

ENGLISH

English 7

Grade 7

The two main focuses for seventh grade English are literature and writing. Students study several short stories, T.S. Eliot's poems in *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, the plays *Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare) and *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Burgess) and the books *Around the World in 80 Days* (Verne), *The Call of the Wild* (London), and *Anne Frank Remembered* (Geis). Limited vocabulary study is based on the literature selections. Students begin a vocabulary word file which they can continue throughout their high school classes.

Writing includes the mastery of the four basic paragraph styles: expository, descriptive, narrative, and persuasive. Students learn how to move from a well-written paragraph into multi-paragraph essays. They will also write a 1200-1500 word research paper. Students are taught MLA writing standards.

Text: TCA-developed course materials.

English 8

Grade 8

Eighth grade English serves to strengthen the literary and writing foundations learned in seventh grade. Students will be exposed to multiple works of literature, including poetry, drama, and both full-length novels and short stories. Areas of specific literary study include the poetry/sonnets of Shakespeare, Browning, Keats, and others. Students will also study autobiography by reading excerpts from Maya Angelou's autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Longer works include Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost*, and other works as time permits. Emphasis on vocabulary stems from understanding words in context. Research writing is also incorporated, and students will be introduced to MLA format and citations. Other forms of writing practiced are narrative, expository, descriptive, persuasive, compare/contrast, literary analysis, journals, and online discussion forums. Proofreading symbols will be learned and editing skills practiced. Both formal and informal presentations will take place. In addition to our curriculum, students are required to read one hour per week outside of class, enhancing the ability to make wise reading choices.

Text: TCA-developed course materials will also be used.

Classics & Composition 1

Grade 9

The primary focus of Classics and Composition I is to expose students to a large body of classical literature. Throughout the year, they will encounter drama, poetry, and fiction that have shaped Western culture and its values. Additionally, students will write frequently, usually in the context of literature. Assignments will encourage them to both engage with the ideas in literature and improve their own grammar and style by following the example of great authors. Emphasis will be placed on writing the well supported five paragraph essay.

Texts: Literature selections may include short stories ("A Good Man is Hard to Find," "The Case of the Crushed Petunias," "Scarlett Ibis," "The White Heron," "How Much Land Does A Man Need"), novels (*Fahrenheit 451*, *A Christmas Carol*), drama (*Antigone*, *Romeo and Juliet*), epic poetry (*The Iliad*), and selections of poetry and mythology.

Classics & Composition 2

Grade 10

In this course, students will build on the literary analysis skills they gained in Classics and Composition 1. Great works of literature will be read with the goal of fine-tuning both student interpretative and writing skills. The study of rhetorical devices, vocabulary, logical argument, and various forms of composition will be emphasized. Additionally, students will be introduced to theories of literary interpretation and scholarly writing. The primary goal of this class is for students to continue to develop their abilities to apply the tools of literary analysis in their own thoughtful interpretations of texts both orally and in writing.

Texts: Students will engage with a number of excellent texts, including *The Odyssey*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Les Miserables*, and *Lord of the Flies*.

American Literature 11

Grade 11

American Literature is a study of our nation's literature from Colonial times to the present. The student's ability to critique the literature and philosophy of each author will be encouraged through the study of literary texts representing Puritanism, Deism, Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Realism, Naturalism, Modern Pessimism, and Post-modernism. The philosophies developing in each period of American history will be discussed, and students will be taught to identify and critique through writing the philosophy of each author.

Texts: Prominent American authors/works of each time period may be used.

MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra

Grades 7-8

Junior high Pre-Algebra study is based upon Prentice Hall's *Pre-Algebra* ©2007. Content focuses mainly upon reviewing basic number sense, solving equations and inequalities, writing algebraic expressions, describing linear functions, and introducing geometric and algebraic concepts. Students will build on their mathematical knowledge in preparation for Algebra 1. Students will be assessed at the conclusion of each chapter.

Text: *Pre-Algebra*, Prentice Hall

Algebra I

Grade: 7-9

Algebra I completes the teaching of multiplication, division, subtraction, and addition of decimals, fractions, and integers, and the simplification and solution of equations and story problems. Percents, fractions, decimals and their inter-conversion and use in everyday problems are especially stressed. Other topics include: area and perimeter, rate problems, unit conversions, simple substitution, work with variables, algebraic properties, radical expressions and equations, graphing, and solving equations. Students will also be taught the different algebraic properties to simplify single variable equations, and do extensive work with linear equations, factoring, and quadratic equations.

Text: *Algebra*, Prentice Hall

Geometry**Grade: 8-10****Prerequisite: Algebra I (C- or better in both semesters)**

Geometry provides the student with an introduction to measurement, comparison, and logical proofs within the context of two-dimensional (planar) figures. Students also learn the basic techniques of geometric construction and how to apply their newly acquired skills to real-life applications. Beginning with the fundamental concepts of points, lines, and planes, the course in geometry proceeds through increasingly complex geometric figures (triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons), introduces the student to applications of trigonometry, and finishes with an introduction to surface area and volume of simple three-dimensional figures (prisms, cylinders, spheres, etc.).

Text: *Geometry*, Prentice Hall © 2007

Algebra II**Grade: 9-11****Prerequisite: Geometry (C- or better in both semesters)**

Algebra II completes the learning and application of the four basic math operations in simplifying and solving algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities. Work is continued on the Cartesian coordinate system, using vectors and working with parallel and perpendicular lines. Complex numbers, matrices, practical problems in two variables, and systems of equations are encountered and solved. Principles learned in Algebra I will be extended and embellished to meet more abstract problems. In the last term of the course, the students will be introduced to conic sections.

Text: *Algebra II*, Prentice Hall © 2007

SCIENCE**Science 7****Grade 7**

Seventh grade Science aims to build a solid foundation of scientific knowledge. Students examine a comprehensive unit on the metric system, learning how to measure metric units with various equipment (triple beam balances, graduated cylinders, and rulers). Introductory units in Chemistry (History of Matter, Periodic Table and Atomic Models, Chemical Bonds and Reactions); Life Science (Cells, Cell Reproduction, Genetics, Evolution through Natural Selection); and Earth Science (History of the Earth and Paleontology) are probed. Students also explore inductive logic. An introduction to critical thinking considers the three principles of argument: relevance, presumption, and clarity. The scientific method is part of the logic unit, with a focus on how problems can be solved by following a plan. The scientific method is imbedded in the majority of content units.

Text: TCA-developed course materials and extensive use of numerous educational web sites.

Science 8**Grade 8****Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra completed or currently enrolled**

Science 8 is an overview of basic physics and may include: measurement, matter, energy, heat and temperature, weather, ecology, botany, speed, acceleration, gravity, motion & forces, fluids & pressure, simple machines, electricity & magnetism, light & sound waves, anatomy & human physiology, and propositional logic. The format is to create a discussion atmosphere with direct experience through several labs and checkpoints along the way for understanding. The focus is also on developing quality students who have discipline and organization, building self-confidence and success in the field of science as well as a practical relationship to everyday life.

Text: *Physical Science*, McDougal Littell, supplemented by TCA-developed course materials and extensive use of numerous educational web sites.

Biology

Grade 9-10

Understanding how living organisms function and understanding the interactions between all living organisms and their environment are keys to being a good citizen in today's world. Biology begins with a brief review of the scientific method followed by a unit on ecology. The remainder of the first semester will focus on the chemistry of life as well as the structure and function of cells (emphasizing the roles of various organelles.) The study of cells will include cell membrane structure and function, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, the cell cycle, meiosis, genetics, DNA structure and replication, and the making of proteins. Second semester begins with a short unit on evolution, focusing on population genetics, speciation and a look at the various geological periods. Then we will discuss how scientists classify organisms. The majority of the 2nd semester will be spent studying the diversity of life: bacteria and other prokaryotes, protists, fungi, plants and animals. We will spend quite a bit of time dissecting various animals in order to compare their anatomies. Throughout the year we will study and discuss various controversial issues in biology such as human impact on the environment, stem cell research and the use of genetic technology.

Text: Prentice Hall Biology

Chemistry

Grade: 10-11

Prerequisite: Recommend completion of Algebra I

Chemistry will provide students with a thorough understanding of the properties of, and interactions between, different types of matter. Students will understand fundamental concepts concerning atoms, elements, and compounds. They will also comprehend the trends within the periodic table and how the atomic structure of elements affects their physical, chemical, and bonding properties. After this foundation is laid, chemical reactions and equations will be explored, including a basic understanding of enthalpy in reactions. Thermodynamics and equilibrium will also be covered. The students will apply their knowledge of the periodic law and reaction characteristics to everyday situations and in laboratory experiments, with an emphasis on problem solving through unit conversion and stoichiometric calculations. Students will learn to use laboratory equipment in a safe and responsible fashion and to write clear and accurate reports of observations and conclusions made during the experiments they have conducted.

Text: *Chemistry*, Prentice Hall

Physics

Grade 11

Recommend that students complete Algebra II prior to enrolling in this course. A student who earned A's and B's in Algebra I and Geometry could also take this course,

concurrently with Algebra II, with teacher approval.

Physics is the study of the relationships and interactions between matter and energy. As such, the study of physics is considered to be foundational to the other classical sciences. This class includes the study of motion, forces, light and sound waves, electricity and magnetism, and nuclear energy. Students will learn the major laws of classical physics, learning how to apply these laws to explain and predict the behavior of matter and energy in a wide variety of conditions. Students will appreciate how the complexity of nature can be described by a relatively few number of principles and laws. Regular laboratory work within class will help the students to apply the principles they learn. Additionally, to supplement the lessons learned within the classroom, students will be expected to complete two group projects outside of school.

Text: Holt Physics

SOCIAL SCIENCES

History 7

Grade 7

History 7 will explore the shaping of America from after the Civil War to WWI, studying the fast-paced, restless decades of “growing up” into a 20th century world power. From the age of Reconstruction in the South, through Andrew Carnegie, J.D. Rockefeller and Henry Ford’s Gilded Age of wealth and industry, to the Spanish-American War, the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt’s Progressive Era, and ending with the crisis of WWI, we’ll see how historians approach and make sense of this key period in our American past. Stories and adventures of fascinating figures, life-changing inventions, new ideas that clashed with old, and conflicts that changed America’s destiny abroad are what makes history fun! We’ll think critically about how history works and explore many primary sources from that past. While this class focuses on American history, we’ll also study global events that inevitably left a mark on all of us.

Texts: *The American Nation*, *A History of US* series (*All the People*, *An Age of Extremes*, and *War, Peace, and All That jazz*)

History 8

Grade 8

This course continues the unified thread of history and geography that was begun in the seventh grade. Central themes of the history guidelines are growth and change in American democracy, and interactions with world forces, particularly nationalism and totalitarianism. The study of geography follows the main line of the history curriculum focusing on the Middle East, South Asia, China, Canada and Mexico. Topics include: the Decline of European Colonialism, The Cold War Period (includes the Korean War and the Civil Rights Movement), The Vietnam War and the Rise of Social Activism, The Middle East and Oil Politics, Post Cold War Challenges, Civics (the Constitution), and Geography of Canada and Mexico.

Text: TCA-Developed Materials

Civics 9

One Semester Course (Fall Only)

Grade 9

This course typically precedes the 9th grade World History during second semester. During this first semester, Civics will explore and confront many of the political institutions, Constitutional and policy issues, and functions of both our federal and state/local governments. We'll analyze how political parties, interest groups, and mass media all powerfully impact our political culture and the "nuts and bolts" of American political life. We'll intentionally utilize small group-work, in-class debates, and the rich, wild swirl of current events to provide windows into deeper political issues and encourage critical, reasoned thinking...it's here where theory comes to life.

Text: *Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics & You*

History 9 **One Semester Course (Spring Only)**

Grade 9

The second part of Civics/History 9 surveys the rich heritage of the Classical, medieval, and early Renaissance worlds in Western Civilization, analyzing the cultures and trends that gave rise to our modern world. It's an age of restless upheaval, fascinating figures, and new, important ideas. We'll see how historians make sense of the stories and adventures of those who lived in, and through, this past, and as always confront many primary sources along the way.

Texts: *The Western Experience, Western Civilization: Sources, Images, and Interpretations*

History 10

Grade 10

World History 10 explores Western Civilization from before the Renaissance to around the time of the French Revolution in the modern age, studying the ideas and worldviews, fascinating figures, and trends that shaped the Western world. We'll see how historians approach and make sense of this period, how clashes of ideas and ideologies, art and architecture, literature, and conflicts all powerfully impacted one another along the way. History 10 encourages students to think critically and more deeply about history at its core, while exploring the stories of those who lived in, and through, that past.

Texts: *The Western Experience (Vol. B), Western Civilization: Sources, Images, and Interpretations*

U.S. History

Grade 11

This course begins with a look at the state of South America, North America, Africa, and Europe in the era of the Explorers because people from these four continents were of vital importance to the creation of the United States. We then trace the beginning of the English colonies to their emergence as a nation clinging to the East Coast, the United States of America. For the rest of Semester 1, we trace the US's growth through the 1830s.

We start off Semester 2 with an exploration of the causes of the Civil War (1830s-1850s) and then a brief look at the Civil War. During the rest of the semester, we examine Reconstruction and the development of the United States through the beginning of World War I.

Throughout the course, we will examine our historical roots and critically examine the lives and actions of those who have created and developed our nation.

Texts: Our main text will be *The American Vision* (Glencoe), but we will use other primary and secondary source material to dive deeper into certain content areas.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish 1

Grade 9-10

Spanish I is a year of developing core language skills. The focus will be on basic communication through dialogues, listening exercises and writing sentences used in real life situations. The first year students will be able to ask and answer questions in the present and simple past tenses. An understanding of the overall sentence structure of Spanish begins here with the mastery of the most commonly used regular and irregular verbs. Vocabulary development centers on: sports and leisure time activities, family, friends, food, clothes, essential travel vocabulary, and other fundamental topics. Students will perform skits and dialogues in the language and create visual art projects in conjunction with oral presentations to practice and master language concepts. Latin culture will also be studied in order to learn how it compares and contrasts to the student's own culture.

Text: Realidades 1 & 2

Spanish 2

Grade 9-11

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Spanish II students begin with a review of the structures and vocabulary of the previous year. Study continues with the introduction of more complex aspects of the language such as: reflexive verbs and additional verb tenses (imperfect, present and imperfect progressive and present perfect), regular and irregular verbs, comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs, and possessive adjectives and pronouns. Students produce various oral and visual art projects to practice the material, refining their writing skills through the creation of projects and compositions. Students read in Spanish about travel, geography, history, and other aspects of culture.

Text: Realidades 2

ELECTIVES

Art History and Production 1

Grade: 7-12

Students evaluate a variety of artistic works from various time periods, civilizations and styles, and create personal works using the basic elements of art such as line, color, and texture. Students then organize these elements of art using the principles of design, such as unity, pattern, and emphasis. As they develop their works, they determine how their application of the elements of art and principles of design contribute to what they want to express. Studio instruction will develop basic drawing principles during the first semester, and beginning painting during the second semester.

Text: TCA-Developed Materials

Art History and Production 2

Grade: 8-12

This intermediate art course is a continuation of (Art 1). In addition to furthering the understanding of the basic elements of art and the principles of design, students will advance their drawing and painting skills during this two semester course. Additional classic art works will be evaluated and a greater application of artistic style will be emphasized.

Text: TCA-Developed Materials

Computer Applications 1

Grade: 7-10**One Semester Course**

Basic computer skills. This course will equip students with the basic computer knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in College Pathways and the Desire2Learn learning environment. Learning is accomplished through classroom discussions and hands-on exercises. Content includes: Keyboarding, Introductory Word, Introductory PowerPoint, Introductory Excel, Networking Overview, and Computer Hardware Overview

Text: TCA-Developed Materials

Computer Applications 2

Grade: 7-10**One Semester Course****Prerequisite: Computer Applications 1 or equivalent**

Advanced computer skills. This course will equip students with more advanced computer knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in College Pathways and the Desire2Learn learning environment. Learning is accomplished through classroom discussions and hands-on exercises. Content includes: MS Word 2007, MS PowerPoint 2007, MS Excel 2007, MS Paint, Networking, Internet Search, and Movie Maker or Website design.

Text: TCA-Developed Materials

Health and Wellness

Grade 9-10**One Semester Course**

Health and Wellness is a graduation requirement for TCA/College Pathways and Academy District 20. College Pathways students must take it during the 9th or 10 grade year. Students will be introduced to the social, physical, mental and emotional aspects of healthy lifestyles. This course does not include human sexuality. However, students do not have to take this course through College Pathways. Health and Wellness is available to 9th and 10th graders who choose to take it through College Pathways.

On Course

One Semester Course – Must be college ready

This is a one credit course required prior to or concurrent with first semester of college-level courses. Course includes success strategies for students transitioning from high school to

college. *This is a College Pathways requirement for college-ready students.* Current College Pathways students may complete On Course **prior** to beginning their first college course. New students who have tested college-ready on the Accuplacer Exam may take On Course concurrent with their first college course.

Text: On Course, Fifth Edition

Personal Fitness

Grades 9-12

One Semester Course offered fall and spring.

Personal Fitness fulfills one credit of the three-credit graduation requirement for a high school diploma. The personal fitness class includes learning and activity about a variety of fitness-related principles and activities. By participating in fitness testing, students will learn how to set fitness goals and monitor their progress in improving and maintaining their agility, strength, speed and endurance. Part of the course will include learning and practicing individual and team sports.

Students may retake personal fitness for up to three credits.

Reading at the College Level

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Must be College Ready High School Students

Reading at the College Level is a **pass/fail** course, designed to equip students for the increased reading demands that they will encounter in college. The course provides the opportunity for students to refine their reading skills. Specific goals are to improve students': Reading Rate, Recall skills (mnemonics, concept maps, etc.), Comprehension (to 90 percent or greater), and Vocabulary skills.

Research studies indicate that most high school students are ill prepared for the significant increase in reading tasks expected during the first year of college. College reading assignments are usually three to four times longer than high school reading assignments, and they contain a wide variety of technical and highly specialized vocabulary. The increased demands of college-level reading are compounded by the potentially hectic schedule and change in living environment college freshmen face. Thus reading requirements may appear overwhelming.

This course is not meant for students who are reading below grade level as identified on various assessments.

Speech

Grade: 9-12

This practical course introduces students to the basics of preparing and performing public speeches, as well as reduces the fear of public speaking through practice and preparation. It is designed to offer the novice speaker several opportunities to prepare and present public speeches. Throughout this two-semester course the students will prepare a variety of speeches, including informative, persuasive, impromptu, business, special occasion, and debate. The class time will involve lecture as well as many opportunities for students to present and critique fellow students' speeches in the class environment. The lecture portion of the class will focus on organization of a particular type of speech, as well as audience analysis and other speech preparation. The course may also involve one or two field trips where the students will observe public speakers in action (for example: the state legislature or a similar venue).

Text: *Speak Up! An Illustrated Guide to Public Speaking* and TCA-Developed materials

Theatre

Grades 9-12

One Semester Course offered fall and spring.

Theatre serves to strengthen the foundations learned in eighth grade to understand and apply the creative process to the fundamental skills of acting, playwriting, and directing. Each semester students will act, direct, produce and perform one of the following plays studied during the course of each semester. Specific plays covered over the year will include those Shakespearean plays covered in detail in corresponding literature classes. Specific plays include Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Hamlet*. The Colorado State Standards for High School Theatre will be addressed through group interaction and artistic collaboration, using the creative process fundamental to the development of design skills and technical production. Students will understand and relate the role of theatre arts to culture and history. Students will analyze and assess the characteristics, merits, and meanings of traditional and modern forms of dramatic expression. Students will know and apply connections between theatre and other disciplines.

Students may take either one semester or two.