

Achievement House  
CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL

# PROGRAM OF STUDIES



Middle States  
Accreditation



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## FOREWORD

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The Achievement House Cyber Charter School Program of Studies is designed to help students and parents/guardians choose, follow, and complete a path to graduation that will prepare students for success beyond high school. This document provides general information, including the policies, procedures and requirements of AHCCS, grades 7-12, and includes descriptions of all of our middle school and high school course offerings.

Our mission is for AHCCS students to experience an improved individual outcome, measured by academic achievement, in a personalized and rich learning environment that prepares them for success in a technology-driven world.

Together as teachers, staff members, and administrators, we strive to consistently improve our instructional practices in order to support student success. We encourage students and parents/guardians to become familiar with the contents of the Program of Studies to provide you with information that supports the successful education provided at AHCCS.

Achievement House offers a robust, balanced curriculum that is designed to meet each student's academic needs. Our highly qualified teachers are directly involved in creating the dynamic, customized curriculum that students access through live, virtual classes and asynchronous online assignments. Teachers are also available to work with students individually. Our helpful staff members are dedicated to providing a positive, engaging educational experience.

In addition to academics, students are encouraged to participate in a variety of clubs, extracurricular activities, and field trips. The combination of our dynamic curriculum and caring teachers is strengthened by close collaboration with parents to create an environment for student success.

**At Achievement House Cyber Charter School, our vision is, “Every student is a VIP:  
Valued as an individual; Inspired to innovate; and Prepared for the future.”**

## **Advanced Placement (AP) Classes**

Advanced Placement, or AP, refers to college-level classes taught according to syllabi prescribed by The College Board Advanced Placement Program and/or to classes designed to prepare students for College Board AP Tests. Success in AP classes can be an important factor in admission to colleges and universities. Successful performance on AP tests (a score of 3, 4, or 5 on a five-point scale) may lead to college credit and/or advanced placement in college classes. AP classes receive appropriate weight when the Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated.

## **Career Classes**

Career classes provide content learning that prepares students for college and/or careers by providing literacy and learning strategies that support students in mastering content. The classes provide a more structured learning environment, increased time spent in review, and reinforcement of major concepts to prepare for assessments and any outside assignments.

## **College Preparatory (CP) Classes**

College Preparatory classes provide rigorous, in-depth study through interpretation, application, analysis and synthesis of class concepts, content and standards. Both live instruction and outside assignments focus on teacher supported, guided practice followed by independent demonstration of learning.

## **Core Classes**

Core classes are offered in the following subject areas: Mathematics, English, Social Studies and Science.

## **Credits**

Credits are earned upon successful completion (passing grade) of a class.

## **Elective Classes**

Elective classes supplement a student's schedule and can be used to earn credits necessary for graduation. These classes will enhance students' educational experiences and allow them to explore possible career interests and college goals.

## **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

A student's Grade Point Average is a calculated average of any final grades they have earned. GPA is adjusted any time a student completes a class.

## **Honors Classes**

Honors classes allow students to explore topics in greater depth than non-honors classes. Honors students will complete projects that enrich their understanding of topics and the links between them. Honors level classes receive appropriate weight when the Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated.

## **Prerequisite**

A prerequisite is a class that a student must complete in order to qualify for entry into another class. Before students can take *Algebra 2*, for example, they must have completed *Algebra 1*. Therefore, *Algebra 1* is a prerequisite for *Algebra 2*.

**Class Selection**

At Achievement House, the important process of class selection begins each spring for the following school year. Students are informed of course offerings through videos, e-mails, and announcements. With the help of their parents, students fill out an online scheduling request. Students have the option to meet with their school counselor to ask questions throughout the scheduling process. Schedules are finalized over the summer by the student’s counselor, who takes into account graduation requirements, teacher input, survey responses, post-high school plans, past grades, and assessment scores. Our staff works hard to create the best academic schedule for our students.

**Grading Scale**

Grade	Percent
A	95-100%
A -	90-94%
B +	86-89%
B	83-85%
B -	80-82%
C +	76-79%
C	73-75%
C -	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	0-59%

*Note: To calculate your final grade, add your quarterly percent totals and divide by 4.*

**Transfer Students**

Final decisions on grade level placement for students transferring into AHCCS during the school year will be based on the previous grade level and the student’s ability to meet the necessary requirements for promotion at the end of the current school year.

## Innovation Academy

This program offers events, workshops, and classes that are hands-on and relevant. Students who participate in this program will gain marketable skills through technology and project-based learning using real world experiences. The program’s tag line, “Fearless Thinking,” encourages students to problem solve, think critically, and explore creatively.

### Entrepreneurship

**Schoolyard Ventures Entrepreneurship Boot Camp:** 0.25 credits — Schoolyard Ventures, offered to Achievement House students, is an innovative program that helps teens launch businesses, non-profits and other real-world projects that are meaningful to them. Students can earn credit by completing all requirements.

**Schoolyard Ventures Entrepreneurship:** 0.75 credits — Schoolyard Ventures, offered to Achievement House students, is an innovative program that helps teens launch businesses, non-profits and other real-world projects that are meaningful to them. Students can earn credit by completing all requirements.

*Prerequisite – Schoolyard Ventures Entrepreneurship Boot Camp*

#### Workshops

Workshops will allow students to explore their interests. These workshops are not for credit.

- Babysitting for Big Bucks
- Batman, Superman, and You: Find Your Own Superpowers
- Be Like Mark Cuban: Act Like an Entrepreneur
- Blogging 101: Create a WordPress Blog
- Build Your Personal Brand
- Can a Paper Airplane Help You Think and Act Faster?
- Creative Brainstorming for Entrepreneurs
- Cut Grass & Make Cash: Start a Landscaping Business
- How Businesses Make Money
- Learn to be on Shark Tank
- Learn to Interview: Make a Good First Impression
- Let It Snow, See Your Wallet Grow: Make \$ Shoveling Snow
- Marketing: How Businesses Get People to Buy Products
- Negotiate! Convince Others to do What You Want
- Rake Leaves, Rake in the Dough
- Search Engine Optimization

### Maker Movement

**3D Printing - Let’s Build It!:** 0.25 credits — This class covers 3D design and printing software, as well as 3D printers. Learn how to create 3D scans, design 3D models, perfect models for print, and more.

**Raspberry Pi - Intro to Robotics:** 0.25 credits — The Raspberry Pi is a low cost, credit card sized computer that uses the Linux operating system. This quarter long, pass/fail course promises hands-on learning as each student receives a Raspberry Pi to work with. Students will learn how to use this device for gaming, word processing, and other electronic projects. Lessons include the basics of the computer language Python and an introduction to robotics.

## Maker Movement (continued)

### *Seminar Classes*

Seminar Classes are interest-based. Speak to your Counselor for credit information.

- CAD: Conceive, Design & 3D Print Your First Project

### *Workshops*

Workshops will allow students to explore their interests. These workshops are not for credit.

- Coasters
- Granola Bars
- Pi Wars Robotics Team
- T-shirt Bags
- Web Research for Startup Businesses
- Who Wants Raspberry Pi: Make Your Own Minecraft Gaming Computer
- Another Slice of Raspberry Pi: Make Your Own Office Suite
- Another Slice of Raspberry Pi: Make Your Own MP3 Player
- Another Slice of Raspberry Pi: Make Your Own Media Center
- Another Slice of Raspberry Pi: Make Your Own Retro Gaming Center
- Another Slice of Raspberry Pi: Make Your Own Smart Alarm Clock

## Academic Departments of Achievement House Cyber Charter School

The following sections contain each content area and the courses offered through that department. Each subsection begins with an introduction to the content area and then a description of the courses offered.

### English and Language Arts Department

#### *Department Requirements:*

Students must complete a core English course. Students are placed into appropriate courses by their guidance counselor.

**Advanced Language Arts 7** — This course is designed to prepare students for honors and AP courses at the high school level. It is aligned to the 7th grade PA Core English Language Arts standards. Students will be challenged to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize author's purpose, points of view, and language development. Students will learn how to effectively write using persuasive, argumentative, expository, and descriptive writing styles. Students will display a mastery of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

**Language Arts 7** — This course is designed to help seventh grade students explore and respond to literature, including fictional and nonfictional novels, poetry, graphic novels, plays, informational texts, and short stories. Students will use the 6 Traits Writing Program to improve their skills and engage in a creative writing unit that will also address mechanics, conventions, and parts of speech.

**Advanced Language Arts 8** — This course is designed to prepare students for honors and AP courses at the high school level. It is aligned to the 8th grade PA Core English Language Arts standards. Students will be challenged to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize author's purpose, points of view, and language development. Students will learn how to effectively write using persuasive, argumentative, expository, and descriptive writing styles. Students will display a mastery of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

### **English and Language Arts Department (continued)**

**Language Arts 8** — This course is designed to help eighth grade students explore and analyze literature, including fictional and nonfictional novels, poetry, graphic novels, plays, informational texts, and short stories. Students will be given the opportunity to master the 6 Traits Writing Program through a variety of engaging writing prompts.

### **English Language Development (ELD)**

Achievement House provides a rigorous, standards-based educational program for English Learners (ELs) of all levels. Our English Learners build and develop their linguistic proficiency in a program that is both intensive and flexible. Identified English Learners attend an ESL (English as a Second Language) course taught by a certified ESL teacher and designed to promote the continual develop of English language reading, speaking, writing and listening skills. Additionally, the ESL department collaborates closely with classroom teachers to ensure that academic curriculum is accessible so that your student can successfully meet standards and make gains in English language proficiency. Bilingual mentors and access one-on-one help sessions further support students, ensuring positive outcomes for our English Learners.

Upon enrolling, non-native English-speaking students are evaluated for placement into the ESL program. Achievement House adheres to the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards and employs the WIDA Screener to accurately determine your student's English language proficiency. If it is determined that your student would benefit from English language development support, an individualized program is implemented to best help your student develop English language proficiency while achieving grade-level content standards.

Three different sections of ESL support the needs of students. Beginning EL (BEL) serves the needs of students in levels 1-2 (Entering and Beginning); Intermediate EL (IEL) serves the needs of students in levels 3-4 (Developing and Expanding); and Advanced EL (AEL) serves the needs of students in level 5 (Bridging). We also offer a highly individualized, intensive Newcomer course so that brand-new English Learners can acquire basic English proficiency for success in school.

Achievement House English Learners can truly achieve the proficiency and literacy to effectively communicate in English, excel in their academic courses, and realize their higher education and professional goals after graduation.

**Beginning EL** — The Beginning EL course introduces identified English Learners to basic vocabulary and linguistic structures that they can put to practice in their content area courses. Students strengthen listening, reading, speaking, and writing proficiency in English. They learn specific language and phrases for real-world situations, as well as for their academic areas of math, science, social studies and language arts. The teacher provides support for students and teaches them tools and strategies to employ as they master the basics of the English language such as identifying the main idea, sequencing events, and sorting fact from opinion. Placement in this class is based on scores on the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Screener and teacher input.

**Intermediate EL** — The Intermediate EL course gives students opportunities to practice and continue to develop their English reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students learn new grammatical structures and apply them in the academic areas of math, science, social studies, language arts, and everyday school situations. Among other skills, students learn how to successfully identify point of view, ask for clarification, describe and expand on topics in writing, solve problems, and express their opinions. Placement in this class is based on scores on the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Screener and teacher input.

**Advanced EL** — The Advanced EL course encourages students to continue to refine their English language proficiency. Students learn highly specialized and technical content-area language that they can apply directly to their content-area courses. They practice using a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse such as stories, essays and reports. Other skills students continue to hone and develop include providing text evidence to support a position, identifying cause and effect, examining bias in writing, and supporting their opinions with examples. Placement in this class is based on scores on the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Screener and teacher input.

### Mathematics Department

*Department Requirements:*

Students must complete a core Mathematics course each year. Students are placed into appropriate courses by their guidance counselor.

**Advanced Math 7** — This course is designed to prepare students for honors and AP courses at the high school level. It is aligned to the PA Core standards to prepare students for the 7th grade PSSA. It is designed to equip students for an Algebra course in their future coursework. Students will use algebraic expressions, real numbers, proportions, percents, equations, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and probability to solve real world problems.

**Math 7** — This course is aligned to the PA Core standards to prepare students for the 7th grade PSSA. It is designed to equip students with a mastery of the standards and prepare them to meet success. Students will authentically apply their learning towards solving problems involving algebraic expressions, real numbers, proportions, percents, equations, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and probability to solve real world problems.

**Advanced Math 8** — This course is aligned to the PA Core standards to prepare students for the 8th grade PSSA. It is designed to equip students to take Algebra in their future coursework. Students will authentically apply their learning towards solving problems involving linear equations (including systems) and inequalities, applications of radicals and exponents, geometric transformations, data analysis, and real world geometry.

**Math 8** — This course is aligned to the PA Core standards to prepare students for the 8th grade PSSA, as well . It is designed to equip students with a mastery of the standards and prepare them to meet success. Students will authentically apply their learning towards solving problems involving linear equations (including systems) and inequalities, applications of radicals and exponents, geometric transformations, data analysis, and real world geometry.

## Mathematics Department (continued)

**Honors Algebra 1 - X Marks the Spot:** 1 credit — In this Pennsylvania Algebra 1 Keystone exam aligned course, students will be introduced to linear equations and inequalities in one variable, ratio and proportion, operations with radicals and radical functions and exponents and exponential functions. The class will conclude with the study of linear and quadratic functions, linear models and graphs of linear equations and inequalities. Students enrolled in this class are required to take the physically proctored Pennsylvania Algebra 1 Keystone exam at the conclusion of the class.

*Prerequisite – A score of Advanced on PSSAs and recommendation from guidance counselor*

## Science Department

*Department Requirements:*

Students must complete a core Science course each year. Students are placed in appropriate courses by their guidance counselor.

**Advanced Science 7** — This course is designed to prepare students for honors and AP courses at the high school level. It is aligned to the PA standards. Students will be challenged to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize informational text, as well as various theories of science. Further, this course will introduce students to fundamental science principles in the fields of biological, physical, and earth and space sciences. Topics covered will include structure and function of organisms, ecology, matter and energy, motion and force, earth features, weather and climate, and astronomy.

**Science 7** — This course will introduce students to fundamental science principles in the fields of biological, physical, and earth and space sciences. Topics covered will include structure and function of organisms, ecology, matter and energy, motion and force, earth features, weather and climate, and astronomy.

**Advanced Science 8** — This course is designed to prepare students for honors and AP courses at the high school level. It is aligned to the PA science standards. Students will be challenged to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize informational text, as well as various theories of science. Further, this course is designed to support and reinforce mastery of the concepts in the fields of biological, physical, and earth and space sciences, with special focus on the nature of science. Topics include structure and function of organisms, ecological behavior and systems, properties of matter, energy transfer, principles of motion and force, atmospheric processes, and composition and structure of the universe. This course will prepare students to take the 8th grade PSSA.

**Science 8** — This course is designed to support and reinforce mastery of the concepts in the fields of biological, physical, and earth and space sciences, with special focus on the nature of science. Topics include structure and function of organisms, ecological behavior and systems, properties of matter, energy transfer, principles of motion and force, atmospheric processes, and composition and structure of the universe.

## Social Studies Department

### *Department Requirements:*

Students must complete a core Social Studies course each year. Students are placed in appropriate courses by their guidance counselor.

**Advanced Geography and Cultures 7** — This course is designed to prepare students for honors and AP courses at the high school level. It is aligned to the PA standards. Students will be challenged to understand and evaluate the impact of physical and human characteristics upon places and regions. Further, students will understand, analyze, and evaluate the interactions between people and the environment.

**Geography and Cultures 7** — This course gives an overview of multiple topics in world history. Students will get a broad understanding of geography, early civilizations, ancient religions, and Egyptian and Roman history among other topics.

**Advanced American History 8** — This course is designed to prepare students for honors and AP courses at the high school level. It is aligned to the PA standards. Students will be challenged to interpret, evaluate, and analyze the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development of the United States. Students will compare historical documents and artifacts, which are critical to American history. In addition, students will analyze how continuity and change have impacted the development of the United States. Lastly, students will interpret, evaluate, and analyze how conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations impacted the growth and development of the United States.

**American History 8** — This course will guide students through the first half of American history with a special focus on Pennsylvania history. Beginning with the very first people to reach North America and ending around 1900, students will explore a diverse array of historical topics including Native American settlement; colonization; the American Revolution; the founding of the United States; and the Civil War.

## Special Subjects/Electives Department

**Career Readiness 7 and Career Readiness 8** — These courses introduce students to the building blocks necessary to select and prepare for a career. By the end of 8th grade students will complete a career plan. Using the career exploration system, Naviance, students explore their interests and abilities, identify career options, and work to develop a high school and college/career plan. Various topics are introduced, including effective speaking and listening skills, cover letters and resumes, and social networking. Students will also create a career portfolio. The Career Readiness curriculum aligns with the Pennsylvania Department of Education Career Education Standards which include:

- Career Awareness and Preparation
- Career Acquisition (Getting a Job)
- Career Retention and Advancement
- Entrepreneurship

## Special Subjects/Electives Department (continued)

**Electives 7** — This course is a combination of Art, Family and Consumer Science, and Music. Art topics include the fundamentals of the elements of art and composition, as well as form, balance, and symmetry. Students will create a variety of art projects using dry media. An introduction to watercolor painting will also be given. The Family and Consumer Science unit will help students improve their ability to solve problems, make decisions, and use resources available to them. Music topics include the basic elements of music and how they relate to music in society. Students will explore areas in music instruments, music ensembles, meaning in music, music history, and popular music in America. Critical listening skills will be used to evaluate musical performances in both classical and popular musical genres.

**Electives 8** — This course is a combination of Art, Family and Consumer Science, and Music. Art topics include the principles of design. Students will learn about shape, pattern, and perspective with an emphasis on drawing with elements of creative writing. The Family and Consumer Science unit will teach students about things that affect the food you eat, how food affects people differently, and how to plan and prepare quality meals for yourself and your family. Music topics include how music is used as a form of communication. The main objective is for students to analyze, connect, and comprehend music on multiple levels and continue to develop critical listening skills. Students will examine how musical styles have evolved as part of American Culture. Students will study the art forms of jazz, musical theatre, and film to understand how music is used as a tool to enhance an artist's message. Students will also learn about music technology of the past and present and compose their own song.

**Health/Physical Education 7** — In this course, students will complete Health and Physical Education assignments on alternating weeks. They will cover topics such as nutrition, dealing with stress and conflict, the dangers of addiction and disease, and safety.

**Health/Physical Education 8** — In this course, students will complete Health and Physical Education assignments on alternating weeks. They will cover topics such as drugs and alcohol, self-esteem and body image, mental and emotional health, among other topics.

## Technology Department

**STEM Project Lead the Way (PLTW)** — PLTW prepares students to be innovative and productive leaders in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Through an engaging, hands-on curriculum, PLTW encourages the development of problem-solving skills, creative and innovative reasoning, and a love of learning. Prerequisite: Students must commit to regular live class attendance and receive guidance counselor recommendation.

## Independent Study Department

**Language Learning** – Completion of a level is equal to one academic credit. Students must be have at least a B in all courses and receive approval from their guidance counselor in order to enroll in an independent language course. Please contact your school counselor if you are interested in taking a language that is not listed below.

- Arabic
- Mandarin Chinese
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hebrew
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin
- Spanish

## Class Selection

At Achievement House, the important process of class selection begins each spring for the following school year. Students are informed of course offerings through videos, e-mails, and announcements. With the help of their parents, students fill out an online scheduling request. Students have the option to meet with their school counselor to ask questions throughout the scheduling process. Schedules are finalized over the summer by the student's counselor, who takes into account graduation requirements, teacher input, survey responses, post-high school plans, past grades, and assessment scores. Our staff works hard to create the best academic schedule for our students.

## Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	General Class GPA	Honors Class GPA	AP Class GPA
A	95-100%	4.0	4.4	5.0
A -	90-94%	3.7	4.1	4.6
B +	86-89%	3.3	3.6	4.1
B	83-85%	3.0	3.3	3.8
B -	80-82%	2.7	3.0	3.4
C +	76-79%	2.3	2.5	2.9
C	73-75%	2.0	2.2	2.5
C -	70-72%	1.7	1.9	2.1
D+	67-69%	1.3	1.4	1.6
D	60-66%	1.0	1.1	1.3
F	0-59%	0.0	0.0	0.0

*Note: To calculate your final grade, add your quarterly percent totals and divide by 4.*

## Graduation Requirements

Students must successfully complete 21.0 cumulative credits in grades 9-12 as follows:

- 4.0 credits in English to include 1 class in Literature and an English course to be taken each school year
- 3.0 credits in Mathematics to include 1 class in Algebra
- 3.0 credits in Science to include 1 class in Biology
- 3.0 credits in Social Studies to include 1 class in Civics (or Government)
- 1.0 credit in Health and Physical Education, to include Health (Wellness), and a PE class to be taken each school year.
- 2.0 credits in Arts and Humanities
- 5.0 credits in electives to include 0.25 credits in Graduation Project. Any class that has not been counted to fulfill other graduation requirements as indicated in this booklet shall also satisfy this requirement. Two credits in the Innovation Academy are highly encouraged, but not required.
- 21.0 total credits

## Leveling

At Achievement House, we offer students an academic program that is both challenging and innovative, but one that also allows them to progress and learn no matter what their academic background.

Students at our school are offered choices when it comes to the level of rigor they would like to experience in their core classes. Students can choose from the AP or Honors level, to College Prep for those planning to apply to a college program. We also have the “Career” level for those students looking to head immediately into the workforce upon graduation.

## NCAA Approved Classes

- Algebra 1 (H, CP)
- Algebra 2 (H, CP)
- American Literature (H, CP)
- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Statistics
- AP U.S. Government and Politics
- Biology (H, CP)
- Calculus (H, CP)
- Chemistry (H, CP)
- Civics (H, CP)
- Geometry (H, CP)
- Global Literature (H, CP)
- Literature and Composition 1 (H, CP)
- Literature and Composition 2 (H, CP)
- Modern World History (H, CP)
- Physics (H, CP)
- Pre-Calculus (H, CP)
- U.S. History (H, CP)

## National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) is one of the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school students. Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible for NHS:

- Minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA at time of application. Students are expected to maintain this GPA while they are members.
- Demonstration of excellence in leadership, service, scholarship and character which will be determined by a faculty council of 5 members. Students should participate in leadership and service opportunities in the classroom or in their community.
- Submission of a 1 page essay about themselves, in addition to the application and two teacher recommendations.

Transfer students who were NHS members in their previous school may send a picture of their pin and membership card to the AHCCS advisor to become part of our chapter.

## Path to Promotion Program

This program allows students to earn double credits in the areas of Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies, giving them the opportunity to “catch up” to their graduating class. Students in the program are assigned supplemental work in each class which is designed to meet their academic needs, and earn them additional credit.

## Promotion Requirements

Promotion from one grade to the next is based upon credits earned. Credits earned through summer programs may be acceptable if approved in advance by a school counselor. Parents will be informed following the fourth quarter report card whether or not a student has advanced or been retained. The promotion of a high school student is determined by cumulative credits earned. To be promoted, students must meet the minimum credit requirements, as confirmed by their counselor. Those requirements are as follows:

- Grade 9 to 10: Students must have earned at least 3.0 cumulative credits, to include 2.0 core course credits.
- Grade 10 to 11: Students must have earned at least 9.0 cumulative credits.
- Grade 11 to 12: Students must have earned at least 15.0 cumulative credits.

At all times, students in grades 9-11 must maintain a course schedule with sufficient credits to be eligible for promotion to the next grade. Students in grade 12 must maintain a course schedule with sufficient credits to qualify for June graduation (unless otherwise indicated in a student's Individualized Education Program). Students may not choose to repeat core academic courses that have been previously completed with a passing grade if doing so creates an inability to earn sufficient credits to achieve annual promotion or graduation.

## Schedule Changes

Students may add, drop, or change classes during the first 3 weeks of joining the class. After that point, regardless of whether or not a class is required for graduation, students cannot drop a class (unless approved by the principal). Additionally, students may not drop a required class if an alternative is not available.

## Summer School

Summer school is offered to AHCCS high school students in all four core subject areas: English, math, science, and social studies. There is a fee for summer school classes. Students are eligible to receive up to two summer school credits per summer.

## Transfer Students

**Grade Placement:** Final decisions on grade level placement for students transferring into AHCCS during the school year will be based on the previous grade level and the student's ability to meet the necessary requirements for promotion or graduation at the end of the current school year.

**Required Classes:** Credit acceptance for students transferring into AHCCS will be granted for applicable classes. Completed classes required for graduation will be accepted for students transferring to AHCCS.

## Work Study Program

This program is designed to allow students to earn elective credit for participating in a weekly paid position or a non-paid internship.

**Work-Study:** 0.5 credits per quarter, 2 elective credits total – This class will provide students a framework with which to develop their work and career readiness skills. Students who have found paid employment, and who can work a minimum of 60 hours per 9 week quarterly period, will have the opportunity to earn .5 credits per quarter. Students will be responsible for weekly check-ins with their teacher, (to include adequate progress on their quarterly grade sheet), criteria based on a quarterly assessment (rubric will be provided), and a final presentation of their experience. Students must maintain a passing GPA in their core classes and appropriate school attendance, quarterly, to be eligible to remain in the program for the next quarterly period.\*

*Prerequisite – Students must be in at least the 10th grade or 16 years of age.\**

\*Students with an Individualized Educational Program should contact their Learning Support teacher for alternative eligibility, prerequisite, and requirements.

## Innovation Academy

This program offers events, workshops, and classes that are hands-on and relevant. Students who participate in this program will gain marketable skills through technology and project-based learning using real world experiences. The program's tag line, "Fearless Thinking," encourages students to problem solve, think critically, and explore creatively. The three branches of the Innovation Academy are Computer Science, Entrepreneurship, and Maker Movement.

### Computer Science

**\*AP Computer Science A:** 1 credit — This class is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level class in computer science. It introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The class emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using Java language.

## Computer Science (continued)

**Graphic Design - Logos, Letterheads, and Lots More!**: 0.5 credits — This class will focus on the basics of combining text with images to create things such as advertisements or book and album covers. Advertising techniques as well as the power of visual communication will be reviewed.

**Intro to Computer Programming and App Development - Coding 101**: 0.5 credits — This class focuses on learning the fundamentals of the JavaScript programming language and culminates in the student development of an interactive app.

**Intro to Computer Science/IC3 Exam Prep**: 1 credit — This class will cover computing fundamentals, applications, and communications & networks, and will prepare students to take the IC3 certification exam.

**Microsoft® IT Academy - Excel 2013**: 0.5 credits — In this class, students will learn the essentials of creating spreadsheets. Some of the topics covered include creating and saving workbooks; creating and managing large workbooks, tables, and charts; using formulas and basic functions and formatting text; and sharing and protecting spreadsheets and working with templates, among various other topics.

**Microsoft® IT Academy - PowerPoint 2013**: 0.5 credits — In this class, students will discover how to create and edit presentations. Some of the topics covered include inserting and modifying clip art; formatting and proofing presentation text; and creating a custom layout for slides, among various other topics.

**Microsoft® IT Academy - Word 2013**: 0.5 credits — In this class, students will learn the essentials of Microsoft® Word. Topics covered include creating, navigating, and saving documents; checking spelling and grammar; adding graphics and clip art and inserting hyperlinks and WordArt; and working with outlines, columns, tables, diagrams, and drawing tools, among various other topics.

**Microsoft® IT Academy - Software Development Fundamentals**: 0.5 credits — This class provides an overview of the concepts that will be covered on the Microsoft IT Academy Exam 98-361: Software Development Fundamentals. The content is introductory level and helps students understand the various aspects of software development.

*Prerequisite – Intro to Computer Science*

**Microsoft® IT Academy - HTML5 App Development Fundamentals**: 0.5 credits — This class provides an introduction to help you learn HTML5. Students will explore the application life cycle, building the user interface, and CSS essentials, including managing text flow and managing the graphical interface by using CSS, JavaScript, and coding essentials. Students will also learn about creating animations, graphics, accessing data, and JavaScript coding for the touch interface.

**Microsoft® Office Basics**: 0.5 credits — This class will teach students the basic skills of Microsoft® Office products, including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Outlook. By the end of the class, students will be able to create documents, presentations, spreadsheets, and use e-mail effectively.

## Computer Science (continued)

**Web Development - Design Your Website:** 0.5 credits — This class introduces students to basic web design using HTML and CSS. Students will create basic web pages and enhance them using text formatting, color, graphics, images, and multimedia.

### *Seminar Classes*

Seminar Classes are interest-based. Speak to your Counselor for credit information.

- Intro to Adobe InDesign
- Intro to Adobe Photoshop
- Python: Automate Everything

## Entrepreneurship

**Schoolyard Ventures Entrepreneurship Boot Camp:** 0.25 credits — Schoolyard Ventures, offered to Achievement House students, is an innovative program that helps teens launch businesses, non-profits and other real-world projects that are meaningful to them. Students can earn credit by completing all requirements.

**Schoolyard Ventures Entrepreneurship:** 0.75 credits — Schoolyard Ventures, offered to Achievement House students, is an innovative program that helps teens launch businesses, non-profits and other real-world projects that are meaningful to them. Students can earn credit by completing all requirements.

*Prerequisite – Schoolyard Ventures Entrepreneurship Boot Camp*

### *Workshops*

Workshops will allow students to explore their interests. These workshops are not for credit.

- Babysitting for Big Bucks
- Batman, Superman, and You: Find Your Own Superpowers
- Be Like Mark Cuban: Act Like an Entrepreneur
- Blogging 101: Create a WordPress Blog
- Build Your Personal Brand
- Can a Paper Airplane Help You Think and Act Faster?
- Creative Brainstorming for Entrepreneurs
- Cut Grass & Make Cash: Start a Landscaping Business
- How Businesses Make Money
- Learn to be on Shark Tank
- Learn to Interview: Make a Good First Impression
- Let It Snow, See Your Wallet Grow: Make \$ Shoveling Snow
- Marketing: How to Get People to Buy Products
- Negotiate! Convince Others to do What You Want
- Rake Leaves, Rake in the Dough
- Search Engine Optimization

## Maker Movement

**3D Printing - Let's Build It!:** 0.25 credits — This class covers 3D design and printing software, as well as 3D printers. Learn how to create 3D scans, design 3D models, perfect models for print, and more.

**Raspberry Pi - Intro to Robotics:** 0.25 credits — The Raspberry Pi is a low cost, credit card sized computer that uses the Linux operating system. This quarter long, pass/fail course promises hands-on learning as each student receives a Raspberry Pi to work with. Course instruction will show students how to use this device for gaming, word processing, and other electronic projects. Lessons include the basics of the computer language Python and an introduction to robotics.

### *Seminar Classes*

Seminar Classes are interest-based. Speak to your Counselor for credit information.

- CAD: Conceive, Design & 3D Print Your First Project

### *Workshops*

Workshops will allow students to explore their interests. These workshops are not for credit.

- Coasters
- Granola Bars
- Pi Wars Robotics Team
- T-shirt Bags
- Web Research for Startup Businesses
- Who Wants Raspberry Pi: Make Your Own Minecraft Gaming Computer
- Another Slice of Raspberry Pi: Make Your Own Office Suite

## Academic Departments of Achievement House Cyber Charter School

As a public school, AHCCS has an outstanding staff that is directly involved in developing our customized curriculum and teaching live classes. As a cyber school, Achievement House partners with other online education resources to offer students an incredible range of classes that supplement and complement the AHCCS classes. This section of the booklet includes classes taught by AHCCS teachers as well as classes offered through our Independent Study Department.

### Arts and Humanities Department

These classes that study human culture and history as they apply to the visual and performing arts. Subjects of study include Art, Music, and Film. Students will find an appreciation of the arts and humanities in cultures around the world.

#### *Department Requirements:*

Students are required to complete 2 credits in Arts and Humanities during grades 9-12.

**21st Century Writing - Not Your Parents' Comp Class:** 0.5 credits — Complete class description can be found in the English Department section of this program.

### **Arts and Humanities Department (continued)**

**American Music:** 0.5 credits — This course will focus on the music created in America from the founding of our country to today. Students will learn about music in the early days of America and travel through time exploring many different genres. The class will focus mainly on jazz and rock and roll, but will also investigate the blues, musical theatre, film scores, and the music of today.

**Art 1 - Forms and Figures:** 0.5 credits — In this class students will focus on learning how to draw using elements and principles of design. Students will learn about art history and a variety of approaches to drawing. Form and value will be discovered using gesture and contour drawing, value studies of 3D forms, and still life paintings. Students will explore composition and figure/portrait development.

**Art 2 - Express Yourself:** 0.5 credits — In this class, students will create a variety of art projects using the elements and principles of design. Projects will be based on various periods from Art history including Surrealism, pop art, and cultural art studies. Projects aim to help develop individual self-expression and style. *Prerequisite – Art 1 - Forms and Figures*

**Child Development and Parenting - From Pampers to Pre-School:** 0.5 credits — Studying children helps an individual understand the importance of personal development, the developmental processes of children, and careers in the childcare/educational field. By understanding how an child develops intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically, students are empowered to make choices for themselves and others to optimize their quality of life. Students taking this class will also learn about the role of a parent and how to build self-esteem within the family.

**Creative Writing - America's Next Top Author:** 0.5 credits — Complete class description can be found in the English Department section of this program.

**Digital Photography - Picture Perfect:** 0.5 credits — This class will provide an introduction to the concepts, design principles, skill sets and techniques of photography. Students will learn about the capabilities and functions of the camera; dissect art elements and principles; and explore each one closely in an effort to understand photographic composition. Students will also learn how to edit and manipulate photographic images.

**Graphic Design - Logos, Letterheads, and Lots More!:** 0.5 credits — Complete class description can be found in the Innovation Academy section of this program.

**Graphic Novels - It's Not Just Comics Anymore:** 0.5 credits — Complete class description can be found in the English Department section of this program.

**HS Family and Consumer Science - Adulting 101:** 0.5 credits — This class is designed to provide students with basic information and skills needed to function effectively within the family as well as a changing, complex society. Emphasis is placed on the principles of meal management and preparation.

## Arts and Humanities Department (continued)

**Independent Art:** 0.5 credits — Students will work collaboratively with teachers to design projects that are independently approved and relate to Art. Student evaluations will be conducted by the teacher upon completion of the class to determine whether class goals and objectives were met and award credit.

**Independent Family and Consumer Sciences:** 0.5 credits — Students will work collaboratively with teachers to design projects that are independently approved and relate to Family and Consumer Sciences. Student evaluations will be conducted by the teacher upon completion of the class to determine whether class goals and objectives were met and award credit.

**Independent Music:** 0.5 credits — Students will work collaboratively with teachers to design projects that are independently approved and relate to Music. Student evaluations will be conducted by the teacher upon completion of the class to determine whether class goals and objectives were met and award credit.

**Music Appreciation - Bach to Blues, the Evolution of Music:** 0.5 credits — This course is designed to expose students to the elements of music and the primary musical periods of traditional Western European classical music as well as World Music. Students will learn the basics of music reading, study a variety of composers and musicians, and listen to a variety of musical examples. Students will experience the music of many different cultures around the world.

**Reading Hollywood - From Page to Screen:** 0.5 credits — Complete class description can be found in the English Department section of this program.

## Career and College Readiness Department

This department allows students to explore who they are, what is important to them, and what they would like to do. These classes allow students to develop the tools they need to create the kind of life they want. Classes marked (\*) meet the graduation requirement for this department.

**Career Studies 9/10/11:** 0.25 credits — These courses introduce students to the building blocks necessary to select and prepare for a career. Students explore their interests and abilities, identify career options, and work to develop a high school and college/career plan. Various topics are introduced, including effective speaking and listening skills, cover letters and resumes, and social networking. Students will also create a career portfolio.

**\*Graduation Project 10/11:** 0.25 credits — The graduation project is the culmination of knowledge, skills, and experience achieved throughout a student's high school career. The complete project will be presented to the Graduation Project Advisor who will ensure that all specific project requirements have been completed as mandated by the state and assign a presentation date. The graduation project must be completed in order to fulfill student graduation requirements. Students entering grades 10 and 11 may choose to complete their Graduation Project requirement by doing a career-based project. Completing the career-based project in 10th or 11th grade will mean not having to take the Graduation Project 12 course to complete it during the senior year.

**\*Graduation Project 12:** 0.25 credits — The graduation project is the culmination of knowledge, skills, and experience achieved throughout a student’s high school career. The complete project will be presented to the Graduation Project Advisor who will ensure that all specific project requirements have been completed as mandated by the state and assign a presentation date. The graduation project must be completed in order to fulfill student graduation requirements.

**Your Path to College 9/10/11/12:** 0.5 credits — These asynchronous classes are designed for students who are interested in and plan to apply to a college program. A 2.0 or higher GPA is recommended, but not required. Students will use a program called OnTrack, which will provide them with online videos each week on how to succeed in high school, find the right college, and how to pay for it.

### English and Language Arts Department

The English and Language Arts Department offers a variety of classes that provide a strong foundation in writing and literature while assuring that students possess skills necessary to succeed personally, academically, and professionally today and in the future. The content of each class is aligned with Pennsylvania Academic Standards and Common Core for reading, writing, listening, and speaking, and is designed to foster the unique creativity of each student and develop critical thinkers.

#### *Department Requirements:*

Students are required to complete 4.0 credits in English, to include 1 class in Literature and an English class to be taken each school year, during grades 9-12. Students are placed in appropriate classes by their school counselor. Classes marked (\*) meet the graduation requirement for this department.

#### *Core Classes:*

**AP English Language and Composition:** 1 credit — This class will model college-level composition classes with an emphasis on expository, analytical, argumentative, personal and reflective writing on a variety of subjects. Students will learn to write effectively through rhetorical choices appropriate to audience, message, and medium. Teacher and peer writing feedback and revisions will be a large component of the class. There will be an emphasis on vocabulary/diction, grammatical conventions, organization, and effective use of tone and voice to achieve desired goals of the compositions. The ultimate goal of the class is to prepare for the College Board AP English Language and Composition exam, which, with a qualifying score, can earn students college credit in English Composition at many post-secondary institutions.

**AP English Literature and Composition:** 1 credit — This highly advanced class engages students in the critical analysis of fiction. Students will study representative works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. Critical analysis of literary works will include both social and historical perspectives so that students can reflect on multiple interpretations of literature. Students are strongly encouraged to read Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* over the summer months. The ultimate goal of the class is to prepare for the College Board AP English Literature and Composition exam, which, with a qualifying score, can earn students college credit in English Composition at many post-secondary institutions.

## English and Language Arts Department (continued)

**American Literature - Made in the USA, Read, Write, and Blue:** 1 credit — This class will offer an in-depth study of the American experience through a rich variety of literature from Native American writings to modern novels. Students will learn about the major writers and time periods, as well as the various periods of American literature and the ideas that shaped the writing of those times. Students will be challenged to study how various genres of writing and speaking transformed over time as America grew and cities were built. Students will learn to understand authors in relation to their historical settings; gather biographical information; and write literary essays, research papers, and personal responses. Available Sections: Honors, CP

**English in the Workplace:** 1 credit — This class is designed to help seniors develop practical reading and writing skills for the workplace. Areas of focus include author's perspective and craft choices in career- and goal-oriented fiction writing, structures of informational nonfiction writing, verbal and written communication, and persuasive writing. We will explore how literature can help students make personal and career choices, and we will practice sharing information from research with others in an engaging way. Students will construct a personalized resume and cover letter. The capstone of the class will be the development of a business proposal that solves a problem or meets a need selected by the student.

**English Survey 9:** 1 credit — This course is designed to develop student understanding of fictional works. Students will explore narrative structure and the impact that narrative elements have on not only the text but the reader as well. Students will study universal themes in literature and will learn to compare texts.

**English Survey 10:** 1 credit — This course will expose students to both fiction and nonfiction works. Through study of nonfiction, students will explore the ways in which literature serves as a vehicle for social change. A study of the genre of drama will allow students to consider questions of personal destiny and the corruption of power.

**Literature Survey 11:** 1 credit — This course is designed to prepare students for the Literature Keystone Exam. Students will study word skills, vocabulary acquisition, narrative structures, figurative language, as well as dramatic and poetic elements. Students will develop constructed response skills.

**Global Literature - Around the World in 180 Days:** 1 credit — Experience the cultures of the world through fiction, poetry, and memoirs. Throughout the year students will read works from Africa, Japan, China, India, Latin America, and the Middle East to compare cultural perceptions of love and marriage, childhood, careers, and justice. Available Sections: Honors, CP

**Literature and Composition 1 - From Prose to Poetry:** 1 credit — This class will introduce students to a variety of reading and writing skills that will help them to become familiar with literary terms, text structures, and reading strategies. They will learn how to develop their writing in response to the literature using narratives, argument writing, and informational writing. Students will read texts that will include short stories, poems, nonfiction texts, and drama. Students will begin to prepare for the Literature Keystone exam in this class. Available Sections: Honors, CP, Career

## English and Language Arts Department (continued)

**\*Literature and Composition 2 - Fact or Fiction:** 1 credit — This class is a continuation of *Literature and Composition 1* as students finish preparing for the Literature Keystone exam in the Spring. Students will read novels as well as online texts to show mastery of literature standards for fiction and nonfiction. They will be able to apply critical reading and thinking skills to help analyze and evaluate texts. They will continue to develop writing skills in response to the literature.

*Prerequisite – Literature and Composition 1 - From Prose to Poetry*

Available Sections: Honors, CP, Career

**Reading and Writing Fundamentals - Language Arts Basic Training:** 1 credit — This class is designed around the pillars of literacy. It prioritizes reading fluency, reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and written expression. The class actively monitors a student's progression as a reader and as a writer.

*Electives:*

**21st Century Writing - Not Your Parents' Comp Class:** 0.5 credits — Students will learn about the best ways to communicate in our digital world in order to share their thoughts and ideas. Short modern novels will be read and discussed. Students will be expected to respond using a variety of online media, such as blogs, forums, discussion boards, and images.

**Creative Writing - America's Next Top Author:** 0.5 credits — In this writing-intensive class, students will be introduced to the major genres of writing, including nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and drama. Through lessons, class discussions, and selected readings, students will learn about the elements of good writing. Students will build a variety of writing techniques and skills through both short- and long-term writing assignments.

**Graphic Novels - It's Not Just Comics Anymore:** 0.5 credits — This asynchronous class will look at fictional and non-fictional storytelling techniques, both written and visual, as well as how this genre influences modern media. Works will include memoirs, interpretative history, and more conventional fiction.

**Reading Hollywood - From Script to Screen:** 0.5 credits — This class is a literature class exploring the relationship between print and screen, using literary criticism to examine authors' purpose in narrative and the cultural interpretation as it is transformed into an alternative media.

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

## English and Language Arts Course Sequences

To determine the most appropriate course for the upcoming school year, identify your current grade across the top, and look down that column until you find the course in which you are currently enrolled (or the closest equivalent). Then look to the right for the next courses in the sequence. Common course sequences with options are presented. Projected course and level offerings are subject to change depending on student needs and enrollment trends. For further assistance, please contact your school counselor.

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Honors Literature and Composition 1	Honors Literature and Composition 2	AP Literature and Composition	AP Language and Composition
		Honors American Literature	Honors Global Literature
CP Literature and Composition 1	CP Literature and Composition 2	CP American Literature	CP Global Literature
Career Literature and Composition 1	Career Literature and Composition 2	Career American Literature, OR Reading and Writing Fundamentals	Career Global Literature, English in the Workplace, OR Elective(s)
English Survey 9	English Survey 10	Literature Survey 11	Reading and Writing Fundamentals OR English in the Workplace

### **English Language Development (ELD)**

Achievement House provides a rigorous, standards-based educational program for English Learners (ELs) of all levels. Our English Learners build and develop their linguistic proficiency in a program that is both intensive and flexible. Identified English Learners attend an ESL (English as a Second Language) course taught by a certified ESL teacher and designed to promote the continual develop of English language reading, speaking, writing and listening skills. Additionally, the ESL department collaborates closely with classroom teachers to ensure that academic curriculum is accessible so that your student can successfully meet standards and make gains in English language proficiency. Bilingual mentors and access one-on-one help sessions further support students, ensuring positive outcomes for our English Learners.

Upon enrolling, non-native English-speaking students are evaluated for placement into the ESL program. Achievement House adheres to the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards and employs the WIDA Screener to accurately determine your student's English language proficiency. If it is determined that your student would benefit from English language development support, an individualized program is implemented to best help your student develop English language proficiency while achieving grade-level content standards.

Three different sections of ESL support the needs of students. Beginning EL (BEL) serves the needs of students in levels 1-2 (Entering and Beginning); Intermediate EL (IEL) serves the needs of students in levels 3-4 (Developing and Expanding); and Advanced EL (AEL) serves the needs of students in level 5 (Bridging). We also offer a highly individualized, intensive Newcomer course so that brand-new English Learners can acquire basic English proficiency for success in school.

Achievement House English Learners can truly achieve the proficiency and literacy to effectively communicate in English, excel in their academic courses, and realize their higher education and professional goals after graduation.

**Beginning EL** — The Beginning EL course introduces identified English Learners to basic vocabulary and linguistic structures that they can put to practice in their content area courses. Students strengthen listening, reading, speaking, and writing proficiency in English. They learn specific language and phrases for real-world situations, as well as for their academic areas of math, science, social studies and language arts. The teacher provides support for students and teaches them tools and strategies to employ as they master the basics of the English language such as identifying the main idea, sequencing events, and sorting fact from opinion. Placement in this class is based on scores on the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Screener and teacher input.

**Intermediate EL** — The Intermediate EL course gives students opportunities to practice and continue to develop their English reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students learn new grammatical structures and apply them in the academic areas of math, science, social studies, language arts, and everyday school situations. Among other skills, students learn how to successfully identify point of view, ask for clarification, describe and expand on topics in writing, solve problems, and express their opinions. Placement in this class is based on scores on the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Screener and teacher input.

**Advanced EL** — The Advanced EL course encourages students to continue to refine their English language proficiency. Students learn highly specialized and technical content-area language that they can apply directly to their content-area courses. They practice using a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse such as stories, essays and reports. Other skills students continue to hone and develop include providing text evidence to support a position, identifying cause and effect, examining bias in writing, and supporting their opinions with examples. Placement in this class is based on scores on the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Screener and teacher input.

### **Health and Physical Education Department**

The primary goal of the Health and Physical Education Department is for students to develop the attitudes, knowledge and skills needed to attain and maintain fitness and wellness throughout a lifetime.

#### *Department Requirements:*

Students are required to complete 1.0 credit in Health/Physical Education, to include Health (Wellness) and a PE class to be taken each school year. Physical Education classes do not need to be taken consecutively.

#### *Core Classes:*

**Fitness/Wellness - Witness the Fitness:** 0.5 credits — In this class, students are provided with instruction and practice in the ten health skills: communication, refusal skills, conflict resolution, accessing information, analyzing influences, practicing healthful behaviors, stress management, decision making, advocacy, and goal setting. Studies show that regular physical activity is essential to good health and wellness. Students will learn basic fitness terminology, as well as how physical activity benefits both the body and mind.

**Independent Physical Education:** 0.5 credits — Students will work collaboratively with teachers to design projects that are independently approved and relate to Physical Education. Student evaluations will be conducted by the teacher upon completion of the class to determine whether class goals and objectives were met and award credit.

**Physical Education 1 - Lifetime Activities:** 0.25 credits — In this class, students will learn to make informed decisions that will assist them both now and in the future. Class work has been developed using scientific evidence that has shown regular physical activity is essential to good health and wellness. Students will learn basic fitness terminology as well as how physical activity benefits both the body and mind. Students will research and choose fitness activities that promote lifelong participation.

**Physical Education 2 - Plan to Be Fit:** 0.25 credits — In this class, students will practice making informed health and fitness decisions that will assist them now and in the future. Many assignments in this class are based upon research from the American Heart Association indicating that the primary cause of death in the United States, heart disease, can be treated with daily participation in physical activity. Students will review basic fitness terminology and benefits. The students will also be introduced to the steps of the personalized fitness program design process.

## Health and Physical Education Department (continued)

**Physical Education 3 - Healthy Lifestyles:** 0.25 credits — In this class for seniors only, students will learn and review many of the concepts necessary for a healthy and fit lifestyle. Included in this class are the health-related fitness components; lifetime fitness activities; and the mental, social, and physical benefits of exercise. Students will also learn the basic principles of a fitness program.

*Electives:*

**First Aid and CPR/AED - How to Save a Life:** 0.25 credits — This class is designed to give students an overview of the skills in first aid and CPR/AED. It will not certify students in these areas, but it will help prepare them for the certification exams through American Red Cross.

**Independent First Aid and CPR/AED - How to Save a Life:** 0.25 credits — In this course, students will complete a variety of scenarios pertaining to emergency situations in order to show mastery of previously learned First Aid and CPR skills.

*Prerequisite - Students must be certified in First Aid and CPR/AED through American Red Cross.*

## Mathematics Department

The Mathematics Department is designed to build each student's knowledge of the skills and concepts required by the Pennsylvania Mathematics Standards and the Common Core. The classes focus on teaching students to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reason abstractly and quantitatively; construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others; model with mathematics; use appropriate tools strategically; attend to precision; look for and make use of structure; and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

*Department Requirements:*

Students are required to complete 3.0 credits in Mathematics, to include 1 class in Algebra during grades 9-12. Students are placed in appropriate classes by their guidance counselor. Classes marked (\*) meet the graduation requirement for this department.

*Core Classes:*

**AP Calculus AB:** 1 credit — This is a college level class that covers material equal to one semester of college work. Students are required to have and use a graphing calculator. Students who successfully complete this class will be able to work with functions represented in a variety of ways, determine limits of expressions, understand the meaning of a derivative in terms of a rate of change and local linear approximation, define the derivative of a function and find the derivative and integral of functions, apply differentiation techniques to the Theory of Extrema to sketch functions, solve related rates problems, optimization problems, and apply the Mean Value Theorem, understand the meaning of the definite integral, apply integration techniques to area between curves, volumes, length of curves and average value of function, use trigonometric and algebraic substitutions, and solve differential equations.

*Prerequisite – Pre-Calculus*

## Mathematics Department (continued)

**AP Calculus BC:** 1 credit — This class is designed to prepare students, who have successfully completed AP Calculus AB, for the BC level Advanced Placement Examination of the College Board. It is a college level class that covers material equivalent to a 2nd class in college calculus. This is a rigorous class which requires mastery and recall of all AP Calculus AB topics.

*Prerequisite – AP Calculus AB*

**AP Statistics:** 1 credit — This is a college level class that covers material equal to one semester of college work. This class is activity driven, with applications in gaming scenarios, population growth, and sports. Students who successfully complete this class will be able to perform exploratory analysis of data, making use of graphical and numerical techniques to study patterns, apply sampling techniques to estimate population statistics, anticipate patterns by producing models using probability and simulation, and make statistical inferences using appropriate models.

**\*Algebra 1 - X Marks the Spot:** 1 credit — In this Pennsylvania Algebra I Keystone Exam aligned class, students will be introduced to linear equations and inequalities in one variable, ratio and proportion, operations with radicals and radical functions and exponents and exponential functions. The class will conclude with the study of linear and quadratic functions, linear models and graphs of linear equations and inequalities. Students enrolled in this class are required to take the physically proctored Pennsylvania Algebra I Keystone exam at the conclusion of the class.

Available Sections: Honors, CP

**Algebra 2 - FUNctioning at a Higher Level:** 1 credit — This class reviews the ideas and concepts taught in Algebra 1 along with a serious investigation of advanced algebraic concepts including: quadratic equations, systems of equations, complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices and determinants, polynomial functions and radical functions and exponents.

*Prerequisite – Algebra 1*

Available Sections: Honors, CP

**\*Algebraic Concepts:** 1 credit — This course is designed to focus on building number concepts and problem-solving skills in mathematics. Topics covered in this course include: fractions and decimal numbers, variables, inequalities, algebraic patterns, algebraic expressions, algebraic rules and properties, introduction to algebraic equations, solving different kinds of algebraic equations, introduction to functions, and square roots and irrational numbers. These topics are expanded upon by learning how to calculate basic statistics, work with ratios and proportions, work with rates, understand percent, determine surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes, measure angles, solve algebraic word problems, work with coordinate graphs, and identify nonlinear functions. Students will take the Pennsylvania state assessed Algebra I Keystone at the end of this course.

**\*Applications of Algebra - The X Squared Factor:** 1 credit — This course covers the second half of Algebra 1. This class will focus primarily on systems of linear equations and inequalities as well as exponents and polynomial expressions, and data analysis. Students enrolled in this class are required to take the Pennsylvania Algebra 1 Keystone exam at the conclusion of this class.

## Mathematics Department (continued)

**Applications of General Math:** 1 credit — This course is designed to focus on building number concepts and problem-solving skills in mathematics. Topics covered in this course include: the concept of fractions and part-to-whole relationships, magnitude, equivalence, and the addition and subtraction of fractions, multiplication and division of fractions, working with mixed numbers, the concept of decimal numbers, operations on decimal numbers, understanding percent, integers, and operations on integers. These topics are extended upon by learning how to use fraction models, measure angles, draw and rotate polygons, triangles, and quadrilaterals, determine area of two-dimensional shapes, understand probability, find points on a graph, and observe coordinate graphs and transformations.

**Calculus - Derive and Survive:** 1 credit — This high school level calculus class is designed to provide the student with the background to use calculus in sciences, social sciences, and business applications. It also provides an excellent foundation for further work in calculus. The instructional approach emphasizes both applications and the theoretical basis of calculus. Enrollment subject to seat availability.

*Prerequisite – Pre-Calculus*

Available Sections: Honors, CP

**Geogebra 1:** 1 credit — This class is a bridge to prepare you for college-level math courses. This will include topics from Geometry, Algebra 1, and SAT preparations. Students will extend their learning through real world applications of algebraic, geometric, and statistical concepts. The class will include a review of the families of functions (linear, exponential, and quadratic), measures of central tendency, standard deviation, probability, combinations, permutations, properties of polygons, area and perimeter of two-dimensional figures, surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures, algebraic and geometric transformations, and right triangle trigonometry.

**Geogebra 2:** 1 credit — This class is a continuation of Geogebra 1. This will include topics including Geometry and Algebra 2.

**Geometry - Exploring Different Dimensions:** 1 credit — This class will emphasize making connections within the concept of plane geometry. Students will be introduced to inductive and deductive reasoning, logic and proof including two column proofs, thinking logically and precisely, the basic principles of plane and coordinate geometry, development of problem solving skills, and full integration of algebra and geometry. Additionally, this class will prepare students for more advanced work in mathematics in other high school and college classes.

Available Sections: Honors, CP

**Introduction to Algebra - There are Letters in My Math:** 1 credit — This class is the first of two year-long classes in the alternative Algebra 1 sequence. This class will focus primarily on linear relationships, with an emphasis on the algebraic manipulation of linear expressions, equations, and inequalities, as well as graphing and modeling with linear functions.

## Mathematics Department (continued)

**Introduction to General Math:** 1 credit — This course is designed to focus on building number concepts and problem-solving skills in mathematics. Topics covered in this course include: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, factors, primes and composites, common factors and number patterns, and the concept of fractions. These topics are expanded upon by learning how to work with data, find connections to measurement, geometry, and rates, determine area and perimeter, define properties of shapes, observe geometric transformations, and introduce statistics.

**Personal Finance - Show Me the Money:** 1 credit — This class is designed to help prepare students for the financial challenges they will face in life after high school. Topics covered include the concept of “financial health” which compares the discipline required to maintain financial health to the discipline required to keep physically healthy; budgeting; and banking. The class will end with the “real world” calculator. Students have the opportunity to interact with a hypothetical post-graduation budget based on actual starting salary data for over 40 professional fields.

**Pre-Calculus - I Saw the Sine:** 1 credit — This class reinforces and extends the topics covered in *Algebra 2* and provides an introduction to *Trigonometry*. Topics covered include equations and inequalities, functions and their graphs, polynomials, rational functions and expressions, radicals, exponential and logarithmic functions. Trigonometric topics covered include the definitions and graphs of the trig functions, identities and equations, and practical applications.

*Prerequisite – Algebra 2 - FUNctioning at a Higher Level*

Available Sections: Honors, CP

### *Electives*

**Patterns and Puzzles - Crack the Code:** 0.5 credits — This semester-long class is designed for students who are interested in or challenged by puzzles and mathematical problems. Throughout the class, students will use the familiar operations as the starting point of intriguing investigations into a variety of math and logic puzzles.

**Probability - May the Odds be Ever in Your Favor:** 0.5 credits — This class is an introduction to the concepts of probability. Topics include randomness, theoretical and experimental probability, probability rules, counting rules, distributions, and calculating expected values. Students will develop analytical skills through interpreting data and making connections with actual events. This class pairs well with *Statistics*. It may be taken before, after, or independently of *Statistics*. Enrollment subject to seat availability.

**Statistics:** 0.5 credits — This course is an introduction into concepts and methods of statistics. Topics include descriptive statistics of categorical and quantitative data, the normal model, scatter plots, data collection, and an introduction to inference. Students will develop analytical skills through interpreting data and making connections with actual events. Enrollment subject to seat availability.

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

## Mathematics Course Sequences

To determine the most appropriate course for the upcoming school year, identify your current grade across the top, look down that column until you find the course in which you are currently enrolled (or the closest equivalent). Then look to the right for the next courses in the sequence. Common course sequences are presented. Projected course and level offerings are subject to change depending on student needs and enrollment trends. For further assistance, please contact your school counselor.

9th Grade		10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Must have passed Algebra 1 Keystone in 8th Grade	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra 2	Honors Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus OR AP Statistics
	CP Geometry	CP Algebra 2	CP Pre-Calculus	Honors Calculus
Honors Algebra 1	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics, OR Elective(s)	
CP Algebra 1	CP Geometry	CP Algebra 2, Personal Finance, OR Elective(s)		
Introduction to Algebra	Applications of Algebra	Geogebra	Personal Finance OR Elective(s)	
		Geogebra OR Intro to Computer Science/IC3 Exam Prep		
Applications of General Math	Introduction to Algebra	Applications of Algebra	Geogebra, Personal Finance, OR Elective(s)	
Introduction to General Math	Applications of General Math	Algebraic Concepts		

## Science Department

The Science Department focuses on helping students to develop literacy in science. This is accomplished through lessons and units of study that address the process of Inquiry Learning. Students are required to examine information and resources, plan and conduct experiments and investigations, compare their findings to others, and communicate their results and conclusions.

### *Department Requirements:*

Students are required to complete 3.0 credits in Science, to include 1 class in Biology, during grades 9-12. Students are placed in appropriate classes by their guidance counselor. Classes marked (\*) meet the graduation requirement for this department.

### *Core Classes:*

**AP Environmental Science:** 1 credit — This class is designed for students who have an interest in biology/environmental themes. The class is an extension of environmental/ecology topics that were covered in the student's first year Biology class. This is a multi-disciplinary science class that applies scientific concepts to real world problems and dilemmas. Class topics include traditional and experimental ecology, types of pollution, energy sources, oceanography, global trends, economics, ethics, and sustainability.

**\*Biology - The Secret Life of Cells:** 1 credit — This Pennsylvania Keystone aligned class examines the concepts and processes of life science. Topics include cell chemistry and function, heredity, evolutionary theory and ecology. All topics will focus on the principles that govern biological processes observed in the natural world. Students enrolled in this class are required to take the physically proctored Pennsylvania Biology Keystone exam at the conclusion of the class.

Available Sections: AP, Honors, CP, Career

**Chemistry - Potions, Poisons, and the Peculiar World of Atoms:** 1 credit — In this class, students will learn about matter, its chemical structure and properties, and the changes it undergoes. Topics include atomic structure, stoichiometry, solutions, gas laws, periodic law, bonding, molecular orbital theory, equilibrium, acids, and bases.

Available Sections: Honors, CP, Career

**Environmental Science - Every Day is Earth Day:** 1 credit — This class explores the complex interactions between living organisms and their non-living environments as well as current environmental concerns and strategies for conservation and preservation. It examines the vital role that humans play in the global ecosystem. All topics focus on the scientific principles that govern ecological processes that can be observed in the natural world.

**Foundations of Science - A Science Smorgasbord:** 1 credit — This class will emphasize the development of basic scientific skills and concepts in chemistry, physics, earth science, and biology. In addition, scientific vocabulary and reading comprehension will be addressed to assist students in furthering their science education.

### Science Department (continued)

**Life Science - Life Finds a Way:** 1 credit — This class will introduce students to fundamental biological principles. Students will learn about the chemistry of life, the basics of cells and cell processes, genetics, and ecology. Students will also learn how other scientific fields, such as chemistry, play an important role in the functions of life.

**Physics - Watt are Joules?:** 1 credit — Physics is an important, relevant, and enjoyable discipline which includes the topics of mechanics, electricity and magnetism, and optics. In the various levels of this science class, students learn by doing, experiencing practical applications as well as theoretical aspects of the discipline. Students gain an understanding of how Physics applies to everyday life while preparing for the challenges of science at the college level.

Available Sections: Honors, CP

*Electives:*

**Anatomy and Physiology - Look Inside Yourself:** 0.5 credits — This class investigates the study of anatomical structures, physiological systems, and body functions. Students will review human structural and functional organization at both the microscopic and macroscopic level. Units will include discussions of the basic body systems including the musculoskeletal, circulatory, nervous, and integumentary systems. The class also includes the study of recent advances in medical technology.

**Events and Disasters - What Could Go Wrong?:** 0.5 credits — This class explores nature's fury, and how we respond to, learn from, and try to prepare for the next disaster. From tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis, to avalanches and lightning storms, students will discover what causes these natural phenomena. Students also explore some of the worst natural events in human history, and how we are trying to prevent casualties and damage from future events. As Murphy has expressed so eloquently in his own "law," if something can go wrong, it will. One thing we know for sure - it's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when.

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

## Science Course Sequences

To determine the most appropriate course for the upcoming school year, identify your current grade across the top, look down that column until you find the course in which you are currently enrolled (or the closest equivalent). Then look to the right for the next courses in the sequence. Common course sequences are presented. Projected course and level offerings are subject to change depending on student needs and enrollment trends. For further assistance, please contact your school counselor.

9th Grade		10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Must have passed Biology Keystone in 8th Grade	Honors Chemistry	Honors Physics OR Environmental Science	AP Biology, AP Chemistry, OR AP Environmental Science	
	Honors Biology	Honors Chemistry	Honors Physics OR Environmental Science	AP Biology, AP Chemistry, OR AP Environmental Science
Must have scored Proficient on PSSA in 8th Grade	CP Biology	CP Chemistry	CP Physics, Environmental Science, OR Elective(s)	
	CP Life Science	CP Biology	CP Chemistry OR Environmental Science	CP Chemistry, CP Physics OR Elective(s)
Career Life Science	Foundations of Science	Career Biology		
Foundations of Science	Career Life Science	Career Biology		

## Social Studies Department

The Social Studies Department consists of many different classes spanning all eras. The Department goal is to enable students to make connections between the American experience and the global one. America is not isolated, but is part of an ever-changing world. By studying both American and world history, students will learn from the past to be more informed citizens of the present and become better able to create context for the future using 21st century skills.

### *Department Requirements:*

Students are required to complete 3.0 credits in Social Studies, to include 1 class in Civics (or Government) during grades 9-12. Students are placed in appropriate classes by their guidance counselor. Classes marked (\*) meet the graduation requirement for this department.

### *Core Classes*

**AP U.S. Government and Politics:** 1 credit — This class requires students to analyze United States government and explore economic theory and practice. After examining the underpinnings of the U.S. Constitution, students will begin to interpret and apply the Constitution to governmental policy. Students will develop an understanding of the principles and processes of formal institutions and informal institutions. The class will introduce students to the economic perspective, and students will develop an understanding of economic indicators and the role of government in economic decision-making. The class will emphasize the importance of civic life and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Finally, students will examine civil liberties and public policy from both a legal/theoretical and a practical perspective.

**\*Civics - Your Rights and Responsibilities:** 1 credit — This class is designed to help students become active, productive citizens of the U.S. Throughout the class, students will learn what government is, how the American government functions, and what they can do to become an ideal citizen of the U.S. Topics covered include a study of citizenship and the American government.

Available Sections: Honors, CP, Career

**Modern World History - Plagues, Pirates, and Revolution:** 1 credit — This class covers a time span that begins in the early 1500s and continues to the present day. By the end of the class, students will have developed an understanding of contemporary world history by studying subjects such as WWII, the Cold War, and the Modern Era.

Available Sections: Honors, CP, Career

**U.S. History - The Rise of a Superpower:** 1 credit — This class investigates the events that occurred in the US as well as those that impacted the US during the 1800s through the 1970s. Throughout the class, students will explore major events that shaped the future decades and generations of the United States, its allies, and also its enemies. The class will also look to highlight the accomplishments and challenges of minorities throughout these periods and their contributions to the development of American history. Students will learn how to assess historical materials and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented.

Available Sections: AP, Honors, CP, Career

## Social Studies Department (continued)

### *Electives*

**African American History:** 0.5 credits — Using primary sources and firsthand accounts, this semester-long class will present an in-depth look at black history in America, from enslavement through the Civil Rights Movement. While students will learn about the changing social, political, and economic discrimination African Americans faced from slavery, through the Jim Crow era, and during the Civil Rights Movement, emphasis will also be placed on the achievements and contributions African Americans have made to the U.S. By studying the past, students will also have a better understanding of current events.

**Economics - Money Makes the World Go 'Round:** 0.5 credits — This class is designed to provide students with the fundamental tools for economic thinking. The class will examine decision-making by consumers and producers. Students will also analyze supply and demand, pricing and production, and providing goods and services. Business decisions, such as wages, material costs, and sales revenue will also be analyzed. Lastly, students will gain an understanding of economic relationships on a local, national, and international levels.

**Forensics - Histories and Mysteries:** 0.5 credits — This course surveys key topics in forensic science, including the application of the scientific process to forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, physical and trace evidence, and the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist. Through online lessons, virtual and hands-on labs, and analysis of fictional crime scenarios, students learn about forensic tools, technical resources, forming and testing hypotheses, proper data collection, and responsible conclusions. Enrollment subject to seat availability.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of at least two years of high school science including Biology and Chemistry.*

**Psychology:** 1 credit — Have you ever wondered about the brain and how it works? Or why we feel happy or sad? Psychology seeks to explain those things and more! In this full-year elective class, students will learn about and discuss the basics of psychology and the study of it. The class will explore how the brain works and thinks, why we feel and act the way we do, and much more!

**Women In History:** 0.5 credits — In this class, students will learn about the important roles that women played in America from the pre-colonial era up until the present day. Key topics include the contributions of women before and during the Revolutionary War, the abolitionist, suffrage, civil rights, and feminist movements, as well as key pieces of legislation, particularly those obtained during the 1970s. Current issues will also be examined.

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

## Social Studies Course Sequences

To determine the most appropriate course for the upcoming school year, identify your current grade across the top, look down that column until you find the course in which you are currently enrolled (or the closest equivalent). Then look to the right for the next courses in the sequence. Common course sequences are presented. Projected course and level offerings are subject to change depending on student needs and enrollment trends. For further assistance, please contact your school counselor.

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Honors Modern World History	Honors U.S. History	Honors Civics	AP U.S. History OR AP US Government and Politics
CP Modern World History	CP U.S. History	CP Civics OR Elective(s)	
Career World History	Career US History	Career Civics	

## Independent Study Department

*Courses Offered Through AHCCS:*

**Driver's Education - Staying Safe Behind the Wheel:** 0.25 credits — In this independent study class, students will be provided with all the information needed to earn their driver's license. Interactive lessons are used to examine up-to-date safe-driving techniques. Students who take this class will enjoy an effective, high-quality driver's education class that will teach them everything they need to know to become safe, confident drivers. The 24/7 online access is perfect for those students who may not have the time to attend traditional driver's education classes.

**Independent Art:** 0.5 credits — Complete class description can be found in the Arts and Humanities Department section of this program.

**Independent Family and Consumer Sciences:** 0.5 credits — Complete class description can be found in the Arts and Humanities Department section of this program.

**Independent Music:** 0.5 credits — Complete class description can be found in the Arts and Humanities Department section of this program.

**Independent Physical Education:** 0.5 credits — Complete class description can be found in the Physical Education Department section of this program.

*Third-Party Courses:*

**Florida Virtual School (FLVS)** – AHCCS offers its AP courses through FLVS, which is an online school dedicated to personalized learning. They offer dedicated, certified teachers, while AHCCS teachers are on hand to provide support as needed.

- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science
- AP Environmental Science
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Psychology
- AP Statistics
- AP U.S. Government and Politics

**Language Learning** – Completion of a level is equal to one academic credit. Please contact your school counselor if you are interested in taking a language that is not listed below.

- Arabic
- Mandarin Chinese
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hebrew
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin
- Spanish

