



## Upper School Course Descriptions

### Arts

#### Theater Arts

##### **Theater I**

Open To: 9                      Prerequisite: None                      Semester Fall                      Credit: 0.5  
May Be Repeated for Credit

An introductory class which teaches theatre fundamentals. Theatre terminology, blocking techniques, improvisation, basic script analysis, introductory monologue, and scene work will be covered during the course. Numerous in-class, individual and group performance opportunities will be provided.

##### **Technical Theater**

Open To: 9, 10      Prerequisite: None                      Semester Fall & Spring      Credit: 0.5  
May Be Repeated for Credit

An introduction to the technical side of theater. This course will focus on make-up, costume design, designing sets and stage layout, work with props, lights, and sound. Students will learn basic stage makeup as well as more advanced techniques, they will design stage sets for plays and will have some opportunities to build an actual set. Students will learn to maintain and repair lights, to set lights and to run a basic light board. Finally students will work to create their own auditory accompaniment to a play.

##### **Theater II**

Open To: 10      Prerequisite: Theater I                      Semester: Fall & Spring                      Credit: 0.5  
May Be Repeated for Credit

The follow-up class to Theatre I. Advanced scene work, classical monologues and scenes, improvisation, and dialect work are among the many topics to be covered. Numerous in-class performance opportunities will be provided. Theatre I or instructor consent required.

##### **Theater Lab**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: Theater II                      Semester: Spring                      Credit: 0.5

This course will explore the elements of directing, research, playwriting and performing, and their application to advanced acting techniques. Performances of transcribed material, original monologues/short one-acts based on the life of historical figures, and the direction/performance in a short one-act will be explored. Previous theatrical experience required.

##### **Acting for the Musical Stage**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: Theater II                      Semester: Fall                      Credit: 0.5

Students will learn techniques for performing songs within a musical production and how to integrate music and acting. Songs from different genres of musicals will be studied and proper vocal technique will be emphasized. Numerous performance opportunities will be provided. Prior vocal music experience required.

## **Rock Band**

### **Fundamentals of Rock**

Open To: 9      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall      Credit: 0.5

No prior experience is necessary for this class but the course is required to advance into one of Tesseract's Rock Bands. Students will learn basic scales and chord progressions on guitar, bass, and piano as well as basic rock beats and fills for drums. Basic music theory and ear training skills will be emphasized, as will critical listening skills for a variety of musical styles. Brass, woodwind, and orchestral string instruments can also be included.

### **Fundamentals of Singing**

Open To: 9      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall      Credit: 0.5

No prior experience is necessary for this class but the course is required to advance into one of Tesseract's Rock Bands. Students will learn basic tone production, scales, diction, and harmony singing. Students will have the opportunity to perform songs from a diverse repertoire of styles and time periods. Students who already play an instrument can take this class to work on singing and playing at the same time or providing instrumental accompaniment for singers.

### **Rock Band II**

Open To: 10, 11      Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Rock      Semester: Yearlong      Credit: 1  
May Be Repeated for Credit

This is a performance ensemble that helps the students progress from basic to intermediate skills, both instrumentally and vocally. Repertoire includes classic and contemporary rock covers, blues jams, various world music styles, and original song crafting. Intermediate music theory and ear training skills will be emphasized. This course will require students to have their own instrument and practice outside of class and make a commitment to performances both on and off campus.

### **Rock Band III**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Rock      Semester: Yearlong      Credit: 1  
May Be Repeated for Credit

In this course students will go further and deeper into music than in Rock Band I. The creation of original songs and instrumental parts and the development of more advanced technical skills will be emphasized. Advanced music theory and ear training skills will be emphasized and students will be expected to compose and improvise with the concepts they learn. This course will require students to have their own instrument and practice outside of class and make a commitment to performances both on and off campus.

## **Visual Art**

### **Foundations of Visual Art IA**

Open To: 9      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall      Credit: 0.5

Students will study their circle of influence on the creative visual process and study various artists and media that will allow for a rich connection and support with their humanities curriculum. Chagall, and developing an artist's message are the focus of the course. Students will explore various media to create meaningful visual expressions with the focus of Classical Art: Greece and Rome. Painting on glass and other techniques are explored. Written expression is part of the creative critique.

### **Foundations of Visual Art IB**

Open To: 9      Prerequisite: Foundations of Visual Art IA      Semester: Spring      Credit: 0.5

Students will continue to utilize the humanities curriculum by studying Renaissance frescos. Mixed media, writing, and written critique are part of the course requirements.

### **Geometry and 3D Art**

Open To: 10      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall      Credit: 0.5

Students will explore architecture that has stood the test of time; visit the unusual and unique as well as cutting edge Green buildings. Use of terms, written research, and model building will be part of the course.

### **Foundations of Visual Art II**

Open To: 10      Prerequisite: Foundations of Visual Art IB      Semester: Spring      Credit: 0.5

Students will engage in various applications of science concepts (chemistry, biology and other physical sciences) in their studies. Written and visual critiques are part of the course. Students will utilize their science curriculum concepts through the visual arts.

### **Global Architecture**

Open To: 11, 12 Prerequisite: Foundations of Visual Art II Semester: Fall Credit: 0.5

Global Architecture explores why we build, the methodologies of 21st century architects, and cultural utilizations of architecture. Students will explore classical architecture through structures, research methods, and technical applications of design. The class will focus on how we use space, structures, environmental impact and implications through cultural references and examples. Students will be required to do research, write, reflect and design structures for urban, rural, and memorial spaces. Gallery visits will be required with corresponding drawings, plans, or other work as required. Global architecture and styles are a core component of the class.

### **Technology as a Paintbrush or Pencil**

Open To: 11, 12 Prerequisite: Foundations of Visual Art II Semester: Fall Credit: 0.5

Students will explore technology using the software available to create visual art. I pads have brushes, a drawing program that creates images that can be as clear and representational as pencil or paint. Gimp and Google Sketchup will also be explored if desired. Those familiar with unity or blender will also be able to continue to work self guided in these formats. Photography will be used with picasa and photoshop if possible. Computers are necessary.

## **Humanities**

### **Foundations of Western Civilization**

Open To: 9 Prerequisite: None Semester: Yearlong Credit: 2

This is a full year course devoted to the study of English and History. The goal of this course is to introduce students to the roots of Western Civilizations in Ancient Greece and Rome. Through the study of these cultures' history, literature, and arts, we will better understand and appreciate the ways in which these ancient cultures have influenced our own. Instruction will consist of individual and cooperative work, multimedia presentations, and various forms of discussions. This course will improve students' writing skills through frequent practice, grammar and vocabulary lessons. The course will devote equal time to English and History, frequently blending the two with class time, assignments, and projects.

### **Europe in the Middle Ages**

Open To: 10 Prerequisite: Freshmen Humanities Semester: Yearlong Credit: 2

Sophomore Humanities continues and builds upon a penetrating and interdisciplinary analysis of history and literature which serves as its core. Historically, the course picks up from the fall of Rome and the rise of the Church, monarchies, and the feudal system that characterize the Middle Ages, giving way to the Renaissance and the establishment of the modern Nation State. Literature ranges from the writings of St. Augustine to Dante's *Inferno* to Shakespeare. History and literature are examined and reinforced as both causes and effects--that history sets the environment which leads to great literature just as the literature itself has an effect on that changing environment, often changing the course of history. In this rich intellectual analysis, assignments and discussions challenge the student to build upon thinking, writing, research, and presentation skills.

### **History of the Americas**

Open To: 11, 12 Prerequisite: 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Humanities Semester: Yearlong Credit: 1

Through the exploration of six thematic units, we will develop an understanding of United States history and culture through its own internal development as well its external relations with the rest of the Americas. In each unit, we will juxtapose a critical historical moment with a contemporary parallel. The six units are: A New World; Colonization and Independence in the Americas; Northern success and southern failure; The legacy of slavery; Rich and poor; A World on the Brink; The USSR & the Americas.

### **Literature of the Americas**

Open To: 11, 12 Prerequisite: None Semester: Yearlong Credit: 1

This English class is built around the novel. Using the 11<sup>th</sup> grade History class as a loose framework, we will read nine novels - five from the US and four from Latin America. The study of the seven chosen novels will serve as a foundation for the examination of writing style, as a model for students in the development of their own creative writing, and as a means to understand historical events and trends. Probable Course Materials: Steinbeck's *East of Eden*, Allende's *House of the Spirits*, Fuentes's *The Eagle's Throne*, Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*, Valenzuela's *Black Novel*, Garcia Marquez's *General in His Labyrinth*, Lodge's *Art of Fiction*, Otsuka's *When the Emperor Was Divine*.

### **History of China**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall      Credit: 0.5

Using various sources (written and film), the course will examine the history of 20<sup>th</sup> Century China. Topics will include: the causes and consequences of revolutionary change; the relationship between republican government and its responsibilities; the rationales and perils of social engineering; the role of cultural traditions in a society experiencing change each generation; regional relationships and international responsibilities; national isolation and insularity in an interdependent, globalized world.

### **Creative Writing**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall & Spring      Credit: 0.5

May Be Repeated for Credit

Creative writing is a semester long course whose goal is to allow students to read, analyze, and create works of fiction writing. Students will experiment with short story, flash fiction, novel writing, collaborative writing and poetry, while focusing on key elements in the art of writing including dialogue, point of view, plot, and setting. Students will develop a sense of speaker and audience. They will provide positive support for their fellow writers and learn to revise their work. Throughout the semester, students will compile a portfolio of revised work.

### **Modern Indian History**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Spring      Credit: 0.5

This introductory course will survey the major events and themes of the Indian subcontinent from the Mughal Empire of the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the emerging India of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Themes include, but are not limited to, society and economy in Mughal India, the establishment of trade between India and Europe, the period of British colonialism beginning in 1740, the rise of Indian nationalism, and the subsequent establishment of Indian independence and development of Pakistan in 1947. Attention will also be given to current events in these modernizing South Asian nations.

### **Individual: Self, Spirit & Society (Ancient Indian and Chinese Literature)**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall & Spring      Credit: 0.5

The Indian philosophical tradition explores the riddle of being and the mystery within, the ineffable enigma of divine essence, and how one may be what one is, act with purpose, and become free of the cycle of *samsara*. It is a contemplation of the truth beneath appearance, within action, and despite change; it is a record of the dialogue with the omnipresent divine as well as that entity immanent within oneself. The Chinese philosophical traditional responds to challenges posed by social instability, ineffective leadership, and moral ambivalence. It is an analysis of society, its ills, potential remedies, and the role of the individual as a moral agent of social change. Readings will include selections from the *Upanishads*, *Bhagavad Gita*, *Dhammapada*, Jainist parables, *Analects*, *Dao de jing*, Kautilya and Han Fei. Conducted as a seminar, students will write regularly, as well as perform various experiential solo and ensemble performance exercises.

### **Media Studies**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall      Credit: 0.5

Students will learn to evaluate the roles and influence of mass media on American life, as well as its expanding role globally through a combination of class discussion, an analysis of articles on cultural studies written by scholars such as Sut Jhally, and the consumption of electronic and print media materials. The course explores advertising as a philosophy, gender stereotyping, and advertising in television, film, news media, and print media. Films include, but are not limited to, *Citizen Kane*, *Stranger than Fiction*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *True Grit*. Richard Barsam's *Looking at Movies* is used to aid in students' assessment of films. The course incorporates communications, anthropology, art, sociology, and political science with contemporary critical and cultural studies theory to help students understand the role media plays in contemporary society.

### **Historical Perspectives on the Atomic Bomb: Japanese and American Literature & Film**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Spring      Credit: 0.5

Primarily composed of Japanese & American literary and film sources, the course examines the origins, events, choices, and consequences (political, ethical, physiological, artistic & philosophical) of the advent of the Atomic Age and a Nuclear World. The atomic bombing of Hiroshima was an instant in the history of the 20th Century. Yet, how has that moment been remembered and why, by whom and for what purposes? How has the fact of that event – and its terrible implications – been presented in words and images, and what do they mean to us? The nuclear threat has oft been employed in Hollywood films. Why? How is it handled in Japanese contexts? What do these treatments say about the respective nations and their cultures?

### **PSST!: Poets, Singers, and Storytellers**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Spring      Credit: 0.5

The earliest poets sang their stories. Whether Homer, Vyasa, Valmiki or the griots of Western Africa, verse, song and narrative coordinated to captivate imagination, ensure common cultural experience, and teach old and young alike the lessons greatness had to tell. PSST! – Poets, Singers & Storytellers! is an exploration of voice – poetic, lyric, and narrative. Reading various poems (folk and traditional, classic and contemporary) and stories (children's and selections of epics, personal recollections and fictional adventures) and listening to (and watching, when possible) songs from various genres, students will acquire an understanding of and appreciation for the individual voice, a variety of narrative structures, rhetorical devices, and performance venues, and the wonders of being heard. Students will read and write poems, songs, and stories, developing a portfolio of work. All will participate in a poetry slam and perform at a coffeehouse, in the best tradition of the East Village scene.

### **Senior Seminar (Required Course)**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

The seminar-style course will cover the skills, tips, and insights necessary to prepare seniors for the transition from high school to college. Toward that end, it will look at all things relevant to this unique time in seniors lives--from the bluntly practical challenges and pitfalls of living day by day at college, to taking a close look at major essays and literary works which may be of essential value to college (and life) academic success. The spirit of college and the future will infuse this class, a course offering tailored to the needs and maturity-level that are unique to seniors at Tesseract.

### **War & Peace: Questions and Choices**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall      Credit: 0.5

What are the causes and characteristics of conflicts that lead to war? By what means and with what consequences are episodes of war resolved? How is the absence of war ("negative peace") defined, shaped, and perpetuated? In what ways can people live without the threat or the fact of war ("positive peace"), and how might those ways of life be established and encouraged? If war involves violent means to resolve conflict, then how might the use of nonviolent means alter the ways in which individuals, groups and nations experience conflict? The course is an investigation into such questions. The work of various Nobel Peace Laureates as well as contemporary regional conflicts and global issues, will provide practical examples, situations, and problems to consider. Each student will craft a submission to the National Peace Essay Contest sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace. *Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies* will serve as the principal text. Additional texts (non-fiction and fiction, prose and poetry, song and film) from around the world will augment those central readings.

### **World News**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Fall & Spring      Credit: 0.5

Using the national dailies, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, students will explore their world as it happens – each day. Following various kinds of stories (political, regional, diplomatic, economic, social interest, sports and the arts), an appreciation for the emergent, multifarious human story will be cultivated. Students will also select and read a book that emerged from a news story. Additionally, as particular news stories are sometimes made into film, students will become acquainted with select examples of this genre (*All the President's Men; Good Night, and Good Luck; The Insider*) and research and review a selection of their own.

## **Math**

### **Algebra I**

Open To: 9      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

This course is the foundation for high school mathematics courses. It is the bridge from the concrete to the abstract study of mathematics. Topics include simplifying expressions, evaluating and solving equations and inequalities, and graphing linear and quadratic functions and relations. The curriculum also focuses on systems of equations, exponential functions, quadratics, rationals, radicals, and real world applications. Through cooperative group work and individual effort, students will become more skillful problem solvers and critical thinkers. In addition to individual assignments and assessments, all students will be held accountable for their contributions to their group, as well as to the entire class. Math support for this course is available at [www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com).

### **Geometry**

Open To: 9, 10      Prerequisite: Algebra I      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

This course is designed to teach geometric concepts and skills including deductive reasoning, problem solving and application of geometric theorems, communicating using the vocabulary and notation of geometry, and drawing and modeling real world problems. While exploring various elements in the course, a natural integration of related topics from other disciplines and content areas will be introduced. Through cooperative group work and individual

effort, students will become better creative problem solvers adept at using geometric skills. In addition to individual assignments and assessments, all students will be held accountable for their contributions to their group, as well as to the entire class. Math support for this course is available at [www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com).

### **Algebra II**

Open To: 9, 10, 11      Prerequisite: Geometry      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

The goal of Algebra II is to increase student knowledge and to realize the importance of mathematics in the world around them. Algebraic skills will be emphasized by encouraging learning for mastery as opposed to rote memorization. Students will benefit from problem analysis through a four pronged approach: numerical, graphical, analytical, and verbal. Students will be encouraged and required to communicate mathematically through the use of the symbols and vocabulary of mathematics.

### **Trigonometry Pre-Calculus**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: Algebra II      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

Pre-Calculus is a continuation of the elementary functions that were learned in Algebra I and Algebra 2. Students will use technology, modeling, and problem solving to answer questions relating to trigonometric functions, polar coordinates, complex numbers, and sequences and series. The course will conclude with an introduction to Calculus and will ultimately prepare students for success in Calculus.

### **Business Math**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: Algebra II      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

The Business Math course is designed to help students put to practical use the math skills that they have previously learned. Students will study personal and business finances through money management, budgeting, payroll, sales, borrowing money, long and short-term financing, home expenses, investments, filing tax returns, business plans, and accounting. The course will provide a strong foundation to logical thinking and problem solving that will allow students to have the ability to make good financial decisions.

### **Calculus AB**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: Trig. Pre-Cal.      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

Calculus explores the mathematics of limits. Students learn about the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus and learn the relationship between derivatives and integrals; they use derivative functions, Riemann sums and net accumulations to solve a variety of problems. Enrollment is subject to instructor approval.

### **A.P. Statistics**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: Algebra II      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

This course is designed to teach students the major concepts for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will have the opportunity to explore data hands-on through experimentation and sampling. Students will analyze existing data, anticipate patterns, and make statistical inferences. All students must sit for the A.P. exam.

## **Physical Education**

### **Freshmen P.E.**

Open To: 9      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

9th grade Physical Education focuses on the aspects of fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Students begin class, performing sport specific exercises geared toward developing endurance, strength, and flexibility. Sport specific development is a key aspect of 9th grade P.E. Students learn sports ranging from soccer and basketball to hiking and endurance running. Through sports, 9th grade Physical Education aims to develop students self esteem, ability to work with others, and sportsmanship skills that will last a lifetime.

### **Weight Training**

Open To: 12      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Full Fall      Credit: 0.5

May be Repeated for Credit

Students will learn how to develop a weight training program designed around their own needs, goals, and strengths. They will learn to make connections between anatomy and weight training. Students will be evaluated on their own improvement and their ability to construct and follow an effective personal workout plan.

## Science

### **Biology**

Open To: 9      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

Freshmen biology is a lab based science course that provides the students with an overview of fundamentals of biology. This includes an examination of the human organism at the cellular level as well as the relationship between humans and their environment. Topics include cell membrane function and reactions, photosynthesis, Mendelian genetics, DNA, evolution, diversity of life, and ecology. The course will also emphasize how the scientific method is used to gain an understanding of these concepts.

### **Chemistry**

Open To: 10      Prerequisite: Biology      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

The objective of this course is to learn about Chemistry, develop problem solving skills, and understand the role of science in today's society. It is through this that we hope each student will cultivate the skills to succeed in today's technological world. This is a full year, laboratory science course. Instruction will consist of a multimedia approach; demonstrations, group work and lab investigations. The concepts introduced in this course will include matter, measurement, atomic structure, chemical names and formulas, the periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, acids and bases, nuclear chemistry, electrochemistry, semiconductors and some basic concepts of organic chemistry.

### **Physics**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: Algebra II (concurrent)      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

Physics is a one year laboratory course which uses algebra and geometry to examine and predict outcomes of the interactions between various forces. This hands on discovery approach to physics will enhance student awareness of physics in everyday life, provide insight and understanding of the forces, motions, and energy relationships in their environment, familiarize students with the basic laws and principles of physics, and allow students to experience cooperation through laboratory work and data analysis.

### **Special Topics in Science**

Open To: 11, 12      Prerequisite: Chemistry      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

This course will introduce students to current topics and practices in science. Students will use modern science writing to choose topics to explore in depth. This course emphasizes science literacy and provides the tools for a basic understanding of scientific developments and their potential consequences. Topics covered include the mechanisms of scientific discovery, the impact of scientific discoveries on society, science and ethics, and the tools of contemporary science. The lab component of this course will focus on developing laboratory techniques to study scientific topics of interest to the students. Instead of the standard science laboratory exercises, students will determine topics of interest in their world and develop the apparatus to study these concepts.

## Second Language

### **Mandarin I**

Open To: 9      Prerequisite: None      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

Mandarin 普通话/汉语 (Putonghua/Hanyu), the official spoken language of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan will be taught in this course. Students will build good pronunciation and listening skills, and learn to read simple authentic texts. Students will learn the Pinyin Romanization system along with the Chinese writing system and progress to recognizing Chinese characters (汉字, *Hanzi*). In addition, students will also examine the uniqueness of Chinese culture, using their own culture and experiences to detect cultural differences between these two worlds. Mandarin 1 students begin to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Topics revolve around the students' immediate world and will include: Introducing self, hometown, family, foreign countries, friends, food, school, colors, interests, numbers/money, hobbies, and weather.

### **Mandarin II**

Open To: 10      Prerequisite: Mandarin I      Semester: Full Year      Credit: 1

Mandarin 2 students begin to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Mandarin 普通话/汉语 (Putonghua/Hanyu), the official spoken language of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan will be taught in this course. Students will learn the Pinyin Romanization system along with the

Chinese writing system and progress to recognizing Chinese characters (□字, *Hanzi*). Students will build good pronunciation and listening skills, and read simple authentic texts. In addition, students will also examine the uniqueness of Chinese culture, using their own culture and experiences to detect cultural differences between these two worlds. Topics revolve around the students' immediate world and will include: introducing self, transportation, family / friends, foreign countries, making appointments, food, school, school life, interests, numbers / money, hobbies, shopping.

### **Mandarin III**

Open To: 11                      Prerequisite: Mandarin II                      Semester: Full Year                      Credit: 1

Students in Mandarin 3 will examine the uniqueness of Chinese culture, using their own culture and experiences to detect cultural differences between these two worlds. Topics revolve around the students' immediate world and will include: weather, transportation, family / friends, foreign countries, making appointments, food, dining, school life, asking directions, numbers / money, seeing a doctor, and shopping. Mandarin 3 students begin to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Mandarin 普通话□/□□(Putonghua/Hanyu), the official spoken language of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan will be taught in this course. Students will build good pronunciation and listening skills, and read simple authentic texts. Students will use the Pinyin Romanization system along with the Chinese writing system and progress to recognizing Chinese characters (□字, *Hanzi*).

### **Mandarin IV**

Open To: 12                      Prerequisite: Mandarin III                      Semester: Full Year                      Credit: 1

Subject matter in Mandarin 4 revolves around the students' immediate world and will include: Weather, Transportation, Dating, Family / Friends, Foreign Countries, Renting an apartment, Making appointments, Food, Sports, Dining, School life, Travel, Asking directions, Numbers / Money, At the airport, Seeing a doctor, and Shopping. Mandarin 4 students begin to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Mandarin 普通话□/□□(Putonghua/Hanyu), the official spoken language of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan will be taught in this course. Students will build good pronunciation and listening skills, and read simple authentic texts. Students will continue using the Pinyin Romanization system along with the Chinese writing system yet focus most of their time on reading and recognizing Chinese characters (□字, *Hanzi*). In addition, students will also examine the uniqueness of Chinese culture, using their own culture and experiences to detect cultural differences between these two worlds.

### **Spanish I**

Open To: 9                      Prerequisite: None                      Semester: Full Year                      Credit: 1

Spanish I is geared for beginning students in the language or those students who have had elementary exposure to the language. It is designed to introduce students to the culture and language of the Spanish speaking world. The pacing of the units is flexible as it provides two sub-lessons where new and old materials are constantly being reviewed. Because of its international and cultural components, students will learn other topics as it relates to the 21st century global world. Included in the course, are student projects that incorporate the concepts learned in class and presentations in the target language. By the end of the year, students will have read an elementary Spanish short novel.

### **Spanish II**

Open To: 9, 10                      Prerequisite: Spanish I                      Semester: Full Year                      Credit: 1

Spanish II continues with the development of vocabulary expressions and grammar. Students work on retention and recall skills. As the course progresses, students will develop the confidence to speak in the target language as they present individual and group projects. The pacing of the units is flexible as it provides two sub-lessons where new and old materials are constantly being reviewed. Because of its international and cultural components, students will learn other topics as it relates to the 21st century global world. By the end of the year, the students will have read an elementary-intermediate Spanish short novel.

### **Spanish III**

Open To: 10, 11                      Prerequisite: Spanish II                      Semester: Full Year                      Credit: 1

Spanish III students further develop skills from the previous two years as they move to more advance material, and express themselves orally by convincing, arguing, inquiring, and describing. Students develop the core skills to express themselves in a variety of styles, using different strategies for different audiences. Students will be exposed to a variety of thematic vocabulary expressions that are accompanied by certain grammatical points addressed through listening and reading comprehension exercises, writing samples, and conversational exercises. As students develop their language skills, students are also being exposed to a variety of global topics of the 21st century; thus, international, cultural and community topics will be taught. By the end of the year, students will have read excerpts of authentic literary pieces in Spanish and a short fictional piece connected to their trip to Peru.

Spanish III may be offered as a dual enrollment course as defined and offered through Rio Salado Community College for current juniors/seniors. The high school Spanish III year is defined as college level course Spanish 111 and students may earn up to four college credit.

#### **Spanish IV**

Open To: 11, 12 Prerequisite: Spanish III Semester: Full Year Credit: 1

Spanish IV is a one year course conducted completely in the target language. Students are encouraged to expand their personal communication skills with the teacher and their peers in and outside the classroom. Students will be exposed to a variety of authentic reading material through which grammar will be addressed. As students are learning these skills, they are also being exposed to a variety of global topics of the 21st century; thus, international, cultural and community topics will be discussed in Spanish. Technology plays a great role in language acquisition through the use of software used for conversational forums. In addition, as the students prepare for the trip to Peru they are using the same software to interact with students at the visiting school. By the end of the year, the students will have read authentic literature and two Spanish short novels, one on the Sacred Valley in Peru and the other on gang culture. Spanish IV may be offered as a dual enrollment course as defined and offered through Rio Salado Community College for qualified juniors/seniors. The entire high school year is defined as college level courses Spanish 201 and Spanish 202. Students may earn up to eight college credits.