Welcome 8th Grade Parents

Mrs. Jennifer Kirk
High School Guidance Curriculum Leader
Welcome 8th Grade Parents

Mr. Dan Beck, Students A–K
Ms. Christine Mussomeli, Students L–Z
High School Assistant Principals
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Sally Ondrejko
PTSO President
English: Academic English 9

- One year course, fulfilling 9th grade English requirement
- Reading: short story, novel, poetry, nonfiction, drama and supplemental texts
- Writing: timed writings and formal papers, using primary source quotations
- Vocabulary/Grammar: required units assessed at regular intervals
- Research: emphasis on documentation skills
English: Honors English 9

- One year course, fulfilling 9th grade English requirement
- Reading: short story, novel, poetry, nonfiction, drama and supplemental texts
  - 2 more core texts and rigorous supplemental reading program with 6 additional texts
- Writing: timed writings and formal papers, using primary source quotations
  - additional timed writings and greater emphasis on depth of analysis
- Vocabulary/Grammar: required units assessed at regular intervals
- Research: greater emphasis on synthesizing multiple sources
English Elective: Speech

- One semester workshop class for grades 9–12
- Focuses on developing and practicing speaking skills
- Types of speaking include informative, narrative, and persuasive within impromptu, extemporaneous, and formal formats
English Elective: Creative Writing

- One semester workshop class for grades 9–12
- Focuses on developing creative writing voice
- Types of writing include poetry, short story, children’s literature, flash fiction, and/or one-act play
- Regular conferences with teacher and peers
English Elective: Intro to Video

- One semester introduction to video communications, designed for students with little or no experience with video production in grades 9–12
  - Examine techniques used in pre-production, production, and post-production
  - Lab-based course – students will need to work well within a small group
American Civics

- Study of citizenship through an examination of our system of government (e.g. U.S. Constitution, Branches of Fed. Gov’t, State Gov’t, & Local Gov’t)

World Geography

- Comparative examination of the politics, economics, and cultures of the world’s geographic regions.
How does this level differ from the Academic level?

- Increased homework load (e.g. amount/level of reading assignments)
- Must have advanced reading comprehension and writing skills
- Must be highly motivated, organized and self-disciplined
How does this level differ from the Academic level? (cont’d)

Community Service

- Must complete 5 non-school hours of approved community service
- Will be formally evaluated through a class presentation
- Note: Academic students will attend a local government meeting instead
Social Studies Elective
Available to 9th Graders

21st Century Global Affairs

- One-semester course
- A look at international topics that impact the U.S. and the world
- Case study approach
- Examples: Foreign policy challenges, global threats, globalization)
Certificate of Global Fluency
Welcome to the High School!

- Quicker accomplishments
- Focus on proficiency
- Long language sequences and more languages
- New opportunities
  - Exchanges
  - Trips
  - Clubs
  - International Studies
Course Goals for Level 2

- **Speaking**
  - Conduct simple conversations
  - Speak for 2+ minutes
- **Writing**
- **Reading strategies**
- **Culture**
Museum Simulations for Proficiency
Cafe Simulation for Proficiency
Traditional Options

- Ft. Couch French > (MYP) French 2 (or Passport)
- Ft. Couch German > (MYP) German 2 (or Passport)
- Ft. Couch Spanish > (MYP) Spanish 2 (or Intermediate)

- Importance of long sequence
- Importance of teacher recommendation
Hmmm... Some Interesting Options

- Try/Add a new language
  - Chinese (4)
  - Japanese (3)
  - Latin (4)

- Try International Studies I and II
  - Semester courses 9 - 12
  - Cultural focus
  - Variety of activities - simulations, cultural games, speakers, films

- Get involved with a language club

- Start saving for an exchange
USC Student Presentations to Leverkusen Students
Beware!

- WL is an academic subject.
- WL is every day for a full period.
- HS WL shows faster progress.
- You could get really good at this!!!
Mathematics Department

Courses for Rising 9th Graders
Geometry Curriculum

- Students study shapes, their properties, and their real life applications.
- Development of the ability to construct valid logical arguments, especially geometric proof, is emphasized.
- Algebraic skills and concepts are necessary for success.
Honors Geometry vs. Geometry

- Greater requirements for proof of theorems, beyond simply knowing and applying them
- Greater amounts and level of difficulty of homework
- High motivation and an interest in math is important for success
- The algebra skills demanded by the coursework is greater in honors
MYP Honors Geometry and MYP Geometry

- Identical curricular objectives as Honors Geometry and Geometry, respectively
- MYP courses deliver content incorporating Middle Years Programme methodologies such as the Learner Profile
- Pending enrollment, MYP sections may be combined with non-MYP sections, but MYP students will still receive MYP instruction and meet MYP requirements
Algebra Part A and Part B

- Utilizes the Cognitive Tutor, a computer-based program from Carnegie Learning
- Emphasizes real life applications
- Part A is a one year course for students who have never had an algebra course.
- Part B is a one year course for students who have taken Part A in 8th grade.
Algebra Part A and Part B

- Upon completion of Parts A and B, students are well-prepared for the Keystone Exam

- Students taking Part B in ninth-grade will take the Keystone Exam in May

- Students taking Part A in ninth-grade will take Part B in tenth-grade and take the Keystone in May of their tenth-grade year
Math Elective:
Programming Languages

- PL 1 offered in Fall semester only, PL2 in Spring semester only and requires completion of PL1

- Introduces the fundamentals of computer programming, assuming no prior knowledge

- Complements courses such as Robotics, and opens the door to further study in computer science
Science
Department

9th Grade Course Offerings
Honors Biology

- Prepares students for Keystone Biology Exam (graduation requirement)
- Topics covered with most depth
- Students required to read the book before materials is taught
- Expected work each night - at least 30 min.
- Weighted course: most of the grade is earned through tests/quizzes
Academic Biology

- Prepares students for Keystone Biology Exam (graduation requirement)
- Topics covered with teacher led reviews
- Comprehension and application of biology principles are emphasized
- Less independent technical reading
- Expected work each night – at least 15-20 min.
Conceptual Biology

- Prepares students for Keystone Biology Exam (graduation requirement)
- Knowledge and application of biological principles are emphasized
- Frequent checks for understanding; tests on less information
- More repetition by using homework and in class activities
MYP Honors Biology and MYP Academic Biology

- Same content as Honors and Academic Biology

- MYP instruction will emphasize IB principles, such as global contexts, Approaches to Learning, international mindedness, the Learner Profile, and development of skills for lifelong learning.
Keystone Biology Exam

- All three levels of Biology courses prepare students for the Biology Keystone Exam

- The Biology Keystone Exam is a graduation requirement for the Class of 2019 and beyond

- The Biology Keystone Exam is given in May
FOODS 1

- Prerequisite for all foods classes
- Learn basic cooking skills & nutrition
- Eat prepared foods
- Learn to clean the kitchen
FOODS 2

- Continuation of basic cooking & nutrition
- Styles and techniques with an international component
Practical Living

- Personal and leadership development
- Develop communication skills
- Careers-research, interviewing, resume & cover letters
- Financial literacy
CHILD GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

- UNIT 1: Children, Parenthood and You
- UNIT 2: Children and Families
- UNIT 3: Pregnancy
- UNIT 4: Planning and Preparation-Labor & Delivery
- UNIT 5: Newborn to One Year
- UNIT 6: Parenting the Toddler & Older Children
Performing Arts

Electives
For
Rising Ninth Graders
USCHS Choral Music

- Women's Choir - Girls, Grade 9
- Men's Ensemble - Boys, Grades 9-12.
  - Free elective - no audition required.
  - Lunch options are available
  - Classes meet five days a week, with options for schedule conflicts
- 2 credit
Instrumental and General Music Options

- Marching Band
  - Co-Curricular
- Symphonic Band
- Jazz Ensemble 2
  - Lunch Options
- Orchestra
  - Lunch Options
- Beginning Instruments
  - Independent Study
- Basic Guitar Technique
  - Full year, 3 days/week
- Music Theory and Technology
Fine Arts Department

Electives for Rising 9th Graders
Fine Arts: Intro to Ceramics

- An introduction to wheel thrown and hand building techniques in clay.

- This course can be taken for a semester or a year.

- A course designed to develop skills using the potter’s wheel, hand building and sculptural techniques with clay.
Fine Arts: Intro to Sculpture

- An introduction to basic 3D art techniques of sculpture (clay, paper maché, plaster, bookmaking, wire and jewelry)

- This course can be taken for a semester or a year.
Fine Arts:
Intro to Painting, Drawing and Mixed Media

- An introductory course to 2D media (beginner). Students will learn a variety of techniques in acrylic painting, watercolor, drawing (pencil, pastel, colored pencils, ink), printmaking, collage.

- This course can be taken for a semester or a whole year as the lessons change.
Fine Arts: Digital Arts I

- Digital Arts is a broad, hands on survey of computer based art production.

- Class projects are designed to introduce the student to the dynamic field of computer arts, using various Adobe programs.

- One semester, no prerequisite
Fine Arts: Digital Arts II

- Digital Arts II is a design and fabrication class.

- Students will use software learned in Digital Arts I in conjunction with technology in the Fab Lab as creative tools to incorporate digital media into artwork.

- One semester, prerequisite: Digital Arts I.
Technology Education
Technology Education

- Engineering
- Robotics
- Technology Design & Development
- Architecture
- STEAM Innovation and Consulting
Introduction to Engineering
Introduction to Robotics

Actuators
Manipulation
Power
Gears
Sprockets
Torque
Chains
Solid Modeling
STEAM

RobotC
Programming
Friction
Traction
Speed
Switches
Microcontrollers
Easy C

Drive train

Transmitters
Technology Design & Development
Introduction to Architecture
Wellness Education

9th Grade

- One semester of Health
- One semester of Physical Education
Health Education

Making Positive Life Choices!

- Introduction to Wellness
- Nutrition
- Disease and Disorders
- Human Growth and Development
Physical Education

- Fitness for Life
  - achieving individual goals
  - Target Heart Rate
- Lifetime Sports
  - Sportsmanship
- Team Sports
  - Team work
Student Support Services

How can we help you?
- School Psychologist
- School Nurse
- Applied Learning Strategies (with Special Education Teachers)
- SHOP@USC and Partners in SHOP Class
- Instructional Support Aides

Seek out and utilize the supports available!
IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)

- Full enrollment required (no individual courses)
- Completion of all component parts including:
  - Community Service (30 hours / year)
  - Personal Project (10th Grade)
  - All required courses
    - Students may take Passport to French, Passport to German, or Intermediate Spanish as long as they are continuing in the same language as was studied at Fort Couch.
- Arts & Technology electives
  - Minimum of 1 semester of art & tech or
  - 2 semesters of art or
  - 2 semesters of tech
- Completed MYP Certificate is noted on transcript
IB Diploma Program

- 2-year program of rigorous study with an international focus
- open to 11th and 12th graders
- two options of study: IB Diploma candidate or IB Course student
- Diploma candidates: select courses from 6 subject areas at HL or SL, and complete the course Theory of Knowledge
- IB exam is required component of every IB course
Resource Center and Testing Center

- Resource Center: quiet study area available to all students, mods 1-16 daily as drop in or as an assigned non-credit class
- Teachers available to provide assistance with academic work
- Testing Center: location for making up tests after an absence from school—open mods 1-16, and after school until 3:30 pm on Mon-Thurs. and before school on Fridays
USCHS Leadership Academy
Phase 1

- July 24 – 28, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Located at USCHS
- Field Trip Day to Ropes Course

- Leaders go where others fear to tread!
  - Charles Schwahn and William Spady
USCHS STEAM ACADEMY

- Summer enrichment program involving science, technology, arts, and design.
- Rocketry, FabLab, 3-D Sculpture
- June 12-16, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM daily
- 1 elective credit which can be counted as the MYP Technology requirement
- Sign-up information will be available on the district web site
USCHS Counseling

- Mr. Malarkey: A–Dud, Nutrition Center
- Dr. Rullo: Duf – Ke, Band Room
- Mr. Marquis: Kh – N, 148–149
- Mrs. Pardini: O – Ste, Theatre
- Mrs. Kirk: Sti–Z, Theatre