authentic Baroque and Classical performance styles
- Apply historical performance practices and interpretive insights to the performance of Baroque and Classical repertoire
- Analyze contemporary scholarship, performance editions, and recordings informed by historical performance practice principles in Baroque and Classical music interpretation

Music History: Romantic and Modern

The focus of the music history: Romantic and Modern class is to delve into the musical styles, composers, and innovations of the Romantic era to contemporary times. Students will explore the works of Romantic composers such as Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, and Chopin, as well as modern composers like Debussy, Stravinsky, and Schoenberg. Through listening, analysis, and historical context, students will examine the evolution of musical forms, harmonies, and expressive techniques during this period. The course aims to deepen students' understanding of the diverse and dynamic developments in music from the Romantic era to the present day, fostering appreciation for the richness of musical expression across genres and styles.

Foundational Practices

- Analyze and interpret musical compositions from the Romantic and Modern periods and create compositions or arrangements influenced by these styles
- Analyze and interpret Romantic and Modern music compositions, understanding their stylistic characteristics, forms, and historical contexts
- Demonstrate an understanding of Romantic and Modern music history, aesthetics, and cultural significance through critical listening and analysis
- Explore the connections between Romantic and Modern music and other art forms, historical events, and cultural movements

Historical and Cultural Context

- Explore and analyze the historical development of music during the Romantic and Modern periods, including significant composers, compositions, stylistic characteristics, and cultural contexts
- Analyze the social, political, technological, and artistic factors that influenced music during the Romantic and Modern eras
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, and political contexts of music during the Romantic and Modern periods, including significant historical events, artistic movements, and intellectual trends
- Investigate the cultural significance of music during the Romantic and Modern periods, including its role in society, art, literature, philosophy, and technology
- Investigate the cultural contexts and influences on Romantic and Modern music, including societal changes, technological advancements, philosophical movements, and artistic revolutions
- Explore how music reflects and shapes social, intellectual, and artistic trends of the Romantic and Modern eras, such as nationalism, exoticism, industrialization, and globalization
- Examine the transition from the Classical to the Romantic era, as well as the innovations and shifts in musical style that occurred during the Modern period.
- Explore connections between music and other art forms, such as literature, visual arts, theater, and dance, in the Romantic and Modern periods
- Examine the global spread and adaptation of Romantic and Modern musical styles and techniques in different countries and cultural contexts
- Analyze cross-cultural collaborations, transnational influences, and the globalization of music in the Romantic and Modern periods
- Assess the legacy and impact of Romantic and Modern music on subsequent generations of composers, musicians, and artistic movements
- Examine the enduring popularity and ongoing relevance of Romantic and Modern music in contemporary music culture and education

Critical Listening and Analysis

- Develop and practice analytical skills to analyze and interpret musical elements in Romantic and Modern compositions, including melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture, instrumentation, and expression
- Examine the compositional techniques, structures, and forms typical of the Romantic and Modern periods, such as chromaticism, programmatic music, expanded tonality, and serialism
- Develop and practice critical listening skills to discern and evaluate musical qualities, characteristics, and expressive elements in Romantic and Modern compositions
- Engage in active listening, analysis, and discussion of Romantic and Modern music recordings, live performances, and multimedia presentations to deepen their understanding and appreciation of music history
- Engage in critical listening and analysis of musical compositions from the Romantic and Modern periods, examining elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, form, and expressive qualities

Style, Genre, and Form

- Identify and analyze various musical styles, genres, forms, and techniques characteristic of the Romantic and Modern periods, including orchestral music, opera, art song, chamber music, impressionism, expressionism, serialism, and contemporary music
- Explore the structural features, compositional techniques, and expressive qualities of these musical forms and genres
- Investigate the rise of nationalism and exoticism in Romantic and Modern music, including composers' use of folk melodies, nationalistic themes, and exotic scales and rhythms
- Explore connections between music and cultural identity, political movements, and artistic nationalism in the Romantic and Modern periods

Romantic Music

- Identify and analyze the characteristics of Romantic music, including expressive melodies, rich harmonies, dramatic dynamics, programmatic elements, and expanded forms
- Identify and analyze the musical styles, forms, and genres of the Romantic period, including symphony, concerto, opera, art song, piano music, and programmatic music
- Identify and analyze prominent Romantic composers
- Explore the contributions of Romantic composers such as Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Johannes Brahms, Frédéric Chopin, Hector Berlioz, Franz Liszt, Richard Wagner, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, and Gustav Mahler, and their contributions to the development of Romantic music
- Identify and analyze the musical characteristics and stylistic innovations of the Romantic period, including emotional expressiveness, individuality, nationalism, and programmatic content
- Explore and analyze Romantic instrumental music
 - Analyze the development of instrumental music during the Romantic period, including innovations in form, structure, and expressive techniques
 - Explore the contributions of Romantic composers to instrumental genres such as the symphony, concerto, piano sonata, and chamber music
 - Analyze examples of instrumental masterpieces from the Romantic period, including Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Brahms's Violin Concerto, and Chopin's Nocturnes
- Explore and analyze Romantic vocal music
 - Analyze the diversity of vocal music genres and styles in the Romantic period, including opera, art song, choral music, and song cycles

- Identify and explore the characteristics of Romantic vocal music, including lyricism, dramatic storytelling, and emotional intensity
- Analyze representative examples of Romantic vocal works, including Verdi's "La Traviata," Schumann's "Dichterliebe," and Mahler's symphonies
- Analyze the emergence of impressionism and post-Romanticism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including composers such as Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, and Gustav Mahler
- Explore the characteristics of impressionist music, including evocative imagery, harmonic ambiguity, and exotic scales
- Analyze examples of impressionist and post-Romantic compositions, including Debussy's "La Mer," Ravel's "Boléro," and Mahler's symphonies
- Examine Romantic expression and nationalism in music, including the rise of national schools of composition, folk music influences, and patriotic themes
- Identify and explore composers who embraced nationalistic ideals and incorporated folk elements into their music, such as Bedřich Smetana, Antonín Dvořák, Edvard Grieg, and Jean Sibelius
- Identify and analyze late Romantic composers and national schools of composition, including the Russian Five, Czech composers, Scandinavian composers, and English composers
- Explore composers such as Modest Mussorgsky, Alexander Borodin, Antonín Dvořák, Edvard Grieg, Jean Sibelius, Edward Elgar, and Ralph Vaughan Williams

Opera, Music Drama, and Programmatic Music

- Explore the development of opera and music drama during the Romantic period, including grand opera, lyric opera, operetta, and music dramas
- Identify and explore notable operatic composers such as Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, Richard Wagner, and Richard Strauss, and their contributions to the operatic repertoire
- Analyze programmatic music and tone poems as expressive forms of orchestral music, including descriptive, narrative, and evocative compositions
- Examine composers such as Franz Liszt, Bedřich Smetana, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, and Richard Strauss, and their contributions to the development of programmatic music

Modern Music

- Identify and analyze the characteristics of Modern music, including experimentation, dissonance, fragmentation, abstraction, and the exploration of new tonalities and timbres
- Analyze 20th-century modernist movements in music, including impressionism, expressionism, atonality, serialism, neoclassicism, and experimentalism
- Identify and analyze prominent Modern composers, such as Claude Debussy, Igor Stravinsky, Arnold Schoenberg, Dmitri Shostakovich, Béla Bartók, Aaron Copland, and Leonard Bernstein, and their contributions to the development of Modern music
- Examine the development of expressionism and atonality in the early 20th century, including composers such as Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg, and Anton Webern
- Explore the characteristics of expressionist music, including dissonance, angular melodies, and psychological intensity
- Analyze examples of expressionist and atonal compositions, including Schoenberg's "Pierrot Lunaire," Berg's "Wozzeck," and Webern's chamber music
- Explore the diversity of musical styles and techniques in the modernist and contemporary periods, including neoclassicism, serialism, minimalism, aleatory, and electronic music
- Explore the contributions of modernist and contemporary composers such as Igor Stravinsky, John Cage, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, and Pierre Boulez

- Analyze examples of modernist and contemporary compositions, including Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring," Cage's "4'33"," Reich's "Music for 18 Musicians," and Glass's "Koyaanisqatsi"

Trends, Innovations, and Experimentation

- Explore avant-garde and experimental music practices in the 20th and 21st centuries, including electronic music, aleatoric music, minimalism, and sound art
- Examine composers such as John Cage, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, and Meredith Monk, and their contributions to experimental music
- Identify and analyze contemporary trends and global perspectives in music composition and performance, including multiculturalism, fusion genres, world music influences, and interdisciplinary collaborations
- Explore contemporary composers and musicians from diverse cultural backgrounds and regions around the world, reflecting the global nature of music in the 21st century
- Explore the impact of technological advancements on music production, distribution, and consumption during the Romantic and Modern periods
- Identify and explore developments in recording technology, electronic instruments, synthesizers, and digital audio software
- Examine technological innovations and experimentation in Modern music, including the development of electronic instruments, recording techniques, and avant-garde compositional methods
- Analyze the impact of technology on music production, performance, and consumption in the Modern era
- Analyze how technology has influenced musical creativity, composition, performance, and listening practices in the 20th and 21st centuries

Piano I

The focus of the Piano I class is to introduce students to the basics of piano playing, music theory, and musicianship. Students will learn proper technique, hand positioning, and fingering exercises to develop proficiency in playing the piano. Through guided instruction, practice sessions, and repertoire study, students will gain an understanding of musical notation, rhythm, and musical expression. The course aims to provide students with a foundation in piano skills and music fundamentals, preparing them for further study or enjoyment of playing the piano.

Foundational Practices

- Develop foundational piano skills to perform simple melodies, chords, and accompaniments
- Read and interpret piano music notation, including pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and articulation
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic music theory concepts, such as scales, intervals, chords, and keys, as they apply to piano performance
- Explore the connections between piano music and other art forms, historical contexts, and cultural traditions

Music Appreciation

- Develop an appreciation for music as an art form through listening, analysis, and discussion of different styles, genres, composers, and historical periods
- Listen to and analyze piano performances by professional pianists and recordings of piano repertoire
- Identify musical elements, interpretive choices, and expressive qualities in piano performances, developing critical listening skills
- Explore different styles and genres of piano music, understanding their stylistic characteristics and expressive qualities
- Analyze and discuss elements of piano music, including form, style, texture, and historical context
- Explore the cultural and historical contexts of piano music, including its role in different societies, musical traditions, and artistic movements

Music Theory

- Identify basic music theory concepts related to piano playing, including note reading, rhythm, dynamics, articulation, and musical terminology
- Identify and explore basic music theory concepts relevant to piano playing, including major and minor scales, key signatures, intervals, triads, and basic chord progressions
- Acquire and apply basic music theory knowledge, including scales, intervals, chords, and basic harmonic progressions
- Explore harmonic progressions, cadences, and basic functional harmony in the context of piano repertoire
- Integrate music theory concepts into piano studies, including understanding key signatures, scales, chords, intervals, and basic harmonic progressions
- Integrate music theory concepts into piano lessons through theory exercises, harmonic analysis, and practical application in repertoire playing
- Apply music theory knowledge to analyze and interpret piano repertoire, identify patterns, structures, and relationships in music, and make informed musical decisions in their performance
- Apply music theory concepts through hands-on exercises, keyboard drills, and simple harmonic analysis

Keyboard Orientation and Technique

- Explore the piano's range, register, and sound production techniques
- Demonstrate a familiarity with the layout of the piano keyboard, including identifying keys, middle C, octaves, scales, intervals, and basic finger numbering
- Develop and practice foundational piano skills, including proper hand position, posture, finger dexterity and technique, and coordination between hands
- Develop and practice skills in basic hand position and posture at the piano, with emphasis on relaxation, alignment, and ergonomic technique
- Develop and practice spatial awareness and tactile sensitivity on the keyboard through scales, arpeggios, hand exercises, and simple repertoire

Technique and Exercises

- Perform finger exercises and drills to improve finger independence, dexterity, coordination, agility, and control on the piano keyboard
- Develop piano technique through exercises and etudes designed to improve finger strength, flexibility, agility, and control
- Practice in scales (major and minor), arpeggios, and technical drills to develop finger strength, flexibility, agility, and dexterity
- Explore expressive techniques such as phrasing, dynamics, articulation, pedaling, and tone production to develop musicality and artistry at the piano
- Develop and practice fundamental piano techniques, including legato, staccato, slurs, finger independence, and hand coordination exercises

Basic Notation, Note Reading, and Rhythm

- Introduction to music notation and reading treble and bass clef notes on the grand staff
- Read music notation in treble and bass clefs, including identifying notes on the staff and corresponding keys on the piano keyboard
- Develop and practice skills in reading piano music notation, including treble and bass clefs, staff lines and spaces, note values, rhythms, and musical symbols
- Build proficiency in reading music notation in both treble and bass clefs, including notes, rhythms, rests, key signatures, and dynamic markings
- Practice sight-reading exercises and simple melodies to reinforce note reading skills
- Practice sight-reading skills, learning to play simple melodies and rhythms fluently from sheet music
- Develop and practice sight-reading skills through graded sight-reading exercises and sight-reading repertoire selections
- Engage in ear training exercises to develop pitch recognition, interval identification, chord recognition, and melodic dictation skills, enhancing overall musicianship and performance abilities
- Demonstrate an understanding of rhythmic notation, including note values, rests, time signatures, and basic rhythmic patterns
- Develop and practice rhythm skills, including understanding and performing rhythms of various durations, time signatures, and rhythmic patterns
- Practice rhythmic exercises, drills, and sight-reading to develop rhythmic accuracy and fluency
- Practice rhythm reading and counting rhythms in simple and compound time signatures, including whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, and their rests

Repertoire Development

- Learn and perform a variety of beginner-level piano repertoire from different musical styles and periods

- Learn and perform a variety of repertoire pieces appropriate for beginner pianists, including classical etudes, folk songs, children's songs, popular tunes, and traditional music
- Develop and practice a fundamental piano repertoire, including beginner-level pieces, exercises, and etudes from various musical styles and periods
- Utilize method books, graded anthologies, and supplemental materials, including short pieces, studies, and exercises to build a repertoire
- Explore pieces that develop technical skills, such as scales, arpeggios, hand coordination, and dynamic control
- Practice sight-reading skills and learn how to interpret and perform musical scores with accuracy, fluency, and expression
- Practice repertoire pieces to develop technical skills, musical expression, and performance confidence
- Perform repertoire pieces with attention to phrasing, dynamics, articulation, and musical expression, focusing on accuracy and fluency in playing

Performance, Practice, and Interpretation

- Develop and practice effective practice techniques, including goal setting, time management, repetition, problem-solving, and self-assessment
- Develop and practice musical expression and interpretation skills to convey musical ideas and emotions
- Develop and practice performance skills, including expressive interpretation, phrasing, dynamics, articulation, and musicality in playing
- Prepare for piano performances, including recitals, studio classes, or informal gatherings, to showcase progress and accomplishments
- Prepare and perform piano pieces in class, applying technical skills, musical interpretation, and performance etiquette
- Identify and practice proper performance etiquette, including proper posture, hand position, and stage presence
- Rehearse performance pieces with attention to expressive interpretation, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation
- Practice performance etiquette, stage presence, and overcoming performance anxiety, fostering confidence and enjoyment in piano playing

Piano II

The focus of the Piano II class is to build upon the foundational skills developed in Piano I, focusing on further refinement of technique, repertoire, and musicianship. Students will continue to study advanced piano techniques, including scales, arpeggios, and more complex musical pieces. Through guided practice, performance opportunities, and exploration of diverse musical styles, students will deepen their understanding of piano playing and music theory concepts. The course aims to develop students' proficiency in piano performance and expand their musical repertoire, preparing them for more advanced study or personal enjoyment of playing the piano.

Foundational Practices

- Develop intermediate-level piano skills to perform more complex melodies, harmonies, and accompaniments
- Expand repertoire and interpretive skills to perform intermediate-level piano music with fluency and expression
- Deepen understanding of music theory and apply advanced concepts to analyze and interpret piano music
- Explore connections between piano music and other art forms, historical contexts, and cultural traditions, deepening their appreciation and understanding

Music Appreciation and Analysis

- Deepen understanding of the cultural and historical contexts of piano music, exploring its significance in different musical traditions and artistic movements
- Analyze influential composers, styles, and periods in piano music history, understanding their contributions to the evolution of the instrument and its repertoire
- Analyze musical structures, interpretive choices, and expressive qualities in piano performances, developing critical listening and analytical skills
- Analyze the historical context and stylistic characteristics of piano music from different periods and composers, analyzing and interpreting scores with greater depth and insight
- Analyze the stylistic features, performance conventions, and interpretive approaches associated with each musical period, composer, or genre represented in the piano repertoire

Music Theory

- Identify and explore advanced music theory topics relevant to piano playing, including chromatic harmony, modulations, secondary dominants, diminished and augmented chords, modes, non-chord tones, and formal analysis
- Develop an understanding of intermediate music theory concepts such as modes, secondary dominants, modulations, and chromatic harmony
- Deepen understanding of music theory concepts, including advanced scales, modes, chords, harmonic progressions, formal structures, and functional harmony
- Explore advanced music theory concepts relevant to piano performance, including modal scales, advanced chord progressions, chromatic harmony, and extended tertian chords
- Apply music theory concepts to analyze and interpret intermediate-level piano repertoire, identifying harmonic progressions, structural elements, and stylistic features in music

Keyboard Orientation and Technique

- Develop and practice advanced keyboard proficiency, including advanced hand position, finger technique, posture, and expression
- Refine hand position, finger technique, and posture for advanced piano playing
- Improve and practice keyboard technique, focusing on advanced hand independence, control, and agility
- Explore more advanced technical exercises and etudes to improve finger strength, flexibility, and coordination
- Develop and practice advanced techniques such as legato, staccato, trills, tremolos, and extended hand positions
- Continued development of keyboard musicianship skills through sight-reading exercises, transposition drills, improvisation activities, and collaborative piano playing
- Practice sight-reading exercises, transposing music to different keys, improvising melodies and harmonies, and accompanying soloists or ensembles on the piano
- Practice sight-reading music in different styles and genres, transposing melodies and chord progressions to various keys, improvising accompaniments, and collaborating with other musicians.

Technique and Exercises

- Engage in advanced technical exercises and drills to develop finger strength, agility, speed, and control across the entire keyboard
- Further develop intermediate-level piano techniques, including finger independence, hand coordination, dynamic control, pedal technique, and expression
- Refine their technical skills through scales, arpeggios, chord progressions, and advanced exercises designed to improve fluency, agility, and control at the piano
- Engage in intermediate-level technical exercises and studies to further develop finger strength, agility, flexibility, and control, including scales in multiple keys, arpeggio patterns, chord inversions, and velocity exercises
- Explore advanced fingerings, hand positions, and pedaling techniques to facilitate expressive and virtuosic piano playing
- Explore advanced pianistic techniques such as double notes, octaves, scales in thirds, and rapid passages

Basic Notation, Note Reading, and Rhythm

- Demonstrate mastery of reading music notation in both treble and bass clefs, including complex rhythms, key signatures, and articulation markings
- Engage in Interpretation and expression of musical scores with attention to phrasing, dynamics, and stylistic nuances
- Advance music reading skills by mastering more complex notation, including key signatures, time signatures, syncopation, and polyrhythms
- Practice sight-reading more challenging piano repertoire, including pieces with multiple voices, dynamic contrasts, and tempo changes
- Refine rhythm skills, including performing complex rhythms, syncopation, polyrhythms, and irregular meters with accuracy and fluency
- Explore advanced rhythmic concepts such as syncopation, polyrhythms, hemiolas, and irregular meters
- Apply advanced rhythmic skills in repertoire pieces and improvisation exercises

Repertoire Development

- Explore a broader range of intermediate-level piano repertoire from different musical styles, genres, and periods, including classical, romantic, contemporary, and popular music
- Explore and analyze representative works by intermediate-level composers and arrangers, focusing on interpretation, style, historical context, and performance practice
- Explore and analyze intermediate-level piano repertoire from various musical styles and periods, including Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern eras
- Explore and analyze intermediate-level piano repertoire from various musical genres and historical periods, including classical sonatas, romantic character pieces, contemporary compositions, and popular arrangements
- Explore pieces that develop interpretive skills, such as phrasing, articulation, pedaling, rubato, and nuanced dynamics
- Select and perform a wider range of repertoire pieces at an intermediate level of difficulty, including classical sonatas, études, preludes, nocturnes, and contemporary compositions
- Study and perform representative works by intermediate composers such as Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Johannes Brahms, Claude Debussy, Scott Joplin, and contemporary composers
- Engage in interpretation and expressive performance of repertoire pieces with attention to style, character, and historical context

Performance, Practice, and Interpretation

- Study and perform piano music from different historical periods, styles, and genres, including classical, romantic, impressionist, jazz, and contemporary repertoire
- Engage in interpretation and performance practice in various styles, including classical elegance, romantic lyricism, jazz swing, and contemporary experimentation
- Explore different interpretive approaches to piano repertoire, understanding historical performance practices and stylistic conventions
- Prepare for public performances and presentations, including recitals, competitions, auditions, and studio classes, to showcase their musical achievements and progress
- Prepare and perform intermediate-level piano repertoire for public and private settings, emphasizing musical interpretation, expression, and communication of artistic intent
- Practice refining performance techniques, overcoming technical challenges, shaping phrases, balancing voices, and conveying emotions through music performance
- Refine performance skills, stage presence, and communication with the audience, focusing on musical interpretation, expression, and professionalism in their playing
- Refine performance skills, including expressive interpretation, phrasing, dynamics, articulation, tempo, and stylistic authenticity in their playing
- Develop memorization skills, learn to memorize piano repertoire through repetition, visualization, and musical analysis
- Prepare and perform memorized piano pieces in class, applying technical proficiency, musical interpretation, and stage presence

Piano III

The focus of the Piano III class is to advance students' piano skills and musicianship to an intermediate level. Students will further refine their technique, interpretation, and expression through studying challenging repertoire from various musical periods and genres. Through guided practice, performance opportunities, and exploration of advanced music theory concepts, students will deepen their understanding of piano playing and musical interpretation. The course aims to develop students' proficiency in piano performance, musical analysis, and interpretation, preparing them for more advanced study or personal enjoyment of playing the piano at an intermediate level.

Foundational Practices

- Refine advanced piano skills to perform complex repertoire, develop original compositions or arrangements, and improvise within various musical styles
- Demonstrate proficiency in performing advanced piano repertoire with technical precision, expressive interpretation, and stylistic authenticity
- Demonstrate a deep understanding of music theory, history, and aesthetics as they apply to advanced piano performance and analysis
- Explore interdisciplinary connections between piano music and other art forms, cultural contexts, and historical movements

Music Appreciation and Analysis

- Demonstrate an appreciation for piano music as an art form through listening, analysis, and discussion of different styles, genres, composers, and historical periods, deepening understanding and appreciation of the piano repertoire
- Explore recordings by renowned pianists, live performances, and masterclasses to broaden musical perspectives and critical listening skills
- Listen, analyze, and discuss piano music repertoire from different styles, genres, composers, and historical periods, deepening understanding and appreciation of the piano repertoire
- Engage in listening and critical analysis activities, studying recordings and performances of advanced piano repertoire by professional pianists
- Analyze interpretive choices, technical challenges, and expressive qualities in piano performances, developing critical listening and analytical skills
- Engage in detailed study of stylistic interpretation, historical context, and performance practice in masterpieces of the piano repertoire, focusing on achieving artistic authenticity and expression
- Demonstrate mastery and interpretation of masterworks from the piano literature, including sonatas, concertos, character pieces, études, variations, and preludes
- Deepen understanding of the cultural and historical contexts of advanced piano music, exploring its significance in diverse musical traditions and artistic movements
- Study influential composers, styles, and periods in piano music history, understanding their contributions to the evolution of the instrument and its repertoire

Music Theory

- Deepen understanding of music theory concepts and analysis relevant to piano performance, including advanced harmonic progressions, formal structures, and compositional techniques, applying analytical skills to repertoire interpretation and performance

- Demonstrate understanding of advanced music theory topics relevant to advanced piano playing, including modal harmony, chromatic modulation, advanced forms and structures, counterpoint, and post-tonal analysis
- Apply advanced music theory concepts to analyze and interpret complex harmonic progressions, structural developments, and stylistic innovations in advanced piano repertoire
- Apply analytical skills to repertoire interpretation and performance, identifying structural elements, harmonic relationships, and expressive devices
- Explore advanced music theory concepts relevant to advanced piano performance, including chromatic harmony, modal mixture, advanced modulation techniques, and contemporary compositional trends.
- Analyze complex harmonic structures, formal designs, and compositional techniques in advanced piano compositions
- Students will analyze and interpret melodic transformations, rhythmic patterns, and formal designs in advanced piano repertoire

Keyboard Musicianship

- Refine advanced hand position, finger technique, and posture for advanced piano playing
- Develop and practice advanced finger independence, agility, and control through technical exercises and repertoire
- Develop advanced techniques such as scales, arpeggios, double notes, octaves, trills, and advanced pedaling techniques
- Further develop keyboard musicianship skills, including advanced sight-reading, transposition, improvisation, and collaborative piano playing
- Master advanced keyboard technique, including virtuosic passages, polyrhythms, complex ornaments, and extended techniques
- Demonstrate advanced keyboard musicianship skills, including sight-reading complex scores, transposing music at sight, improvising harmonizations, and collaborating with other musicians in ensemble settings
- Practice sight-reading complex scores, transposing music into different keys and clefs, improvising variations and embellishments, and accompanying soloists and ensembles
- Practice accompanying soloists, instrumentalists, vocalists, and chamber ensembles, adapting to different musical styles, tempos, and interpretive approaches
- Further develop advanced keyboard proficiency, including advanced hand position, finger technique, posture, and expression, demonstrating technical mastery and control across a wide range of repertoire

Technique and Exercises

- Continue to develop control, agility, and precision in playing through advanced technical exercises, etudes, and repertoire
- Refine advanced piano techniques, including virtuosic fingerwork, advanced hand coordination, pedaling techniques, polyrhythms, and extended techniques
- Engage in advanced technical studies and exercises to develop finger strength, agility, speed, and control, focusing on scales, arpeggios, chromatic exercises, and advanced fingerings
- Engage in advanced technical exercises and studies to develop virtuosic piano techniques, including rapid scale passages, complex fingerings, double-note passages, octave stretches, and intricate rhythms
- Apply technical studies to repertoire performance, integrating technical exercises into daily practice routines

- Study and perform advanced-level piano repertoire by master composers such as Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Claude Debussy, and contemporary composers
- Develop compositional skills, creating original compositions or arrangements for piano solo, ensemble, or collaborative settings
- Explore improvisation techniques, applying harmonic and melodic vocabulary to create spontaneous music within various musical styles and genres

Advanced Music Notation and Sight-Reading

- Read and interpret advanced piano music notation fluently, including complex rhythmic patterns, irregular meters, and extended techniques
- Sight-read challenging piano repertoire with accuracy and musicality, demonstrating proficiency in sight-reading at a professional level

Repertoire Development

- Study and perform advanced repertoire pieces from various styles, genres, and historical periods, demonstrating musicality, interpretation, and artistic expression at a high level of proficiency
- Master advanced-level piano repertoire from various musical styles, genres, and periods, including solo piano works, concertos, chamber music, and collaborative piano literature
- Study and perform advanced repertoire pieces from various styles, genres, and historical periods, including classical, romantic, impressionist, contemporary, and jazz piano repertoire
- Study representative works by master composers, focusing on historical context, stylistic interpretation, and performance practice
- Study advanced-level piano repertoire from diverse musical styles and periods, including solo piano works, concertos, chamber music, and collaborative piano literature
- Explore representative works by significant composers such as Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, and contemporary composers
- Explore pieces that showcase virtuosic technique, expressive depth, and stylistic versatility, ranging from Baroque to contemporary music

Performance, Practice, and Interpretation

- Refine memorization techniques, mastering the memorization of complex piano repertoire through structural analysis, visualization, and mental rehearsal
- Prepare and perform memorized piano pieces in public settings, demonstrating technical proficiency, musical interpretation, and stage presence
- Prepare for performances, auditions, competitions, or recitals by setting goals, planning practice schedules, and implementing effective practice strategies to overcome technical challenges and musical obstacles
- Prepare for performances, auditions, competitions, or recitals by rehearsing repertoire pieces, refining performance techniques, and building confidence in their musical abilities, with an emphasis on musical interpretation and expressive performance
- Prepare for advanced-level piano performances, including solo recitals, chamber music concerts, concerto performances, and collaborative projects
- Refine performance skills, stage presence, and communication with the audience, focusing on artistic expression, musical communication, and technical mastery in piano performance
- Refine expressive performance skills, mastering nuanced dynamics, phrasing, articulation, and rubato to convey musical expression and emotion.

- Develop interpretive maturity, exploring diverse stylistic interpretations and historical performance practices in advanced piano repertoire
- Emphasize musical interpretation and expressive performance, exploring dynamics, phrasing, articulation, tempo, style, and character appropriate to each piece
- Develop collaborative performance skills through ensemble playing, chamber music, collaborative piano accompaniment, or collaborative projects with other instrumentalists or vocalists
- Focus on communication, synchronization, musical interaction, and ensemble cohesion in collaborative performances
- Refine musical interpretation and expression through detailed analysis, experimentation, and personalization of musical elements such as dynamics, phrasing, articulation, tempo, and character
- Develop a nuanced and expressive approach to piano performance, conveying emotions, narratives, and artistic intent through their playing

Guitar I

The focus of the Guitar I class is to introduce students to the basics of playing guitar, a versatile instrument in popular music. Students will learn fundamental techniques such as strumming patterns, chord formations, and fingerpicking styles. Through guided instruction, practice sessions, and ensemble playing, students will develop proficiency in playing the guitar and musical skills such as rhythm and melody. The course aims to provide students with a foundation in guitar playing, preparing them for further study or enjoyment of playing the instrument.

Foundational Practices

- Develop basic guitar playing skills to perform simple melodies, chords, and accompaniments
- Read guitar tablature and chord charts, and interpret them to play melodies and accompaniments
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic music theory concepts, such as chords, scales, and rhythm, as they apply to guitar playing
- Explore connections between guitar music and other art forms, historical contexts, and cultural traditions

Music Appreciation and Analysis

- Explore the cultural and historical contexts of guitar music, including its origins from the lyre around 1500 BC, its popularity in different musical traditions, and its role in contemporary music
- Explore and analyze influential guitar players, styles, and repertoire, understanding their contributions to the evolution of the instrument and its music
- Listen to and analyze recordings of guitar performances by professional players and artists from various musical styles and genres
- Identify guitar techniques, stylistic elements, and expressive qualities in performances, developing critical listening and analytical skills
- Gain an appreciation for guitar music as a cultural and artistic expression, including its historical roots, cultural significance, and contemporary popularity

Music Theory

- Explore basic music theory concepts relevant to guitar playing, including note reading, rhythm notation, chord symbols, scales, and musical terminology
- Explore basic music theory concepts as they apply to guitar playing, including note names, major and minor chords, scales, intervals, chord construction, and chord progressions
- Develop an understanding of music notation and guitar tablature, including reading rhythmic notation, chord symbols, and fretboard diagrams
- Develop an understanding of chord symbols, chord diagrams, and chord inversions for guitar chords
- Apply music theory knowledge to understand and interpret guitar tablature, chord diagrams, song charts, and musical scores
- Explore how to transpose songs to different keys and create chord substitutions to enhance arrangements

Introduction to the Guitar

- Introduction to the guitar as a stringed instrument, including its parts (body, neck, fretboard, headstock), strings, tuning pegs, bridge, and soundhole
- Introduction to correct posture, hand position, and fretting technique for playing the guitar

- Develop a familiarity with the guitar as a musical instrument, including its anatomy, tuning, playing position, and basic maintenance
- Develop proper posture, hand position, strumming, and fretting techniques for playing the guitar
- Develop proper playing techniques for holding the guitar, strumming, fingerpicking, fretting chords, and producing clear and resonant sounds
- Practice proper playing technique, including holding the guitar, fretting chords, strumming patterns, fingerpicking techniques, and adjusting posture for comfort and ergonomics

Chord Progressions and Strumming Patterns

- Learn to read guitar tablature, chord diagrams, and standard notation, understanding how to interpret them to play melodies, chords, and songs
- Practice rhythm reading and counting, learning to play simple rhythms and strumming patterns
- Identify foundational chord vocabulary for guitar playing, including open position chords, barre chords, movable chord shapes, and chord inversions
- Learn and practice common chord progressions used in popular music styles, including I-IV-V progressions, diatonic chord progressions, and common chord substitutions
- Learn and practice basic chord progressions, including major, minor, and dominant chords, and how to smoothly transition between chords
- Develop strumming patterns and techniques, including downstrokes, upstrokes, strumming with a pick, and fingerstyle strumming
- Practice playing and transitioning between chords within common chord progressions used in popular music, folk songs, and traditional tunes
- Explore and practice a variety of strumming patterns, rhythmic techniques, and picking styles to accompany songs and create rhythmic accompaniments on the guitar
- Practice alternating between strumming and picking, learning to create dynamic and expressive performances
- Practice developing dynamic control, timing, and articulation through various strumming and picking exercises and patterns

Ear Training and Singing

- Develop and practice ear training skills to recognize and reproduce melodies, harmonies, and chord progressions by ear on the guitar
- Develop and practice ear training skills through listening exercises, chord recognition, and melodic dictation exercises on the guitar
- Practice singing along while playing the guitar to develop pitch accuracy, vocal technique, musical expression, and musical coordination between voice and instrument

Repertoire Development

- Learn and practice a repertoire of beginner-level songs and melodies arranged for guitar, representing various musical styles, genres, and cultural traditions
- Learn, practice, and perform a variety of songs and pieces arranged for the guitar, including folk songs, popular tunes, traditional Spanish music, blues, jazz, contemporary, and world music repertoire
- Develop performance skills by practicing and performing solo and ensemble arrangements, focusing on accuracy, timing, dynamics, and musical expression
- Study and perform guitar arrangements of songs, melodies, and instrumental pieces, focusing on interpretation, expression, and stylistic authenticity

- Practice playing melodies, chords, and accompaniments, developing fluency and musicality on the guitar
- Rehearse repertoire pieces with attention to expression, dynamics, tempo, and ensemble playing in duets or small groups

Performance, Practice, and Interpretation

- Develop rhythmic skills through practice exercises, rhythmic drills, and rhythm games
- Engage in study of rhythmic notation, including quarter notes, eighth notes, rests, and basic rhythmic patterns
- Play and practice simple melodies, riffs, and chord-melody arrangements on the guitar
- Explore fingerstyle techniques such as picking, plucking, and fingerpicking patterns for playing melodies and accompaniments
- Develop effective practice techniques for guitar playing, including warm-up exercises, scale drills, chord progressions, and song rehearsals
- Practice playing in ensemble settings, such as duets, trios, or guitar ensembles, learning to blend with others and maintain tempo and balance
- Practice accompanying self and others while singing or playing instruments, understanding how to provide rhythmic and harmonic support
- Play simple melodies and riffs on the guitar, including single-note melodies, arpeggios, and fingerstyle patterns
- Develop rhythm skills, including strumming patterns, rhythmic accents, syncopation, and basic rhythm notation
- Develop performance skills, including expressive playing, dynamics, tempo control, and ensemble playing in duets or small groups
- Prepare and perform guitar pieces in class, applying technical skills, musical interpretation, and performance etiquette
- Develop performance etiquette, including listening skills, following a conductor or leader, and maintaining ensemble cohesion
- Practice ensemble playing in duets or small groups, including coordination, communication, and collaboration with other musicians

Private Lesson

The focus of the private lesson class is to offer students one-on-one instruction with a qualified instructor in a specific musical instrument or vocal technique. Students will receive personalized attention tailored to their individual learning needs, goals, and skill level. Through focused instruction, practice assignments, and feedback sessions, students will develop their technical proficiency, musical expression, and performance abilities. The course aims to provide students with a comprehensive and customized learning experience, helping them achieve their musical aspirations and reach their full potential.

Foundational Practices

- Develop individual musical expression and creativity through repertoire selection, interpretation, and performance in private lessons
- Work with their private instructor to select, analyze, and interpret music appropriate to their skill level, interests, and goals
- Engage in critical listening, analysis, and reflection on their own performances and those of others, developing musical awareness and understanding
- Explore connections between musical studies in private lessons and other art forms, historical contexts, and cultural traditions

Music Appreciation and Analysis

- Gain an appreciation for music as an art form through listening, analysis, and discussion of different styles, genres, composers, and historical periods relevant to chosen instrument or voice
- Listen to recordings of music from different styles, genres, composers, and historical periods relevant to chosen instrument or voice, and discuss elements of style, technique, and interpretation
- Engage in critical listening and analysis activities, studying recordings and performances of professional musicians and peers
- Analyze interpretive choices, technical proficiency, and expressive qualities in performances, developing critical listening and analytical skills
- Explore the cultural and historical contexts of chosen instrument and repertoire, understanding its significance in different musical traditions and artistic movements
- Analyze influential composers, performers, styles, and repertoire relevant to chosen instrument, gaining insights into the evolution of their craft
- Engage in exploration of diverse musical styles, genres, cultures, and historical periods beyond their primary focus

Music Theory and Ear Training

- Integrate music theory concepts relevant to the student's instrument or voice, including note reading, rhythm, scales, chords, harmony, form, and analysis
- Develop and practice musicianship skills such as ear training, sight-reading, improvisation, composition, and music appreciation
- Develop ear training skills, learning to identify melodies, harmonies, rhythms, and musical structures by ear
- Develop ear training skills through exercises in pitch recognition, interval identification, chord quality, melodic dictation, and harmonic analysis
- Integrate music theory concepts into lessons through practical application and analysis of repertoire
- Explore topics such as key signatures, scales, intervals, chords, chord progressions, form, phrasing, dynamics, articulation, and stylistic interpretation

- Practice sight-reading skills through exercises in rhythmic notation, sight-reading melodies, sight-singing, and playing music at sight on the instrument

Repertoire Development

- Explore a variety of musical styles, genres, composers, and historical periods through repertoire selection
- Select repertoire that aligns with interests, musical goals, and technical abilities
- Select a diverse range of musical repertoire appropriate to the student's skill level, interests, and stylistic preferences
- Explore a variety of musical genres, styles, and historical periods, expanding their musical horizons and developing a well-rounded repertoire
- Explore a variety of solo and ensemble repertoire, including etudes, studies, exercises, classical pieces, popular songs, jazz standards, folk tunes, and contemporary compositions
- Develop skills in musical interpretation, including expressive playing, dynamics, phrasing, articulation, and stylistic authenticity appropriate to their chosen repertoire

Technique and Skill Development

- Focus on developing foundational and advanced techniques specific to the student's instrument or voice
- Focus on developing technical proficiency, musicality, and expressive interpretation through exercises, etudes, scales, and technical studies
- Engage in exercises, drills, and repertoire selections to improve tone production, articulation, intonation, range, flexibility, and endurance
- Practice fundamental techniques specific to the instrument of choice, such as breath control for wind players, bowing technique for string players, or finger dexterity for keyboard players
- Practice technical exercises and drills to develop finger (or vocal) agility, strength, dexterity, coordination, and control, tailored to their instrument or voice
- Engage in tailored technical exercises and drills to address the specific needs of each student, focusing on areas such as scales, arpeggios, finger dexterity, bowing technique, breath control, and vocal exercises
- Engage in exercises to develop physical coordination, muscle memory, agility, and control on the instrument or voice

Performance, Practice, and Interpretation

- Foster creativity and innovation through activities such as improvisation, composition, arranging, and collaborative projects
- Engage in effective practice techniques, including goal setting, time management, repetition, problem-solving, and self-assessment
- Develop skills in musical interpretation and expression, including dynamics, phrasing, articulation, tempo, style, and character appropriate to the student's chosen repertoire
- Engage in effective practice strategies and techniques to maximize progress and productivity during individual practice sessions outside of lessons
- Engage in opportunities to perform in recitals, concerts, competitions, festivals, or other public settings, showcasing their musical accomplishments and growth
- Prepare for performances, auditions, competitions, or recitals by setting goals, planning practice schedules, and implementing effective practice strategies to overcome technical challenges and musical obstacles

- Prepare for performances, auditions, competitions, or recitals by rehearsing repertoire pieces, refining performance techniques, and building confidence in their musical abilities
- Prepare and perform pieces in private lessons, applying technical skills, musical interpretation, and stage presence
- Develop and practice performance etiquette, stage presence, and communication skills for engaging with an audience and conveying musical expression and emotion during performances
- Demonstrate understanding of stage presence, communication, confidence-building, and overcoming performance anxiety
- Demonstrate expressive interpretation, musical communication, artistic expression, and storytelling through performance
- Receive and implement feedback on tone production, dynamics, phrasing, articulation, timing, balance, and musicality in performances
- Receive and implement feedback and guidance from private instructor and peers in order to refine performances and gain confidence as musicians

Goal Setting and Progress Tracking

- Assess current skill level, musical background, learning style, strengths, and areas for improvement
- Develop a customized curriculum and lesson plan based on strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement
- Collaborate to set short-term and long-term goals for musical development
- Track progress, achievements, and areas for improvement through regular assessments, evaluations, recordings, and student self-reflection
- Engage in regular assessment of progress, reflecting on achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement, and adjust practice strategies accordingly

Senior Recital

The focus of the senior recital class is to provide graduating students with the opportunity to showcase their musical talents and achievements in a formal performance setting. Students will plan, prepare, and present a solo or ensemble performance, demonstrating their proficiency and artistry on their chosen instrument or voice. Through rehearsals, coaching sessions, and performance evaluations, students will refine their repertoire, stage presence, and musicianship skills. The recital serves as a culmination of their musical education and a celebration of their accomplishments. The course aims to provide students with a platform to share their passion for music with peers, family, and the community, while also preparing them for future endeavors in music performance or education.

Foundational Practices

- Curate a repertoire for their senior recital, selecting pieces that demonstrate their musical identity, interests, and artistic vision
- Perform a varied repertoire of solo and ensemble pieces, demonstrating technical proficiency, expressive interpretation, and stage presence
- Engage in critical listening and analysis of their own performances and those of peers, reflecting on their artistic choices, strengths, and areas for growth
- Explore interdisciplinary connections between their musical performances and other art forms, historical contexts, and cultural traditions

Music Appreciation

- Listen, analyze, and discuss repertoire pieces from different styles, genres, composers, and historical periods represented in the senior recital
- Explore the cultural, historical, and stylistic contexts of each piece, including its significance in the broader context of music history and its relevance to contemporary musical practices
- Identify and analyze influential composers, performers, styles, and repertoire relevant to the senior recital program, gaining insights into the evolution of their chosen musical genres
- Demonstrate an appreciation for music as an art form through participation in the senior recital, including listening, analysis, and discussion of different styles, genres, composers, and historical periods represented in their repertoire

Repertoire Selection and Programming

- Design a balanced and cohesive recital program that showcases a variety of musical styles, periods, composers, and genres while highlighting the student's strengths and interests
- Select and program repertoire pieces for the senior recital, including solo works, ensemble pieces, chamber music, art songs, arias, concertos, collaborative performances, and/or original compositions
- Select and perform a varied repertoire of musical works representing different styles, genres, composers, and historical periods, demonstrating technical proficiency, musicality, and interpretive skills
- Demonstrate variety in repertoire selection, encompassing different styles (e.g., classical, jazz, contemporary), genres (e.g., sonata, concerto, aria), and composers (e.g., Bach, Beethoven, Brahms)
- Curate a diverse repertoire for their senior recital, selecting pieces that showcase their technical skills, musicality, and artistic growth
- Explore a variety of musical genres, styles, and historical periods, demonstrating versatility and breadth in their musical interests

Technical Mastery

- Exhibit technical proficiency, accuracy, and control on their instrument(s) or voice, executing challenging passages, techniques, and repertoire with precision and fluency
- Demonstrate mastery of instrumental or vocal techniques, including tone production, intonation, articulation, breath control, bowing technique, finger dexterity, and agility
- Develop technical mastery and control on chosen instrument(s) or voice, including proficiency in scales, arpeggios, technical exercises, and performance techniques
- Address technical challenges and advanced techniques in repertoire selections, including virtuosic passages, extended techniques, and demanding musical requirements
- Practice technical exercises, etudes, scales, and arpeggios to maintain and improve technical proficiency, agility, and control on the instrument(s) or voice
- Study and refine instrument-specific or voice-specific techniques

Artistic Interpretation and Expression

- Study and analyze each piece's musical structure, historical context, composer's intent, and performance practice considerations
- Explore different interpretive approaches, stylistic conventions, and historical performance practices relevant to their repertoire
- Analyze and interpret the musical and expressive elements of repertoire selections, including melody, harmony, rhythm, form, dynamics, articulation, tempo, and stylistic conventions
- Develop personal interpretation and artistic vision for each piece, incorporating historical context, cultural influences, and individual creativity
- Interpret and perform repertoire with expressive depth, musicality, and emotional authenticity, conveying the composer's intentions and their own artistic voice
- Demonstrate expressive interpretation, musical communication, and stylistic authenticity in performances
- Convey emotions, narratives, and artistic intent through musical expression, phrasing, dynamics, articulation, and use of color and nuance

Performance Preparation and Rehearsal

- Prepare and present a senior recital showcasing musical accomplishments and artistic growth over the course of their music education
- Select and perform a diverse program of solo and/or ensemble repertoire representing various musical styles, genres, and historical periods
- Develop performance strategies, memorization techniques, and stage presence to confidently present repertoire to an audience
- Engage in preparation and rehearsal techniques for the senior recital, including goal setting, practice strategies, rehearsal schedules, and performance drills
- Practice effective rehearsal techniques, strategies for memorization, musical phrasing, pacing, and overcoming performance challenges
- Employ strategies for overcoming performance anxiety, managing stage fright, and maintaining focus and concentration during rehearsals and performances
- Receive and implement guidance and feedback from instructors, mentors, and coaches on interpretation, technique, expression, and performance skills
- Prepare for senior recital through regular practice sessions, rehearsal with accompanists or ensemble members, and feedback from their private instructor

Collaborative Performance Skills [if Applicable]

- Participate in collaborative rehearsals, coaching sessions, and ensemble performances as part of the senior recital preparation
- Demonstrate appropriate rehearsal techniques and ensemble skills for coordinating musical interpretation, communication, and synchronization with other performers
- Rehearse collaboratively, listening attentively, adjusting dynamically, and blending harmoniously with other performers
- Collaborate with accompanists, ensemble members, or guest performers as needed for their senior recital, demonstrating effective communication, teamwork, and musical coordination.
- Collaborate with accompanists, chamber ensembles, or guest performers in their recital program, demonstrating ensemble skills, teamwork, and collaboration

Performance Etiquette and Stage Presence

- Practice performance etiquette, including stage setup, introductions, acknowledgments, bowing, and interacting with the audience
- Rehearse performance etiquette, stage presence, and audience interaction skills to enhance the overall presentation of the senior recital
- Practice performance rituals, relaxation techniques, visualization exercises, and mental preparation strategies to manage performance anxiety and enhance confidence on stage
- Practice stagecraft techniques for engaging with the audience, conveying musical expression and emotion, and projecting confidence and charisma during performances
- Develop stage presence and communication skills, engaging with the audience through verbal introductions, program notes, and nonverbal gestures
- Cultivate a confident and poised demeanor onstage, maintaining focus, composure, and professionalism throughout their recital performance
- Demonstrate professionalism, confidence, and stage presence in their recital performances
- Exhibit professional performance etiquette and stage presence during their recital, including appropriate attire, stage demeanor and deportment, communication with the audience, and collaboration with accompanists or ensemble members
- Engage with audience before, during, and after their senior recital, fostering a sense of community, connection, and appreciation for live music
- Participate in outreach activities, such as pre-concert talks, post-concert receptions, or educational presentations, to share their musical journey with others

Critical Reflection and Self-Evaluation

- Engage in critical reflection and self-evaluation of performances, including listening to recordings of rehearsals and performances, identifying strengths and areas for improvement, and setting goals for future development
- Engage in reflective practice and self-assessment throughout the senior recital preparation process, evaluating progress, accomplishments, challenges, and areas for improvement
- Accept and implement peer feedback and constructive criticism from teachers, mentors, and fellow musicians to inform self-assessment and guide ongoing growth and improvement
- Engage in critical listening and self-assessment of their own performances, reflecting on technical accuracy, musical interpretation, expressive communication, and overall artistic impact
- Identify areas for improvement, set goals for future growth, and develop strategies for ongoing musical development beyond their senior recital

- Reflect on the musical, personal, and educational significance of the senior recital experience and setting goals for future musical endeavors

Contact Us

To get in contact with Selwyn School instructors or administrators about how our standards and learning objectives are met in the classroom or through our curricula, consider reaching out to the following representatives for the 2024-2025 school year:

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