Welcome 8th Grade Students

Mrs. Jennifer Kirk
High School Counseling Curriculum Leader
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
Social Studies: Shaping the Modern World I: Regions/Systems

- Two-semester, core social studies course
- Interconnected nature of the world today
  - Historical
  - Geographical
  - Cultural
  - Political
  - Economic
Regional Approach (Units of Study)

1. North America (e.g. the U.S.)
2. Europe/Russia
3. Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
4. Sub-Saharan Africa
5. East and Southeast Asia
6. South Asia
7. Latin America
4 Fundamental Questions:

1. Who are the people of this region?
2. Why are the people of this region who they are?
3. What are the modern challenges of this region?
4. How is each region interconnected?
Academic or Honors?

- 8th grade social studies teacher recommendation
- High motivation level
- More reading and writing required

MYP or MYP Honors?
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

Sample Units: *Foreign policy challenges, Global Threats, Globalization*
Social Studies Electives Available to 9th Graders

**Psychology**
- One-semester course
- Major psychological fields of study
- Sample Units: *The Brain, Memory & Learning, Personality, Abnormal Psych & Disorders, Perception, Social Psychology*

**Sociology**
- One-semester course
- Scientific interpretation of society and its elements.
- Sample Units: Conformity, Socialization, Deviance Gender, Race, Cultural Variation
Certificate of Global Fluency
World Language at the High School!

- Quicker accomplishments
- Focus on proficiency
- Four year language sequences and more languages
- New opportunities
  - Exchanges
  - Trips
  - Clubs
  - International Studies
Course Options

8th Grade Language

Passport to French, German, Spanish

Level 2 (French, German, Spanish)

Other Course Options

Latin (1-4)

Chinese (1-4)

Japanese (1-3)

International Studies 1 (sem.)
Passport to French, Spanish, and German

- Parallels the middle school curriculum but created with more of a proficiency mindset.
- Speaking (use memorized phrases in proper context)
- Simple writings leaning on memorized phrases (50 word paragraphs)
- Begin to develop reading strategies.
- Culture permeates through the curriculum.
Creating: Students begin to create original sentences in various contexts.

Speaking
- Begin and maintain simple conversations
- Speak for 2+ minutes

Writing
- 100–150 word writings

Reading strategies
- Students begin to develop the ability to pull out key information in authentic texts.

Culture
- Culture is in the fabric of every unit.
Courses for Rising 9th Graders
Geometry Curriculum

- Students study shapes, their properties, and their real-life applications.
- Emphasis on the development of the ability to construct valid logical arguments, especially geometric proofs.
  - Honors is more proof-based, and emphasizes more theory than Academic
  - Conceptual concentrates on calculations and understanding, not proof
- Algebraic skills and concepts are necessary for success.
Conceptual Algebra I Part A & Part B

- Utilizes MATHia, 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 I 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 Exam in May of their tenth-grade year
Math Elective: Programming Languages

- Introduction to Programming offered in Fall semester only; Intermediate Programming in Spring semester only and requires completion of Introduction to Programming

- Introduces the fundamentals of computer programming; assumes 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 PA Keystone Biology Exam (graduation requirement)
- Course is designed for independently motivated students
- Most in-depth coverage of topics
- Students required to read the textbook and take notes before the material is taught
- Expected work each night – at least 30 min.
- Weighted course: most of the grade is earned through assessments
Academic Biology

- Prepares students for PA Keystone Biology Exam (graduation requirement)
- Topics covered with teacher-led reviews
- More guided instruction
- Less reading outside of class
- Expected work each night - at least 15-20 min
- Daily coursework/homework, tests/quizzes and Final/PBA all contribute to the weighted course grade
Conceptual Biology

- Prepares students for PA Keystone Biology Exam (graduation requirement)
- Provides multiple opportunities for learning in smaller groups within the class
- Frequent checks for understanding; smaller tests covering less information
- More repetition by using homework and hands-on, in-class activities
PA 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 2022 and beyond
- The Biology Keystone Exam is given in May
Family and Consumer Sciences

Electives
For
Rising Ninth Graders
Introduction to Culinary Skills 1/2

- Prerequisite for all foods classes
- Self-paced class - students choose the topics they learn about
- Learn basic cooking skills
- Eat prepared foods
- Learn to clean the kitchen
Global Foods

- Students learn about the food, culture, geography, and history of various countries.
- They will have the opportunities to try many traditional foods from countries around the world.
Personal Nutrition

- Students learn about the nutrition of food and how food affects their body.
- They will learn how to make better choices, how to modify their diet to meet their needs, and how to use food to reach their goals.
- They will have the opportunities to try many healthy variations of everyday foods.
PRACTICAL LIVING

- Personal and leadership development
- Develop communication skills
- Career-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
Students interested in the fields of design apparel, textiles, and clothing construction

Individual projects using design principles will further develop the students’ skills
• Home design principles basics
• Furniture styles, fabrics and textiles, and room arrangements will help the students to understand their own decorating styles as well as designing spaces for clients
Performing Arts

Electives

For

Rising Ninth Graders
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
  - 2 credits
Instrumental Music

- **Marching Band**
  - *Co-Curricular*
  - *Meets after school for rehearsals and performances*

- **Symphonic Band**
  - *5 days/week*
  - *5-6 performances each year*

- **Jazz Ensemble 2**
  - *5 days/week*
  - *Lunch Options*
  - *4-5 Performances each year*

- **Orchestra**
  - *5 days/week*
  - *Lunch Options*
  - *5-6 performances each year*
General Music Options

- **Beginning Instruments**
  - Independent Study
- **Basic Guitar Technique**
  - Full year, 3 days/week
- **Music Theory and Technology**
  - Full year, 5 days/week
- **Music Technology and Digital Production**
  - 3 days/week
  - The “Tech” portion of 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 2D Art

- 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, and 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

- SEMESTER COURSES
- Robotics
- Technology Design & Development
- Home Repair and Maintenance
Technology Education

- FULL YEAR COURSES
- Engineering
- Architecture
- STEAM Innovation and Consulting
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!
USCHS Counseling Department

Mrs. Jennifer Kirk, Curriculum Leader
Mr. Jerry Malarkey
Mr. Tom Marquis
Mr. Gordon Mathews
Mrs. Kristin Pardini
Dr. Bill Rullo