

## 26-27 Course Catalog

<b>Core Content</b> The core content is designed to engage students in rigorous, honors-level study while offering them the opportunity to apply their learning in authentic ways through cross-curricular connections. Many courses “braid” together and are thus encouraged to be taken as co-requisites.	
Course Title	Description
American Literature: The Spirit of America Through Literary Movements	<p>This class focuses on reading and analyzing significant works of American literature from the Colonial Period through the Contemporary Period. Students will explore the depth and breadth of American literary traditions within their historical contexts. The curriculum is designed to foster an appreciation of literature by developing critical and aesthetic sensibilities, enhancing creative and academic writing skills, and deepening understanding of the nation’s rich literary heritage.</p> <p><i>Corequisite: American History</i></p>
Literature & Rhetoric: The Art of Persuasive Writing & Public Speaking	<p>Serious civic conversation and meaningful debate depend on rational and thoughtful rhetoric. That’s why eloquence in public discourse—and more generally, communication—has always been an essential part of classical liberal arts education. Through the Literature and Rhetoric: The Art of Persuasive Writing and Public Speaking course, you will become a more compelling speaker, masterful thinker, and responsible critic.</p> <p><i>Corequisite: Civics</i></p>
English Composition: Thinking Through Written Word	<p>The written word, although often connected to the English subject in academia, is an essential means for thinking and learning across all disciplines. Hence, writing as a skill is an integral part of a liberal arts education. It is a way in which we “do language,” as voiced by Nobel and Pulitzer prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison; it is a measure of our thinking. A measure that is not always easy to wrestle with, but highly rewarding when done with honest effort. In this class, we will review and build on fundamental reading and writing skills and concepts, write effective arguments, improve fluency and confidence in written expression, develop a deep understanding of the writing process, craft compelling personal prose, and prepare for college writing and research.</p>
American History: Influential Narratives of the American Story	<p>American history has been shaped by fascinating events and people. This course will integrate numerous resources - primary and secondary, visual and print - as we delve deeply into our past through the lens of various individuals, places, and events. Students will demonstrate mastery by participation in Socratic seminars, analysis of historical documents, crafting essays and evaluating current day issues through a historical lens. Through this course students will develop a personalized understanding of how our past has shaped our present and continues to impact our future. <i>Suggested Corequisite: American Literature</i></p>
Civics & American Political Systems	<p>An understanding of democracy and a representative government is an integral part of good citizenship in our American society. This course will</p>

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	<p>help its students comprehend the values of our American society and what has influenced the development of these values. The course will integrate numerous resources - primary and secondary, visual and print - as we look at the development of our federal government, political parties and the establishment of our civil rights and civil liberties. Students will demonstrate mastery by participation in Socratic seminars, analysis of historical documents, crafting essays and evaluating current day issues through a political and historical lens. Through this course the students will develop an appreciation of our government and an awareness of the integral role played by its citizens. <i>Suggested Corequisite: Literature &amp; Rhetoric</i></p>
<p>Personal Finance &amp; Financial Literacy</p>	<p>Understanding and managing personal finances are key to one's future financial success and wellbeing. The course addresses learning in both theory and application as students hear directly from community financial professionals and apply that learning to real-world challenges. Students will be able to set and plan for their financial goals through an understanding of income, taxation, credit, investment, and insurance. The course is designed to help the learner make wise spending, saving, and credit decisions and to make effective use of income to achieve personal financial success.</p>
<p>Introductory Algebra: Methods of Algebraic Thinking</p>	<p>An inquiry-based approach to problem solving using the language of algebra. This course addresses functions, their graphs, real numbers, systems of equations in two-variables, polynomials, and quadratic equations. The course develops a systematic approach to problem solving by teaching specific techniques and applying new concepts in algebra to real-world applications.</p>
<p>Plane and Solid Geometry</p>	<p>This course introduces students to the foundational principles of geometric and spatial logic and reasoning. Students will explore varied concepts including points, lines, planes, angles, congruence, similarity, triangles, polygons, circles, area, volume, and transformations. Emphasis is placed on logical reasoning, proofs, constructions and the application of geometric principles to real-world problems. Through a combination of hands-on activities, problem-solving, and technology integration, students will develop a strong understanding of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures. This course prepares students for further study in Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-calculus, and Calculus.</p>
<p>Advanced Algebra with Analytic Geometry</p>	<p>An analytical approach to algebraic reasoning, advanced skill building, analytic geometry, trigonometry, and problem solving. Course emphasis will be on building mathematical and critical thinking. Students will master manipulating advanced algebraic expressions and equations, topics in analytic geometry, trigonometry, and applied algebra. Prerequisite: Introductory Algebra, Geometry</p>
<p>Biology and Scientific Thought</p>	<p>An exploration of genetics, ecology, evolution, cell and molecular biology, and classification through research-based practices. Peer-reviewed journal articles will provide a basis for study of the scientific thought that leads to understanding in the life sciences. Personal research will allow students to also make their own contribution to the life sciences.</p>

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Environmental Science & Sustainability	A study of the fundamentals of environmental science in an effort to understand how science informs our efforts to bring about a sustainable society. With a focus on current local issues, field experience, and problem-based assessment, students will contribute to the sustainability efforts that impact their school, local region, and State in a scientifically informed manner.
Physics: Motion, Energy, & Inquiry	An algebra-based, inquiry approach to the understanding of physics. Students will engage in classroom study, in-class activity, and hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory work as they explore concepts of systems, fields, force interactions, change, conservation, and waves. Includes a lab component.
Chemistry & the Nature of Matter	A course designed to establish chemical literacy with in-depth laboratory experiences. Study will focus on the composition and structure of matter along with potential changes that can occur. Emphasis is placed on the skills of formula and equation writing, mathematical problem solving, and critical thinking. Includes a lab component.
<b>Immersion Classes</b> Opportunities for students to explore far beyond the walls of the classroom to develop a well-rounded perspective on their passions, their personal goals, and their role in the larger community.	
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
Health & Wellness Immersion	Students will explore a variety of strategies for maintaining personal wellness and learn from professionals how to maintain a physically, emotionally, and mentally healthy lifestyle. After practicing these strategies, students will identify the tools that are most effective for them, personally, and use those tools to create an individual wellness plan. <i>Students are encouraged to take this course in the 9th-grade year, as it aligns with many ideas explored in American History &amp; American Literature.</i>
Art Immersion	Students will explore art-making in a variety of media as they examine art that surrounds them. Students will explore creative processes, problem-solving, and criticism and have the opportunity to engage with professionals in creative fields to drive ideation, process, and critique. The ideas of perspective, curation, aesthetics, place, and voice will be common themes as students create original works of art, both individually and collectively, as they consider the role of art in society past, present, and future, and continue to forge their own creative voice. <i>Students are encouraged to take this course in the 9th-grade year, as it aligns with many ideas explored in The Hero's Journey Compass Course.</i>
Community Immersion & Systems Thinking	Through systems modeling, students will evaluate the interconnections within and between cornerstone institutions in our community. They will evaluate the feedback loops those connections create and utilize

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	<p>professional systems management tools to bring about positive, local change. Students will engage in discussions with established leaders, go behind-the-scenes at the area's key institutions, enhance their awareness of community challenges, create a lasting network of contacts, and give back to the community with a meaningful group project. <i>Students are encouraged to take this course in the 10th-grade year, as it aligns with many ideas explored in Civics and Literature and Rhetoric.</i></p>
Leadership, Culture, and Community	<p>Society's modern challenges are complex, often reaching to a global scale. Such complexity requires today's leaders to do more than produce reliable outcomes or manage for conformity. Whether guiding small, local teams or vast global corporations, today's leaders are called to be culture builders, creating the context in which challenges can be creatively addressed in a dynamic landscape. In this course you will study research and texts to build background knowledge on the theories of leadership and culture. You will then conduct interviews and personal observations to apply these theories to the context of your community. Finally, you will develop your personal ability to apply these theories as leaders in the shaping of your school's culture.</p>
Spanish 1: The Spoken and Written Word	<p>This is an introductory course to the Spanish language. This course is required for all beginning Spanish students to introduce them to basic Spanish conversational skills as well as basic listening, reading, and writing skills. Students will begin building their Spanish vocabulary and grammar knowledge that will be useful in everyday life experiences. Students acquire some insight into how languages and cultures work by comparing the target language and culture(s) to their own.</p>
Spanish 2: Culture and Communication	<p>Spanish 2 is a continuation of Spanish 1, building upon foundational vocabulary and grammar while further developing the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It emphasizes communication, proficiency, and cultural integration, often incorporating interactive activities and cultural comparisons. Students will delve deeper into verb tenses, including the preterite and imperfect, and explore various real-life scenarios and cultural contexts. Prerequisite: Spanish (A) - The Spoken and Written Word or placement test</p>
Digital Design	<p>In today's world, ideas are shared as much through images, sound, and digital media as they are through words. This course invites students to become thoughtful creators by exploring the foundations of digital design through photography, typography, graphic design, audio and music production, and video production. Students will learn both the artistic principles and technical skills needed to communicate creatively and effectively across a variety of media. Through hands-on projects and collaborative experiences, they will apply their learning in meaningful ways</p>

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	<p>within their other academic courses and throughout the school community. During the second semester, students will have the opportunity to pursue a personal area of interest in greater depth, creating advanced projects while exploring potential certifications and real-world creative pathways.</p>
<p>Digital Marketing, Data Analytics, and Applications</p>	<p>In the last decade, digital technologies have drastically impacted marketing theory and strategy. With these new approaches has come a dramatic increase in the quality and quantity of information available - more than 2.5 quintillion bytes of data are created each day! Held within this data are insights that can provide companies and organizations with the keys to informed marketing strategy. This course will focus on the foundational knowledge of digital marketing strategy and data analytics, including the growing significance of AI. Then, through internship study and personal application projects, the learner will analyze and apply that knowledge to real-world scenarios.</p>
<p>Personal Electives</p>	<p>Students in the 10th through 12th grade can work with an advising staff member to write an elective focused on their personal interests. Apprenticeships and internships can serve as a strong basis for personal electives. All courses must include at least one key text and show connections between the course outcomes and at least three components of the SA Portrait of a Graduate.</p>
<p><b>Compass Classes</b> Compass supports the development of students' wayfinding skills for navigating their personal paths through high school and life.</p>	
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<p>Compass Grade 9: The Hero's Journey</p>	<p>In grade 9, students consider what it means to thrive in one's environment and the role of perspective in the telling of one's story. Students will think deeply about their passions, gifts, and talents. Socratic seminars, reflection journals, and guided discussions will allow students to discover their own epic quest journey.</p>
<p>Compass Grade 10: Self &amp; Society</p>	<p>In grade 10, students consider decision making in the context of community. Students will think deeply about their contribution and connections to the community. Guest speakers, instruction on public speaking, and analysis of social movements will allow students to analyze the intricate ways our community is connected and how they may exert positive influence in their community spaces.</p>
<p>Compass Grade 11: Innovation &amp; Design</p>	<p>Throughout grade 11, students will ask how one "sees" opportunity and intentionally designs for positive outcomes. Students will focus on each of</p>

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	the graduate profile competencies as they stretch their creative and critical thinking to solve local, human-centered challenges.
Compass Grade 12: Perspectives	In grade 12, students revisit perspectives from their freshman year but with the counterbalance between global and personal viewpoints. With an emphasis on leadership and responsibility for the next steps in their life's journey, students will also consider how to maintain their wellness and balance.