

The American International School of Bamako

High School Guide to Academic Programs and Course Descriptions

2010 - 2011

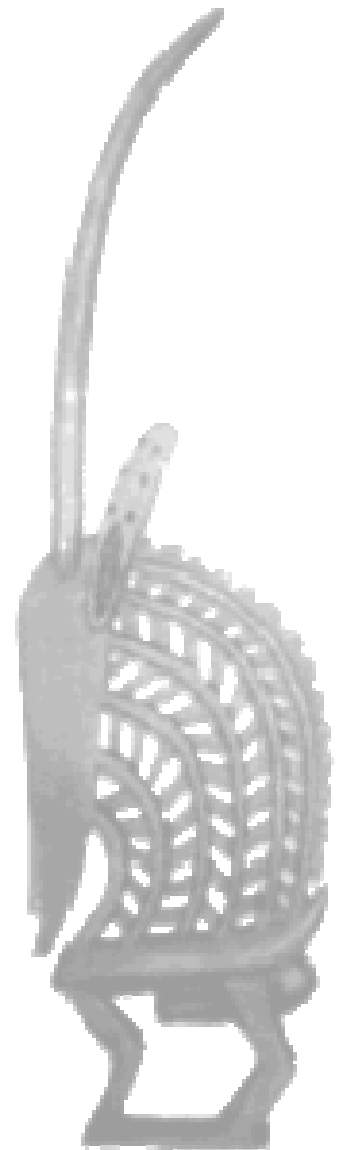
The American International School of Bamako

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To Our Students:

This publication is designed to help you and your parents understand the academic program at AISB, and to guide you in making intelligent and informed decisions about your program.

Decisions regarding your academic program are important and should be considered carefully, but they do not have to be made alone. Your teachers and your Principal who serves as your counselor will be pleased to spend time with you to discuss your academic goals, and the best way to fulfill them. You and your parents are most welcome to consult with them and with university-related and/or Advanced Placement documents we may provide as you go through this process.

The process begins by carefully reviewing the information in this booklet. Please read through it thoroughly. Also, please feel welcome to discuss your academic program at any time throughout the year.

AISB prides itself on having a selection of courses at varying levels to meet the academic needs of our students. You should select courses that will provide you with a strong academic challenge and prepare you for your future educational and vocational priorities. For example, for those headed toward university admission, you should be considering our AP courses in grades 10 - 12.

It is important to remember that we operate on a limited schedule and that conflicts in the master schedule may prevent you from being able to enroll in all of your first choice courses. For that reason, you should select some alternative classes that can also fulfill your needs.

Students who have transferred to AISB from other schools should check with the Principal to make sure all your previous school records are in order, and that you have sufficient credits to obtain your AISB graduation status. We require records by way of official transcripts or report cards for every year undertaken in High School, grades 9 - 12. An individual counseling session to assess your credits and determine what other courses are required for graduation, can be scheduled for you at your convenience. Please notify the office to arrange this.

If there is any further information you need about any AISB program, please consult with the principal, the director, or the appropriate teacher(s).

The entire AISB faculty, administration, and staff look forward to working with you and your family throughout the 2010-2011 school year! We wish you every success.

AISB High School Graduation Requirements:

In order to receive a diploma from AISB, the following graduation requirements must be met between the 9th and 12th grades:

English	4.0 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Social Studies	3.0 credits
Global Languages	2.0 credits
Fine Arts	2.0 credits
Physical Education	1.5 credits
Technology (Computer Applications)	0.5 credits
Health	0.5 credits
Electives (includes extra core)	3.5 credits
TOTAL:	23.0 CREDITS

BEGINNING AUGUST 2010, COMMUNITY SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To graduate from the high school program the Board requires seniors to complete 20 hours of community service, as defined in the Secondary School Handbook, during each year of enrollment in the high school. The 2010-11 school year is the first year for this requirement.

2010-2011 High School Course Offerings

All courses listed below may not be offered for the 2010-2011 school year. Whether a course is offered or not will depend on student enrolment for that specific course. One semester courses are 0.5 credits. Unless so indicated, all other courses are 1.0 credits each.

ENGLISH

(4 credits required)
English 9
English 10
English 11
English 12
AP English Lang. & Comp.* (11th-12th)
Journalism (elective) .5
Creative Writing (elective) .5
Speech (elective) .5
Yearbook & Publications (elective) .5
ESOL (non-English credit)

MATHEMATICS

(3 credits required)
Algebra 1
Geometry
Algebra 2
Pre-Calculus
AP Calculus*
Liberal Arts Math

SCIENCE

(3 credits required)
Conceptual Physics (9th)
Chemistry (10th)
Biology (11th)
Non-AP/AP Environ. Sci.* (2010-11)
Advanced Physics (2011-12)

SOCIAL STUDIES

(3 credits required)
World History (9th)
Non-AP/AP Human Geography* (10th)
AP World History* (11th-12th)
Global Issues .5
Economics .5
U.S. History .5
African Studies .5
Psychology .5

PHYSICAL EDUC. & HEALTH

Health (.5 credit required)
P. E. (1.5 credits required)

GLOBAL LANGUAGES

(2 year French competency required)
French 1, 2, 3, or 4
AP French Language*
Spanish 1a or 1b (elective) .5

FINE ARTS

(2 credits required)
Music .5
Guitar .5
Music Recording/Composition .5
Malian Music & Movement .5
Art 1 (Intro. to Art) .5
Art 2 .5
Art 3 .5
Art 4 .5
Theater Arts 1 .5
Theater Arts 2 .5

TECHNOLOGY

Computer Appls. (.5 required)
Web Design & Animation .5
Graphic Arts .5
Intro. to Programming .5

***A Note on Advanced Placement Courses:** Students who are academically able and wishing to take challenging courses that may later receive recognition in college credits or placement at a level beyond first-year, are welcome to consider taking our AP offerings. Such courses are rigorous preparation for university and require a serious and conscientious effort on the part of students. Students' subject area teachers should recommend participation in an Advanced Placement course. **An external exam, the cost of which is borne by the parents, is given in May for each AP course.** Please see the Principal or Director for further information.

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Independent Study or Student Aide by permission of the school Director.

High School Course Descriptions for 2010-2011 School Year

ENGLISH

English 9

Grade 9

Prerequisites: English 8

Length: Full year

Credit area: English

English 9 provides students with the opportunity to study a variety of literary genre and a focus from which to begin to think and write critically about literature, as well as to discover the relationship between literary and personal experiences. Composition work introduces basic techniques in exposition, description, narration, and persuasion. Students are introduced to formal documentation requirements and standards for the submission of papers at the high school level. Research methodologies are introduced and practiced, as well as writing for research across disciplines. Grammar, usage, and vocabulary are studied within the context of literary analysis, oral presentations and commentaries, essays, reports, and personal narratives.

Students can expect an introduction to college preparatory work in timed exams and compulsory summer reading.

English 10

Grade 10

Prerequisites: English 9

Length: Full year

Credit area: English

As a continuation of the introductory course, English 10 extends the investigation of literary genre, with a particular focus on classical and contemporary world literature. Composition practice focuses on the literary analysis and the argumentative essay in order to prepare students for the option to take challenging course work at the Advanced Placement level as juniors and seniors. Students continue to strengthen and perfect their skills in interpretation and analysis. The development of vocabulary and expertise in a wide variety of oral and written assessment schemes prepares students for the rigor of upper division course work. Individual reading programs, the use of dialectical journals, and compulsory summer reading continue to build confidence while performance assessments in oral interpretation, drama, and visual literacy stretch and invigorate the program.

English 11

Grades 11

Prerequisites: English 10

Length: Full year

Credit area: English

English 11 presents students with a close examination of canonical texts, British and American, as well as an examination of cultural trends and social movements that affect our understanding of specific texts. Genres such as poetry, short story, and drama are addressed in depth, and literary analysis now includes an introduction to literary theory, allowing students to view works through specific theoretical lenses. Grammar study becomes tightly focused, as does work with literary terms, as students practiced increasingly more sophisticated sentence patterns and compositional forms. Students

will practice college-preparatory assessments as well as timed-test exam forms and the college admissions essay. English 11 benefits those students who may wish to prepare for AP Language and Composition or AP Literature and Composition in Grade 12.

English 12

Grades 12

Prerequisites: English 10 & 11 or AP English

Length: Full year

Credit area: English

This course is designed to give students exposure to British and commonwealth literature. Classic and contemporary literature drawn from a England and a variety of commonwealth countries gives students new insights into a diversity of cultures. Works from Canada, India, Burma, and Anglophone African countries show how universal themes of human life recur in distinctive and diverse cultures. Poetry, drama, short fiction, non-fiction essay, and the novel figure equally in the required reading. In addition to literature, the course provides the study of visual texts, i.e. films, Internet pages, and other visual media. Persuasive writing is practiced and perfected, as well as all college preparatory composition styles.

AP English Language and Composition

Grades 11 – 12

Prerequisites: English 9 & 10

Permission of the instructor required

Length: Full year

Credit area: English

This highly demanding and accelerated course focuses on pushing students to finely hone their critical thinking and communication skills. Students learn to wield a variety of advanced stylistic and rhetorical devices to compliment their writing skills. Students also read widely from authors writing on topics that could range from medieval medicine to analysis of current geopolitics, and in the process, students learn to analyze multiple forms of writing for voice, form and content. This class moves quickly through material using a variety of sources and challenging students to acquire the breadth and depth of knowledge and skills needed to be successful on the AP exam.

Creative Writing

Grades 11 – 12

Prerequisites: English 9 & 10

Length: One Semester

Credit area: English

This course gives students an opportunity to write short stories and poems of several different genres, using both classic and contemporary stories and poems from different cultures as models. Their final product will be a writer's portfolio of all of their work.

Journalism

Grades 11 – 12

Prerequisites: English 9 & 10

Length: One Semester

Credit area: English

The students in this course will focus on developing a journalistic style of writing. They will put out a monthly school newspaper focusing on news in the school community and

Bamako. They will report on both hard news and cultural events, in addition to covering school sports events and writing reviews of books and movies.

Yearbook and Publications

Grades 9 – 12

Length: One Semester

Prerequisites: Teacher Nomination

Credit area: Technology or Elective

The Yearbook course will include organization, graphic design, editing, publishing, layout, copy writing, marketing, and legal issues. Design skills and copy writing are taught early in the course and will be applied to most layouts. Yearbook students learn to be members of a team working together to meet the necessary deadlines. As students will rely on computers and appropriate software applications, basic computer skills are expected. Assuming leadership roles and handling a variety of communication tasks with adults is also expected. The culminating activity will be the AISB yearbook. Students may also participate in various multimedia projects that serve the school community and benefit school climate.

Speech

Grades 9 – 12

Length: One Semester

Prerequisites: None

Credit area: Elective

This course examines communications processes in public speaking. The course has a dual focus: a theoretical focus on understanding these various processes, and a practical focus on enacting these processes in speaking assignments. Students will be expected to (1) demonstrate a clear understanding of the basic concepts and practices associated with public speaking (through the preparation of speech evaluations), and (2) prepare and deliver speeches in accordance with the principles of public speaking as presented in lectures and reading assignments.

HS ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

Grades 9 – 12

Length: Full year

Prerequisites: None

Credit area: Elective

This course is designed for students for whom English is not their primary, but an additional language. They will be helped to develop a basic proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing and assisted in their other subject areas. The communicative approach is used to introduce vocabulary and structures through the functions of the language. Authentic materials and cultural information are interwoven throughout the course to provide a framework for proficiency in the language and appreciation of the North American culture.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1

Grades 9 – 10

Prerequisites: Pre-Algebra

Length: Full year

Credit area: Mathematics

This is a yearlong course in elementary algebra that follows the pre-algebra course. The content focuses on the development of basic algebraic skills and concepts required for the further study of high school mathematics. Topics include: operations, variables, and formulas; equations; word problems; inequalities; factoring; rational expressions; graphing in a coordinate plane; systems of equations; functions and relations; the real numbers; and quadratic functions. The objective is to provide the student with the requisite foundation for the study of advanced algebra, geometry and trigonometry.

Geometry

Grades 9 – 10

Prerequisites: Algebra 1

Length: Full year

Credit area: Mathematics

The topics covered in the Geometry course include math vocabulary, reading diagrams, charts and figures, organization of proofs, points, lines, planes and angles, parallel lines and planes, transformations and congruence, congruent triangles, similar polygons, right triangles, circles, areas of plane figures and solids, volumes and surface areas of solids, co-ordinate geometry and an introduction to right triangle and vectors. The objectives include using "if...then" statements, inductive and deductive reasoning, using formulas in solving problems, skill in drawing, visualizing and following algorithms, understanding of mathematical relationships and properties, using geometric ideas in real situations, and representing geometric ideas with coordinates or diagrams.

Algebra 2

Grades 10 – 11

Prerequisites: Algebra 1 & Geometry

Length: Full year

Credit area: Mathematics

Please note: Graphing calculator required. Suggested calculator: TI84

This course builds upon prior knowledge from Algebra I, extending the depth of understanding of this knowledge. From this base of knowledge, new concepts are explored which prepare students for the rigors of higher mathematics. Topics include variables, expressions, formulas, translating real world problems into algebraic form, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, solving and graphing quadratic equations, transformations of graphs, linear systems, matrices, sequences, series, probability, complex numbers, and exponential, logarithmic, and polynomial functions.

Pre-Calculus

Grades 11-12

Prerequisites: Algebra 2

Length: Full year

Credit area: Mathematics

Please note: Graphing calculator required. Suggested calculator: TI84

Pre-Calculus is an elective course designed as an intermediate course between Algebra 2 and AP Calculus AB. As a preparatory course for calculus, it focuses on the development of the mathematical skills, concepts, and techniques required in a college calculus course. Topics include: logic, function analysis, functions, equations and inequalities, polynomials, rational functions, trigonometric identities and equations, recursion, induction, polar functions, complex numbers, combinatorics and vectors. The objective is to provide insights into the nature of mathematics through investigating concepts, relations, and functions.

AP Calculus AB

Grades 11 - 12

Length: Full year

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus & Teacher Rec.

Credit area: Mathematics

Please note: Graphing calculator required. Suggested calculator: TI84

Advanced Placement Calculus AB provides an introduction to calculus for students of mathematics, engineering, and the sciences. Or, in some other cases provides more advanced studies for students gifted in the math and science realms. Topics will include limits, derivatives, techniques of differentiation, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and applications of derivatives and integrals. Additional topics also include techniques and applications of integration, introduction to differential equations, parametric curves and polar coordinates, infinite series and Taylor approximation. Further topics could include vector algebra, vector calculus, partial derivatives, gradients and directional derivatives, tangent planes, the chain rule, multiple integrals and line integrals.

Liberal Arts Math

Grades 11-12

Length: Full year

Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Geometry

Credit area: Mathematics

This is a survey course with selected topics from the history and development of mathematics, patterns and inductive reasoning, set theory and deductive reasoning, the real number system, algebra, geometry, probability, statistics, and problem solving. It is designed for students interested in pursuing a liberal arts related profession, education or communication. Calculators or computers may be used for selected topics.

SCIENCE

Conceptual Physics

Grade 9 Required Science

Length: Full year

Prerequisites: Science 8

Credit area: Science

This course covers the basic physical science concepts and competencies that may have been missed or lightly covered in previous grades. Emphasis is on the physical sciences and physics concepts that apply also to chemistry and biology. It provides a solid foundation in the process skills that underlie all of the laboratory sciences such as measurement, data analysis and evaluation, graphing and laboratory skills. This hands-on, laboratory-based course will be the starting point for all future science study

at the high school level. The topics investigated will include motion, forces, energy, electricity, heat and the kinetic theory of matter.

Chemistry

Grade 10 Required Science	Length: Full year
Prerequisites: Conceptual Physics	Credit area: Science

This course builds on the fundamentals of chemistry and gives students the skills and concepts needed for further studies in chemistry. Students planning to take Advanced Placement chemistry are strongly advised to take this course which provides them with a good background. The course covers matter, atomic structure and periodicity, bonding, chemical formulas and reactions, mole concept, stoichiometry, gas laws, solutions, acids and bases and redox reactions and all of the process skills associated with the laboratory sciences. It has a strong laboratory component and students will find it an advantage to have successfully completed at least Biology and Geometry.

Biology

Grade 11	Length: Full year
Prerequisite: Chemistry	Credit area: Science

This course covers general biological principles, cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, and basic understandings of the kingdoms and their inter-relationships. Students are expected to be active participants in laboratory activities and demonstrate safety in their behavior and use of lab equipment. Students can expect to use math in solving problems, interpreting and creating graphs and should be able to apply concepts to discussing issues in today's world.

Advanced Physics

Grade 11-12	Length: Full year
Prerequisite: Chemistry	Credit area: Science

This course provides a detailed introduction to the methods and concepts of general physics. Topics studied include mechanics, electricity and magnetism, thermal physics, waves, optics, and atomic and nuclear physics. Emphasis is placed on analytical problem solving and developing laboratory skills. Students are expected to have a strong math background.

Environmental Science / AP Environmental Science

Grades 11 – 12	Length: Full Year
Prerequisite: Chemistry or permission of Instructor	Credit area: Science

This course begins with the study of the structure and functioning of ecosystems and the dynamics of populations. These understandings are applied to topics such as water as a human resource, and the maintenance of bio-diversity. Biomes are studied in the context of the adaptations of their plants and animals. Global issues analyzed include Acid Rain, Global Warming and Ozone depletion. Projects, debate, and data analysis form a significant part of the course. For those enrolled as AP students, there is an external exam in May.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History

Grade 9 (required for Grade 9)
Prerequisites: None

Length: Full year
Credit area: Social Studies

This course is a survey of world history from prehistoric to contemporary times. Students will learn about the socioeconomic, political, and ideological conditions of various time periods as they study historical events and cultural achievements of world regions. Using primary and secondary sources, they will utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills as they conduct inquiry-based research, participate in interactive discussions, and complete assignments establishing real-world connections.

Human Geography / AP Human Geography

Grades 10 (required for Grade 10)
Prerequisite: Permission from Instructor for AP

Length: Full Year
Credit area: Social Studies

This course is a systematic study of geographic patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. It includes the following topics: nature and perspectives of geography, population, cultural patterns and processes; political organization of space; agriculture and rural land use; industrialization and economic development; cities and urban land use; and landscape analysis in the context of the human organization of space, ranging from local to global. Students learn how to use and interpret maps, data, and geographic models using such methods as GIS, aerial photos, satellite images. AP external exam held in May for students on AP track.

AP World History

Grades 11 – 12
Prerequisites: Permission of the Instructor

Length: Full year
Credit area: Social Studies

This class builds on the content of basic survey history classes, World History 9th and Human Geography 10th, to take students further and deeper in their study of world history. The course gives frequent practice in writing analytical and interpretive essays such as document-based questions (DBQs) and thematic essays addressing issues of change, continuity and comparison. It includes extensive instruction in analysis and interpretation of primary sources such as maps, statistics, artworks and graphic material. Students acquire the breadth and depth of knowledge and skills needed for the AP external exam held in May.

Global Issues

Grades 11 – 12
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Social Studies

This "Brief History of the 21st Century" is a study of the great changes taking place in our time. Advances in technology and communications put people all over the globe in touch as never before, creating an explosion of wealth in India and China, and challenging the industrialized west to run even faster just to stay in place. Using the

bestselling work by Thomas Friedman, The World is Flat, as introductory source material, this course will demystify the new “flat” world, allowing students to make sense of the economic issues and complex foreign policies that underlie the concept of globalization. The course will then continue with an examination of the issues raised in Jean-Francois Rischard's book, High Noon: Twenty Global Issue and Twenty Years to Solve Them. Discussions, debates, and research practices are the main instructional processes.

U.S. History

Grades 11 – 12

Prerequisites: None

Length: One semester

Credit area: Social Studies

This course is a history of the United States from its pre-colonial origins through Reconstruction. Emphasis will be placed on patterns of political, economic, social, intellectual and geographic developments during this period. Students will identify, distinguish, and interpret significant events, individuals and theories specific to US history throughout this period.

Economics

Grades 11 – 12

Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester

Credit area: Social Studies

Economics is a semester course which examines the basic kinds of economic systems with emphasis on the American capitalistic economic theory and its implementation and development. The course includes the study of economics as a science, the principles of supply and demand, the principles guiding household economics, the economic organization of business, agriculture and labor: the national economy including a study of the tax system, inflation, recession, fiscal and monetary policies which effect national economic policies, and international economics, to include aid to developing economies and the impact of trade and finance on future economic stability.

African Studies

Grades 11 – 12

Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester

Credit area: Social Studies

African Studies explores the rich diversity of sub-Saharan African cultures in a contemporary setting. The course provides a comprehensive and accurate description of modern Africa, emphasizing the cultural and social developments currently underway in countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Uganda. Topics include: changes since the end of colonialism, family structures, religion and spirituality, art, dance and music, politics, urbanization and village life, education, healthcare, environmental concerns, and human rights issues. Students are expected to read course materials, be active participants in class discussions, complete oral and written projects, and utilize technology applications.

Psychology

Grades 11 – 12
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Social Studies

This course introduces students to the study and history of psychology, a social science which attempts to describe, explain and predict human behavior. The field of psychology will be explored through the study of individual differences, human development, concepts of happiness, depression and anxiety, learning theories including Gardner's "Multiple Intelligences," emotions, memory, attitude and thought management, major personality types, and personality development and disorders. Human relationships and the role of psychology as a vital social science, including a survey of work conducted by an eminent psychologist, will be central to the student's investigation into the subject.

GLOBAL LANGUAGES

French 1 (Standard Level)

Grades 9 – 10
Prerequisites: None

Length: Full year
Credit area: Global Language

This course is designed to help students develop a basic proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing and prepares them for further study of the French language. The communicative approach is used to introduce vocabulary and structures through the functions of the language. Authentic materials and cultural information are interwoven throughout the course to provide a framework for proficiency in the language and appreciation of the cultures of the countries where French is spoken.

French 2 (Standard Level)

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisite: French 1

Length: Full year
Credit area: Global Language

This course continues to develop the language skills in French through a communicative approach. Speaking, listening, reading and writing activities relate to the topics which reflect student interests. The materials and activities emphasize authentic situations and require critical thinking, recall and creativity. Students are encouraged to express their own needs and interests in the French language. Supplementary materials relating to culture help to further develop the student's reading and writing skills, as well as a continued cultural awareness of the French speaking world.

French 3 (Advanced Level)

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisite: French 2

Length: Full year
Credit area: Global Language

In this course, previously learned vocabulary and structures are reinforced, serving as a transition into new material. The students' understanding of how the language functions is expanded allowing them to become more confident in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, while continuing to make the French language relevant to their daily lives.

The stress is on continued authentic communication, cultural awareness and relying on French for comprehension.

French 4 (Advanced Level)

Grades 9 – 12

Prerequisite: French 3

Length: Full year

Credit area: Global Language

The course focus is on the practical application of the language. The course is based on the following themes: current events, world issues, society, technology and daily world issues. Authentic materials are used to integrate the language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. The language of instruction is French.

AP French Language

Grades 10 – 12

Prerequisite: Permission of the Instructor

Length: Full year

Credit Area: Global Language

Advanced Placement French Language emphasizes the use of language for active communication at a level “equivalent to that of a third-year college course in French language” (AP Manual). Students will hone their ability to comprehend formal and informal conversation and to express ideas orally and in written compositions, with accuracy and fluency. Students acquire the vocabulary and grasp of structures necessary for easy, accurate reading of newspapers, magazines, and modern literary works; and strengthen their ability to compose expository passages. This class prepares students to sit for the AP French Language exam that is given in May.

Spanish 1a

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Length: One Semester Elective

Credit Area: Elective

This course is designed to help students develop a basic proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing and prepares them for further study of the Spanish language. The communicative approach is used to introduce vocabulary and structures through the functions of the language. Authentic materials and cultural information are interwoven throughout the course to provide a framework for proficiency in the language and appreciation of the cultures of the countries where Spanish is spoken.

Spanish 1b

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Spanish 1a or previous study of Spanish

Length: One Semester Elective

Credit Area: Elective

This course is a continuation of Spanish 1a. Students will develop a greater proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing and will learn further vocabulary and verb tenses. The main focus will continue to be on communication.

FINE ARTS

Art 1: High School Art Foundations

Grades 9-12
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

The High School Art Foundations course is an elective course that exposes students to the fundamentals of art. Students will use different media and gain confidence with the techniques of drawing and painting. The course will focus on skill building while encouraging a lifetime appreciation of art through critical evaluation and the study of Art History. Students will work throughout the year with the Elements and Principles of Art and Design and apply this knowledge in a variety of projects. Students will maintain a portfolio documenting their accomplishments and select representative work to take to the next level of study.

Art 2: High School Intermediate Art

Grades 9-12
Prerequisites: Art 1 or Permission of Instructor

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

High School Intermediate Art will help students extend and refine their abilities to investigate and respond to the visual arts. Students will explore in depth the various methods, materials and techniques of drawing, design, painting, color theory, and 3-D design. Art history will be an integral part of the course. Students will be encouraged to explore their own conceptual ideas, and develop their own sense of artistic expression.

Art 3: Advanced Intermediate Art

Grades 10-12
Prerequisites: Art 1 & 2 or Permission of Instructor

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

The Advanced Intermediate Art Class continues to emphasize development of abilities to organize and analyze visual arts content, concepts, and skills in creating works of art. The focus on art history, critical evaluation, and aesthetics is increased and includes cultural and stylistic issues and creative problem solving. Study at this level affords students the opportunity to develop a personal direction in the production of their works of art or to further their academic study in the visual arts.

Art 4: Advanced Art

Grades 10-12
Prerequisites: Art 1, 2 & 3

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

Advanced Art class is designed to help students reinforce competence and confidence in skills of analysis, evaluation, and creation of works of art. Content and concepts associated with art criticism and aesthetics are central to the refinement of art production skills, and the student-directed approach at this level richly enhances personal expressive abilities. Visual communication and production, cultural context and art history, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics remain the foundation areas and an

advanced level of performance in each is expected. The comprehensive culminating portfolio must give evidence of the quality, concentration, and breadth of work produced throughout the high school art program.

Theater Arts 1

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

This is a theater production course responsible for main-stage productions. Students learn production techniques of audition, stage design, and acting through the rehearsal process. Character development is emphasized. Ensemble techniques are used to create an awareness of self and others. Note: There is an expectation for students enrolling in this course to participate in practices that may be held outside of school time, just prior to a culminating performance. This aspect of the course's expectations is included in the student's grade evaluation.

Theater Arts 2

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisites: Theater Arts 1

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

This course is a continuation of the essential elements covered in Theater Arts 1. Performance skills will be honed as students continue ensemble work, broader acting techniques and characterization activities. Technical aspects of theater (set, lighting, makeup and costume) will also be explored. A directorial perspective will be achieved as students turn scene studies or play scripts into theatrical productions. Note: There is an expectation for students enrolling in this course to participate in practices that may be held outside of school time, just prior to a culminating performance. This aspect of the course's expectations is included in the student's grade evaluation.

Introduction to Music

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

In this course, students will be exposed to general musical performance skills through such activities as choral singing, playing the basic electronic keyboard, and rhythmic percussion and movement. They will be exposed to general composition techniques, the basic theory and introductory history of music, including exposure to various composers and eras. Students will acquire a broad knowledge of how music has evolved, an ability to listen critically to music, and the skills with which to compose and perform basic but original music.

Malian Music and Movement

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

Students will study and perform traditional music and dances from Mali. They will begin learning songs from the Mandinka ethnic group using the 22 note balafone (African xylophone), djembe and dundun (drums). Mande music is similar to western music in its

use of the 7 note major scale. Students will also study the pentatonic (5 note scale) music from the Bobo ethnic group using the balafone and bara (gourd drum), music from the Wassalu region using the donso n'goni (hunter's harp) and djembe, and the northern Touraeg or Tamasheq rhythms and chants like the Tacamba using the calabash. Course readings on the history of this music will come from Dr. Eric Charry's book Mande Music.

Introductory Guitar

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

This is an introductory course for beginners to near beginners, in playing the guitar. Students will learn to play songs individually and also as a group. They will study the logic of the guitar fret board as well as basic chord theory, and will learn basic note reading through classical guitar finger-picking exercises. Reading music will not be a prerequisite for this class as students will also be learning songs with chord diagrams, tablature, and by ear. Participants will learn various Malian guitar styles as well as Blues, Jazz, Folk and Rock.

Music Recording and Composition

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisites: Any Music course or permission

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Fine Arts

This course will focus on how to compose and create music using the computer as a digital audio workstation. Students will learn about computer technology in a fun and creative way. They will study the structures and elements of songs from various styles, and with these templates begin to create their own music. Using audio editing software and digital sound banks, the student becomes a composer, arranger, and a five, ten, or twenty piece orchestra. They will also learn basic concepts in recording with microphones.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION and HEALTH

Physical Education

Grades 9 –12
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: PE

Physical Education is a required course that encompasses human wellness, physical skill development, knowledge and judgment in a fitness-for-life approach. Through the study and participation of various team and individual sports and activities, the student will learn the fundamental rules of several popular games. Students will be encouraged to realize the importance of their own physical fitness development and are expected to display good sportsmanship and teamwork skills in the activities and sports covered.

Health

Grades 9 – 10 (required for Graduation)
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Health

The Health course academically reinforces the relationship of fitness for life to healthy choices and informed decision-making. Specifically, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, addiction and co-dependency are studied as well as human development and reproduction. AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, nutrition and eating disorders are also discussed. Emotional awareness, self-management skills and personal well-being are also emphasized.

TECHNOLOGY

Computer Applications

Grades 9 – 10 (required for Graduation)
Prerequisites: None

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Technology

Computer Applications is a course designed to develop essential student skills, vocabulary, and ethics that can be immediately applied in and out of school. The course will focus on authentic practical applications in keyboarding, word-processing, spreadsheet construction, web site construction, desktop publishing, graphic editing, graphic design, internet search techniques, presentation techniques (Keynote), and video production. Students will be able to create multidisciplinary projects utilizing various applications to reach their goal. Special attention will be devoted to basic designing fundamentals, legal issues, copyright law, and safety.

Graphic Arts

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisites: Computer Applications

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Technology

The primary focus of this class will be to introduce high school students to the idea of media literacy – the ability to communicate information in ways other than traditional speaking and writing. The iLife software suite, which consists of 6 interrelated programs, (iPhoto, iMovie, iTunes, iDVD, GarageBand, and iWeb) is the core software used in the course. Photoshop Elements and Premiere Elements will supplement these programs. Whenever possible, projects with practical applications to the student's current classes will be undertaken. Attention will be given to improving the student's knowledge of how computers are used in real world environments. Students will have the opportunity to create a web page to communicate their thoughts and ideas.

Web Design and Animation

Grades 9 – 12
Prerequisites: Computer Applications

Length: One Semester
Credit area: Technology

This course will introduce the basics of designing web pages, modern layout principles, engaging flash animations and much more. Students will be able to work with recognized professional software to create their own web pages, maintain and edit pages of a greater existing website, and test them over the school network. Software to be used is Adobe Dreamweaver in combination with other professional editing and designing applications.

Introduction to Programming

Grades 9 – 12

Prerequisites: Computer Apps & Completed Alg. 1

Length: One Semester

Credit area: Technology

This course will introduce the basics of this semester-long course is an introduction to structured programming. Students will learn how to write application programs while developing a fundamental understanding of a structured approach to problem solving through programming. The class will cover variables, constants, decision and looping structures, procedures and functions. The specific programming skills introduced are transferable between different languages and systems.