

9th Grade Course Descriptions 2019-2020

Vista Heights Middle School

A = Art credit

CTE = Career and Technical Education Credit

E = English credit

EC = Elective credit

M = Math credit

PES = Physical Education credit

S = Science credit

SS = Social Studies credit

REQUIRED CLASSES

ENGLISH 9 (E) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

This course develops language skills in four areas: reading, writing, speaking and presentation skills. Students will read both fiction and non-fiction and write in a variety of genres. Skills will be taught in connection with writing.

ENGLISH 9 HONORS (E) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

This is an accelerated class for students who excel in English. The pace is fast and the depth in some areas is extensive. Extensive reading requirements and additional homework are part of the curriculum. Group and individual projects will be a part of each unit of study.

SECONDARY MATH I (M) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

Students in Secondary Mathematics I will deepen and extend their understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

SECONDARY MATH I H (M) 1.0 credit (Fee)

**Teacher recommendation required*

This is an accelerated and challenging course, with high expectations for homework completion and assignments. This course includes the study of solving equations, solving literal equations, solving inequalities, geometric constructions, coordinate geometry, quadrilaterals, proofs of quadrilaterals in coordinate plane, functions, exponential functions, and a comparison between exponential and linear functions.

SECONDARY MATH II HONORS (M) 1.0 credit (Fee)

**Prerequisite Secondary Math I H*

Students in secondary mathematics II will focus on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions, extending the set of rational numbers to the set of complex numbers, link probability and data through conditional probability and counting methods, study similarity and right triangle trigonometry, and study circles with their quadratic algebraic representations. Honors students will also represent complex numbers and their operations on the complex plane, solve systems of equations, prove and apply trigonometric identities, express conic sections algebraically, and solve problems using volume measurements.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (SS) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

**Required World Civilization in 10th Grade*

This course will introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to analyze human social organization and its environmental consequences. Students will also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. The material is designed to prepare the student to take the approved AP Human Geography test. The cost to take the AP test is \$94.00.

GEOGRAPHY FOR LIFE (SS) .5 credit (No Fee)

This course covers the five themes of geography. Students will study the various cultures of the world, including the way they live, political and social trends, and advancing technology. They will utilize geographic skills to understand the practical application of geography to everyday life through the use and study of maps.

WORLD CIVILIZATION (SS) .5 credit (No Fee)

This course is the second half of the 9th grade History requirement and will study the history of diverse people and cultures of the world. This course will study the commonalities and differences of the human experience in the following six areas: social, scientific and technological, economic, religious and philosophical, geographic, and political.

EARTH SYSTEMS (S) 1.0 credit (\$5.00/Semester Fee)

This course is only offered in 9th grade and fulfills the high school science core graduation requirement. Earth Systems is an integrated science course which focuses on the theme of "systems." Topics from physical earth, and life science are integrated to help students develop an understanding of interactions and interdependence within and between such earth systems as matter cycles, energy flows, and life webs. Hands-on inquiry-based instruction is used to help student's value science as a process for obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence.

BIOLOGY HONORS (S) 1.0 credit (\$5.00/Semester Fee)

Prerequisite 3.0 GPA and Math Honors required. Lab application required.

This fast moving class is an introductory course with a wealth of information and fundamental knowledge of cells, heredity, classification and ecology. The following areas will be covered: ecology, genetics and evolution, cell structure, fiction, chemistry, levels of classification and organization.

BIO AG SCIENCE (S) 1.0 credit (\$5.00/Semester Fee)

This course is designed to meet the requirement for the biological science credit. The standards and objectives for this course are the same as the standards and objectives for Biology, with the only difference being the degree of emphasis on agriculture. Students completing this course will be cognizant of current technologies, methods, and changes in agricultural science and are expected to know and apply the standards outlined in the core curriculum as they relate to the industry of agriculture.

BUSINESS OFFICE SPECIALIST (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

An Introduction to computer application software that includes word processing, spreadsheet, database and telecommunications. An awareness of career opportunities, business ethics, and trends.

EXPLORING COMPUTER SCIENCE (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

Exploring Computer Science is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. The goal of Exploring Computer Science is to develop in students the computational thinking practices of algorithm development, problem solving and programming within the context of problems that are relevant to the lives of today's students. Students will also be introduced to topics such as interface design, limits of computers and societal and ethical issues.

PE SKILLS (PES) .5 credit (\$20.00 Fee)

**REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION*

Skills and techniques in a variety of team and individual sports are taught. Running and exercise skills are taught to improve physical conditioning.

ELECTIVES

ART

ART FOUNDATIONS 1 (A) .5 credit (\$8.00 Fee)

This course will introduce students to the basic elements and principles of art through drawing in various media. Students will explore the basics of drawing, focusing on the 7 elements of art, using graphite, ink, and color media.

ART FOUNDATIONS 2 (A) .5 credit (\$15.00 Fee)

** Prerequisite Art Foundations 1*

This course builds on skills and concepts learned in Art Foundations 1 using various media. Art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated into all lessons taught.

CERAMICS 1 (A) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

The student receives instruction in ceramics and designing in ceramic clay. Preparation of clay, use of tools and equipment, and different construction methods are covered. '

DRAWING 1 (A) .5 credit (\$15.00 Fee)

**Prerequisite Art Foundations 1*

The student focuses on black and white or monochromatic media, such as pencil, pen-and-ink, and charcoal. Drawings will be referenced from life, pictures, masterworks, and imagination. Art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated into all lessons taught.

STUDIO ART (A) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

**Teacher Approval*

The student will focus primarily on portraiture, figure drawing and painting, following the Utah State Core standards. Art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated into all lessons taught.

CTE

CHILD DEVELOPMENT (CTE) .5 credit (\$5.00 Fee)

This course provides students with an understanding of the aspects of human growth and development across the lifespan. The content covers children's physical, mental, emotional, and social growth from the prenatal period through aging. Parenting skills are developed as the appropriate care, positive guidance techniques, and child-related issues are studied. Learning activities, observation techniques, and working with children are included. 8th grade class is NOT required.

DIGITAL DESIGN 1 (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

This class will introduce students to a wide range of communications technologies. Students will apply skills and concepts through the completion of activity-based hands on curriculum, centered in the following areas: Graphic design, Robotics, Drafting, Video and Audio production, Digital Media, 3D Modeling and many more. This course will provide opportunities for students to work individually and in a team, while also developing skills in technological design, innovation, and problem solving.

DIGITAL DESIGN 2 (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

** Prerequisite Digital Design 1*

This class will be targeted for advanced students in communication technologies. It will offer similar activities as Digital Design 1, with more advanced curriculum including animation.

ENGINEERING TECH (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

A foundational engineering design course that introduces basic problem-solving and documentation skills. Various aspects of engineering will be explored along with technology's environmental, societal, political, and economic impacts on our world.

EXPLORE BUSINESS & MARKETING (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

Students will be exposed to fundamental concepts of business, finance, and marketing in this course. Concepts explored include: Communication, human resource management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership. Students will learn business and marketing principles from start to finish as they create, advertise, and run their own Teen Entrepreneur businesses. Students will learn interviewing and resume writing skills, marketing principles, how to invest in the stock market, and other business strategies. Students will explore personal finance concepts through hand-on activities including *The Stock Market Game*. This course helps prepare students for the required Financial Literacy class in High School as well as the future business and marketing classes and careers.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 1 (CTE).5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

Students will be introduced to the technological systems of aerospace, communications, construction, energy/power/transportation, manufacturing and biotechnology. The course emphasis is on exploration activities using computers, technology, equipment and woodworking tools.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 2 (CTE).5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

**Exploring Technology 1 prerequisite*

This course builds on the introduction to technological systems of aerospace, communications, construction, energy/power/transportation, manufacturing and biotechnology. The course emphasis is on exploration activities using computers, technology, equipment and woodworking tools introduced in Exploring Technology 1.

FOODS 1 (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

This course is designed to teach the advanced concepts of nutrition and how it affects the health of individuals and families. Instruction is also given in the care of food, meal management, food patterns, and food needs.

INTERIOR DESIGN (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

This course allows students to use their creativity while applying the elements and principles of design in the exciting world of interiors. Students will work with floor plans, color schemes, textures, fabrics, window treatments, home furnishing and equipment. Students will gain skills that can be applied to current living environments and future design related career options.

MANUFACTURING (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

Manufacturing (Woods) is an exploratory course that introduces students to the basics of manufacturing. Through hands-on woods/metals shop activities students will learn how manufacturers use technology to change raw materials into finished products. Manufacturing materials include solid wood, wood composites, metals, and laminates. Concepts also covered in this class include: design processes, properties of materials, safe use of tools and equipment, free enterprise, marketing principles, and career exploration.

SPORTS SEWING (CTE) .5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

This sewing course is the introduction to the sports and outdoor product industry. Students will learn to use and care for the sewing machine and equipment, learn to read and follow a sewing pattern, construction techniques, and the specific uses and care for outdoor textile products. Projects include an equipment bag, a hooded sweatshirt or joggers and an athletic bag as well as personal projects of choice.

WEB DEVELOPMENT 1 (CTE).5 credit (\$10.00 Fee)

Web Development is a course designed to guide students in a project-based environment in the development of up-to-date concepts and skills that are used in the development of today's websites. They learn and follow the steps to create a website by planning, designing, developing, deploying, and maintaining of the website projects. Students will learn and use different scripting technologies to create more dynamic and interactive websites. They will learn what it takes for a career in Web Development as they complete projects and create their own Web portfolio.

DANCE

DANCE 1 (A) .5 credit (\$3.00 Fee)

In this introduction to dance, beginning dance techniques and movements will be taught. This beginning level class will explore rhythms, style, and techniques of modern and jazz dance, emphasizing the basic elements of choreography.

DANCE 1A (A) .5 credit (\$3.00 Fee)

** Prerequisite Dance 1*

This class is a continuation of Dance 1. Intermediate dance techniques and movements will be taught and different dance styles will be explored. Emphasis will be placed on the elements of modern dance.

DANCE 1B (A) .5 credit (\$3.00 Fee)

** Prerequisite Dance 1A*

This class is designed to study dance in techniques, choreography, performance quality, and production. Each member will choreograph and complete a study of dance as an art form as entertainment. Improvement in technique and performance quality will be stressed in all areas of dance, concentrating on modern and jazz.

DANCE COMPANY Year (\$10.00/Semester Fee)

** Audition Only*

This class is designed to study dance in techniques, choreography, performance quality, and production. Each member will choreograph and complete a study of dance as an art form as entertainment. Improvement in technique and performance quality will be stressed in all areas of dance, concentrating on modern and jazz.

MEN'S DANCE (A) .5 credit (\$3.00 Fee)

This is a beginning to intermediate dance class for males only. The emphasis will be placed on technique and composition through studying modern, jazz, and hip-hop dance. Students will develop a self-concept and awareness, improve fitness level, increase technical skills, and improve creative capacity.

DRAMA

DRAMA 1 (A) .5 credit (No Fee)

This class is an advanced study of theatre history, advanced performance skills, trust, Shakespearean acting, resume and audition preparation, and improvisation. Students will be required to see a play each term.

DRAMA 2 FALL (A) .5 credit (No Fee)

This is an advanced course that will cover the elements of theater and performance with emphasis on self-improvement in performance and public communication. Oral interpretation, scene and monologue study, theater history is taught along with production criticism. The students will study audition techniques, improvisation, acting techniques, scene performance, and an introduction to playwriting and directing.

DRAMA 2 SPRING (A) .5 credit (No Fee)

This is an advanced course that will cover the elements of theater and performance with emphasis on self-improvement in performance and public communication. Oral interpretation, scene and monologue study, theater history is taught along with production criticism. Students will study audition techniques, improvisation, acting techniques, scene performance, and an introduction to playwriting and directing.

MUSICAL THEATRE (A) .5 credit (\$5.00 Fee)

** Audition Only*

Designed to familiarize performing arts students with the process of auditioning and performing in the realm of musical theatre. Students will work individually and in groups with staging, choreography, etc. Voice repertoire, selection, singing style, acting, coaching, and evaluation will be covered. Students will be required to sing and dance.

STAGE CREW (A) .5 credit (No Fee)

** Application required*

Students will study theatre lighting, sound, scenery, properties, stage-management, and technical design. Students will be involved in all areas of technical theatre. This class requires evening and out-of-school time during rehearsals and performances.

LANGUAGES

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1 (EC) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

Basic ASL skills will be taught, both receptive and expressive skills, basic conversation skills, vocabulary building and pragmatics, and an introduction to deafness and ASL. This course begins by teaching concepts of American Sign Language with emphasis on receptive and expressive skills to achieve fluency on a grammatically appropriate level. Students use a variety of techniques as a learning tool. This course is taught mainly without using voice.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 2 (EC) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

This course emphasizes further development of receptive and expressive skills, basic conversation skills, vocabulary building and pragmatics. This course begins by teaching concepts of American Sign Language with emphasis on receptive and expressive skills to achieve fluency on a grammatically appropriate level. Students use a variety of techniques as a learning tool. This course is taught mainly without using voice.

CHINESE 1 (EC) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

In level 1, students begin to communicate sufficiently to satisfy basic survival needs and minimum courtesy requirements. They can ask and answer some simple questions, respond to, and sometimes initiate short statements and maintain simple conversation. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students will begin to identify and react to perspectives and practices of the target culture.

CHINESE 2 (EC) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

In level 2, students develop further communication skills and are able to satisfy most survival needs and limited social demands. They can initiate and sustain a short conversation on factual topics. They can give autobiographical information and discuss leisure time activities. Students are able to present information and ideas to an audience. They can describe characteristics and behaviors of everyday life in the target culture and they can identify the expressive forms of the culture, such as art, literature, music and dance.

SPANISH 1 (EC) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

A year long course which focuses on acquiring survival language and skills needed to greet people discuss, hobbies, personal descriptions, preferences. Foods, talking about family, school life, making friends and discuss likes and dislikes. Intro to Spanish is strongly suggested but not required to participate in this course.

SPANISH 2 (EC) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

In level 2, students develop further communication skills and are able to satisfy most survival needs and limited social demands. They can initiate and sustain a short conversation on factual topics, give autobiographical information, and discuss leisure time activities.

SPANISH DL 5 HONORS: IMMERSION PROGRAM ONLY (EC) 1.0 credit (No Fee)

**Prerequisite, prior immersion programs students only*

A year long course for students who participate in Spanish Immersion. The curriculum and language instruction will help students understand the 6 AP language themes. Students in this course will be able to effectively write and use speech to convey meaning of concepts taught in class. Students will also be preparing to take the AP Spanish Language and Culture test at the end of the course. The AP test costs \$94.00. Heritage language speaking students, interested in participating in the Immersion program, will need to have an interview with an Immersion teacher. Parents will also need to talk with an Immersion teacher to learn about program expectations.

MUSIC

BEGINNING BRASS (A) 1.0 credit (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

Students will learn the fundamentals of music performance, tone production and technique on a brass instrument. This class is an ensemble directed toward building music performance skills in bass. Curriculum includes 2-4 performances per year including introduction to music theory, history, and composition.

BEGINNING WOODWINDS (A) 1.0 credit (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

Students will learn the fundamentals of music performance, tone production and technique on a woodwind instrument. This class is an instrumental ensemble directed toward building music performance skills. Curriculum includes several performances per year.

CONCERT BAND (A) 1.0 credit (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

This intermediate instrumental ensemble is directed toward building music performance skills in preparation for Symphonic Band. Curriculum may include six to eight performances per year including adjudicated music festivals, varsity games, and introductions to music theory, history, and composition. *Teacher approval required.*

SYMPHONIC BAND (A) 1.0 credit (\$25.00/Semester Fee)

**Pre-requisite course of Beginning Band, or audition*

This course further develops and refines core concepts and fundamentals introduced in Beginning Brass, Beginning Woodwind, and Concert Band classes. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society.

JAZZ BAND Year (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

** Application required*

This is an advanced instrumental ensemble directed toward learning and performing big band, jazz, swing, and rock styles of music.

BEGINNING PERCUSSION (A) 1.0 credit (\$2.50/Semester Fee + \$17.50 Instrument Rental)

**Two years piano or previous instrument experience required*

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play percussion instruments. Study includes the building of proper technique on all percussion instruments, the ability to read music, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society.

INTERMEDIATE PERCUSSION (A) 1.0 Credit (\$2.50/Semester Fee + \$17.50/Semester Instrument Rental)

An intermediate ensemble directed toward building music performance skills. Curriculum includes 6-8 performances per year including adjudicated music festivals, introduction to music theory, history, and composition.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (A) 1.0 Credit (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Study includes the care and cultivation of tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (A) 1.0 Credit (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

**Pre-requisite course is Beginning Orchestra, or audition. Teacher Approval required.*

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Study includes the care and cultivation of tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits.

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA (A) 1.0 Credit (\$25.00/Semester Fee)

Students will be part of an ensemble of intermediate to advanced string players directed toward performing the finest in classical and contemporary music. *Teacher approval required.*

CONCERT CHOIR (A) 1.0 Credit (\$2.50 Fee)

Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance suitable for mixed voices.

MEN'S CHOIR (A) .5 credit (\$2.50 Fee + \$15.00/Semester Uniform Rental)

Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance suitable for male voices.

WOMEN'S CHOIR (A) .5 credit (\$2.50 Fee + \$15.00/Semester Uniform Rental)

Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance suitable for female voices.

HAWKAPELLA CHOIR (A) 1.0 credit (\$2.50 Fee + \$15.00/Semester Uniform Rental)

Excellence in all musical skills and vocal production is stressed in this chorus. Performances at festivals and concerts will be emphasized.

OTHER ELECTIVES

CREATIVE WRITING (EC) .5 credit (\$5.00 Fee)

This class is designed to provide experiences and activities which will enhance the communication of ideas through written expression.

FITNESS .5 credit (\$3.00 Fee)

This course will include strength training and flexibility techniques designed to help students tone, shape and strengthen through aerobic and anaerobic conditioning. This course does not cover the PE Fitness curriculum and will not give the PE Fitness credit.

JOURNALISM A (EC) .5 credit (\$5.00 Fee)

Journalism A is an exciting, fast-paced orientation into the highly competitive field of journalism. This course will give students a chance to work in improving writing, interviewing and photography skills.

JOURNALISM B (Newspaper) (EC) 1.0 credit (\$5.00/Semester Fee)

**Application Required*

This course is an advanced journalism course. It builds upon the skills developed in Journalism A, and teaches more advanced writing techniques of printed media, i.e., interviewing, observing, writing, editing, photography, and computer layout and formatting.

PEER LEADER (EC) .5 credit (No Fee)

**Application required*

This course focuses on the qualities of leadership and works to develop these qualities in the lives of students. This course includes developmental skills in the areas of relationships, communications, human development, decision making, and interpersonal skills.

PEER TUTOR (EC) .5 credit (No Fee)

Students will be involved in peer tutoring students in special education and resource classes in math, English, reading, life skills and other academic areas. This class would be most helpful to students considering a career in teaching, coaching, etc. This course involves working with disabled students. It is extremely important that the students chosen for this class have a very good attendance record. During the school year this class goes on a number of community trips, a few of them may require the student to bring a dollar or so.

READING LITERATURE Semester (\$5.00 Fee)

This course is designed for the advanced and avid reader. The class will emphasis the short story and the novel. Advanced reading strategies will be taught.

SEMINARY RELEASE TIME No credit

A student may be released from one regular class period each semester to receive religious instruction. Attendance rules are applicable in seminary.

STUDENT COUNCIL (EC) 1.0 Credit (Possible Fee)

**Audition Only*

This class provides **elected** officials the opportunity to learn how to operate student school governments.

TEACHER AIDE (EC) .5 credit (No Fee)

**Application required*

In this class you will assist the teacher in any assignments that they have during that day. Your role will be to aid the teacher with whatever responsibilities they may have. You will be required to have homework or a reading book to stay busy for any down time.

YEARBOOK (EC) 1.0 credit (\$7.50/Semester Fee)

**Application Required*

Students will produce a school annual on computer. Students should be self-motivated and willing to work extra hours to meet deadlines and due dates. They will develop and use skills in writing, editing, art, layout, design, photography, and leadership.