



CONCORD ACADEMY

Concord Academy's Curriculum Guide

English

High school

English I (9th grade)

Course Description

The English I curriculum is a survey of the different genres of literature that includes short stories, non-fiction texts, novels, plays, and informational texts. The writing focus of this course incorporates skills necessary to strengthen writing ability, including the interpretation of texts, applied writing structures, the writing process, and grammar. This course prepares students not only to understand appropriate grammar and syntax, but also strategies for strengthening writing through word choice, editing, and a thorough knowledge of the formal rules of the English language. This course includes preparation for the state End of Course exam.

English II (10th grade)

Course Description

English II coursework explores literature through a focus on classical and contemporary works, while reinforcing vocabulary and grammar. Students work through a variety of culture-oriented projects, including presentations, projects, and formal discussions. This course exposes students to drama, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, and incorporates technological elements into presentations and assignments.

English III (11th grade)

Course Description

The English III curriculum is a survey of American Literature, with exposure to the concepts of rhetoric and composition. This course emphasizes the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication. In addition to analyzing speeches, documents, and articles, students will read and respond to plays in the American canon, with the goal of increasing cultural literacy. ACT test prep is incorporated throughout the year.

Learn Differently



English IV (12th grade)

Course Description

English IV focuses on American works that affected this country's literary development. Readings reflect ethnic, economic, and racial diversity of the American literary landscape, spanning from the Puritans to the Post-Modern. Students investigate cultural, historical, and philosophical movements that left a lasting impact on modern society. This course requires students to sharpen their ability to analyze, interpret, and criticize literature through research and writing.

English Lab (High School)

Course Description

English Lab offers targeted research-based intervention in grammar and reading strategies. This course uses fiction, nonfiction, plays, and poetry to scaffold English Language mechanics. Students will read, write, and discuss works of literature in various genres, building skills through daily exercises, writers' workshops, and teacher response. This course provides the scaffolding to support students working towards taking ownership of success strategies while being exposed to relative and engaging texts.

Fiction Workshop (High School)

Course Description

This course challenges students to meet high expectations while utilizing necessary individualized support strategies. Reading skills are entwined with novel studies, providing exposure to high-interest texts while refining comprehension, vocabulary, and retention. Students will be exposed to text through technology blended instruction, with data from formal and informal assessments shaping the focus of the course. This course is specifically designed with appropriate adaptations to the content, methodology, delivery, and/or design that address the student's unique needs.

Foundations English (High School, SPED diploma track)

Course Description

This course is designed to improve fundamental academic skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking. Class instruction emphasizes the development of paragraph and essay writing skills, reading comprehension, sentence structure, and vocabulary. Students are challenged to increase their awareness of literary concepts through exposure to a variety of texts, including plays, novels, and nonfiction pieces, with daily practice in maintaining grammatical mechanics.



Middle School

Middle School ELA A (6-8th grade)

Course Description

The study of English Language Arts for middle school integrates reading, writing, speaking, listening and language standards. Students are encouraged to write often and in many modes. Focus is placed on basic communication and writing skills. Student progress through the stages of the writing process is monitored. In addition, all students will be expected to take the state-mandated assessment tests during the second semester.

Middle School ELA B (6-8th grade)

Course Description

This middle school course emphasizes reading, writing, and speaking with a focus on mastering the mechanics of writing for a variety of purposes. Students experience an integrated reading and writing approach to learn skills necessary for decoding texts for specific topics, purposes, or audiences. Students are also challenged to demonstrate paragraph writing abilities, with scaffolding and research-based intervention strategies modeled daily in class.

Middle School ELA C (6-8th grade)

Course Description

This ELA class offers support for students who benefit from scaffolded language arts programs, utilizing multi-modal demonstrations, kinesthetic anchoring, and repeated exposure strategies. The course expands students' awareness of grammatical concepts, reinforcing and building on emerging language skills. The course emphasis is determined by identified needs of students as well as current progress towards mastery goals.



Middle School Reading A (6-8th grade)

Course Description

This class focuses on engaging with literary selections across a variety of topics. Students develop reading strategies that are demonstrated through projects, presentations, and text analysis practice. This course implements teacher-directed instruction, individual and group work, as well as a variety of approaches to writing, such as writing to learn, writing for exposition, and writing for authentic audiences and purposes. Students will read a variety of literary genres, such as short stories, poems, plays, and novels.

Middle School Reading B (6-8th grade)

Course Description

The Middle School reading program is designed as an intervention to reading instruction course. Reading instruction will be designed to target students' skill deficits in the areas of basic reading (phonics/word identification) and reading comprehension. Students' reading fluency and accuracy will be addressed, both for oral and silent reading. This course has been specifically designed with appropriate adaptations to the content, methodology, delivery and/or design that address the student's unique needs. Teaching strategies will include whole group, small-group, and individualized instruction, ensuring generalization of reading skills across multiple settings.

Middle School Reading C (6-8th grade)

Course Description

This middle school reading course emphasizes reading comprehension, vocabulary, and retention of read materials. Students, while exposed to a variety of texts, engage in practice with strategies that maximize opportunities for success. This course supports emerging reading skills through a variety of assessment modes, exposure to high-interest text, and immediate teacher feedback, while incorporating empirically backed intervention strategies. The focus of this course adjusts to student needs as reflected by consistent data collection and analysis.



Math

High School

Algebra 1-A

Course Description

Algebra A is the first half of the Algebra I course taken over the span of a year (two semesters). Algebra provides students the requisite skills that provide a foundation for all future mathematics courses. Students explore writing and solving linear equations, powers and exponents, quadratic equations, polynomials and factoring, graphing and solving linear inequalities, functions, and geometry.

Algebra 1-B

Course Description

Algebra B is the second half of Algebra I and is taken over the span of a year (two semesters). This algebra course builds on math skills learned in Algebra 1A. Students will continue to explore writing and solving linear equations, powers and exponents, quadratic equations, polynomials and factoring, graphing and solving linear inequalities, functions, and geometry.

Geometry 1-A

Course Description

Geometry A is the first half of the Geometry course, taken over the span of a year (two semesters). Geometry A introduces the study of points, segments, triangles, polygons, circles, solid figures, and their associated relationships as a mathematical system. Emphasis is placed on the description and use of inductive, deductive, and intuitive reasoning skills. Points, segments, triangles, polygons, circles, and solid figures are the structures studied. The focus is on comparisons between these figures concerning surface areas, volumes, congruency, similarity, transformations, and coordinate geometry.



Geometry 1-B

Course Description

Geometry B is the second half of Geometry, and is taken over the span of a year (two semesters). This geometry course builds on skills learned in Algebra 1-A and 1-B. Powers of abstract reasoning, spatial visualization and logical reasoning patterns are improved through this course. Points, segments, triangles, polygons, circles, and solid figures are the structures studied. The focus is on comparisons between these figures concerning surface areas, volumes, congruency, similarity, transformations, and coordinate geometry.

Geometry I

Course Description

Geometry I is a course for students with an aptitude for mathematics, combining concepts from Geometry 1-A and 1-B into a one-year (two semester) course. Students in this course will work towards mastering comparisons between figures and practice working with surface area, volume, congruency, similarity, transformations, and coordinate geometry.

Foundations Math (High School, SPED diploma track)

Course Description

The curriculum for High School Math Foundations encompasses the skills needed to navigate in the real world. The skills are practical and used daily. These skills include knowing emergency information, telling time, elapsed time, measurement, counting money, making change, calculating expenses in a store or restaurant, discounts and emerging real-world problems, while offering instruction-integrated scaffolding and success strategies.

Personal Finance (High School)

Course Description

This course will focus on effective skills and real-world challenges teens encounter in the use of money. The topics covered will include recognizing bills and coins, consumer math, making change, budgeting, saving, and giving. Students will navigate skills needed to be successful in handling money independently, using shopping math, hands-on practice, and mental math strategies.



Middle School

Middle School Math A

Course Description

The course for math A provides a foundation for operations and properties of real numbers to ensure a strong background in arithmetic concepts necessary for success in Algebra I. Focus units include linear equations, probability, and inequalities, taught with a focus on problem-solving and emphasizing application, flexibility, and creativity.

Middle School Math B

Course Description

The math B course is a bridge class designed to prepare students for manipulating arithmetic within upper-level computation problems, numerical relationships, and mental math. Some foundational concepts in this class include integer operations, proportions, and percent applications. The course integrates algorithms, estimation, number sense, and problem-solving skills into lessons for continual spiral review.

Middle School Math C

Course Description

The middle school math C course focuses on students' independence working with numbers, and focuses on application-based skills, including making change, menu math, calculating discounts, measurement concepts, and calculations with time. Students in this class are exposed to concepts using high-interest engagement strategies and are supported through research-based intervention. The course is designed to support learners through flexible unit focus, as determined by student assessment data. The use of technology is emphasized in this course.



Science

High School

Biology (High School)

Course Description

The goal of Biology 1 is to develop an understanding of the diversity and unity in living things. Concepts covered include current and emerging technologies as well as interactions of organisms with their environment, chemical structure of organisms, transfer of energy in organisms, cell structure and function, continuity and change in living things, diversity of living things, and evidence of biological evolution. This course includes preparation for the state End of Course exam.

Physical Science (High School)

Course Description

Physical Science is a science course that explores the relationship between matter and energy. This course introduces the general principles of physics and chemistry. Students investigate physical science concepts through an inquiry-based approach. It investigates the following topics in Introductory Physical Science: volume and mass, solubility, the separation of mixtures, compounds and elements, the atomic model of matter, sizes and masses of molecules and atoms, and the periodic table. Embedded standards for Inquiry, Technology & Engineering, and Mathematics are taught in the context of the content standards for Energy, Matter, Motion, and Forces.

Physics (High School)

Course Description

This is a general survey of the classical physics course. Students are exposed to concepts that encourage depth of understanding in physics and scientific practices, as they study topics like kinematics, dynamics, momentum, energy, electric charge, and direct current circuits. Students will explore these topics using scientific inquiry strategies, laboratory work, and group investigations. This course requires an understanding of Algebra I math concepts.



Chemistry (High School)

Course Description

Chemistry is a survey course that introduces science on the atomic level to students. Topics include stoichiometry, atomic structure, behavior of gases, solutions, acids and bases, and chemical bonding. Mathematical analysis and laboratory experiences are used to supplement and reinforce chemistry concepts. The ability to perform mathematical computations using fractions, decimals, ratios, and exponents is required.

Health (High School)

Course Description

The activities of the curriculum and program are designed to motivate and assist students to maintain and improve their health, prevent disease and reduce health-related risk behaviors. Its focus is to further students' health-related knowledge, attitudes, skills, and practices. The curriculum and program include a variety of topics such as personal health, family health, community health, consumer health, environmental health, family living, mental and emotional health, injury prevention and safety, nutrition, control and prevention of disease, and substance use and abuse.

Anatomy and Physiology (High School)

Course Description

This class expands on students' understanding of biology to introduce essential principles of human anatomy and biology, including the study of body systems at the molecular, cellular, and macroscopic levels. Students will use group activities, lectures, and lab exercises to support a developing awareness of how the human body functions as a structural and functional unit. This course also discusses the anatomical and physiological implications when systems fail.



Middle School

6th Grade Science

Course Description

This class explores characteristics of life, addressing topics that include land use, conservation, energy transfer, levels of organization within an ecosystem, food chains and webs, as well as an overview of extraplanetary systems. Students are challenged to examine the world around them using scientific methods. This class is supported through laboratory experiments, group projects, and independent work.

7th Grade Science

Course Description

Seventh-grade science is a journey through three broad areas of science: Life, Earth and Physical sciences. The course begins by exploring the world in which we live. Earth Science topics include rocks and minerals, the earth's layers, and plate tectonics. Physical Science concepts relate to understanding simple machines, force, speed, velocity, Newton's laws of motion, and waves. Life Science covers concepts related to cells, their parts and functions, the use and production of energy within cells, as well as knowledge of the processes of heredity and reproduction. Appropriate use of metric measuring devices and mathematical manipulations are also a major curriculum component. Students will be administered the seventh-grade TCAP Achievement Test. Throughout this journey, students work on building skills in organization, technical writing, the scientific method, critical thinking and working independently.

8th Grade Science

Course Description

The eighth-grade science curriculum centers on the concepts of Life and Physical sciences. Eighth-grade science is a journey through various areas of science. The course topics include Motion and forces, electricity and magnetism, waves: sound, light, space, and geology. Opportunities for inquiry are designed to develop a deeper understanding of key scientific concepts, principles, theories, and laws drawn from the life, physical, earth and space sciences. Student inquiry into how science concepts, engineering skills and the application of technology impacts the quality of life are continually investigated. Lastly, the use of scientific inquiry is embedded throughout this course. Students' will be assessed on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment (TCAP).



Technology

High School

Intro to Computer Applications

Course Description

Intro to Computer Applications is a foundational course intended to teach students the computing fundamentals and concepts involved in the use of common software applications. Students will gain basic proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentations. In addition, students will engage in key critical thinking skills and will practice ethical and appropriate behavior required for the responsible use of technology.

Computer Applications

Course Description

Computer Applications is a review of fundamentals and concepts involved in the use of common software applications, as well as a continuation of practicing skills in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentations. Students will engage in key critical thinking skills and will practice ethical and appropriate behavior required for the responsible use of technology.



History and Social Studies

High School

World History

Course Description

World History and Geography is an in-depth study of our global community's past, emphasizing the people and events that changed past societies, and how these changes affect our modern society. The course is separated into lessons including the following topic areas: early civilizations such as Ancient Greece and Rome, the rise of civilizations of the Americas, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Reformation, the French Revolution and Napoleon, the Industrial Revolution, Revolutions of Europe and Latin America, Growth of Western Democracies and New Imperialism, World War I and the Russian Revolution, World War II and its aftermath, the Cold War and the emergence of new nations, and the developing world and the world today.

United States History

Course Description

The course is designed as a survey of United States history. The scope of the course encompasses topics from 1876 to the present. Students will utilize their textbooks, outside reading sources, and technology throughout the year to gain a better understanding of significant people and events that have come to shape our nation. The goal of the course is to provide students with a better understanding of the world around them, to allow them to think critically, and to provide them with knowledge and skills to become effective citizens.

Economics

Course Description

Students explore basic economic principles such as supply and demand, stocks and bonds, types of savings accounts, varying world market conditions, and explore labor unions and workers' rights. This course uses historical and modern economic examples to emphasize the continuing development of world economies. This course gives students the chance to explore financial literacy simulations and interview financial partners of the community.



Government

Course Description

The high school Government course focuses on the United States' founding principles and beliefs. Students will study the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels, identify the process by which laws are passed, elaborate on the duties of the president, and understand the significance of historical documents such as the Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. This course provides the opportunity for students to interview veterans of the community and engage in civic awareness projects. Learning is delivered through lecture, self-directed investigation, group projects, and hands-on experiences with the goal of increasing student awareness of the United States Government.

Middle School

6th Grade Social Studies

Course Description

This course focuses on the study of ancient history, and lays the background needed for further exploration of social studies. Students are exposed to power, propaganda, government, philosophy, and religion of varying ancient cultures, linking the history of those cultures with a theme of study. Students in this class will use critical thinking strategies to determine shifts in law codes and modern policies, using lectures, group projects, investigation, and research-based interventions to achieve success.

7th Grade Social Studies

Course Description

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum content focuses on the period of the Middle Ages to the explorations of the Americans. Students are required to participate in an in-depth study of the western civilization in Europe during the Renaissance and Reformation. This course exposes students to primary sources, formal and informal debates, simulations, and student-led discussions to broaden their understanding of U.S. government structures and recognize the varied perspectives that form the foundation of American society.

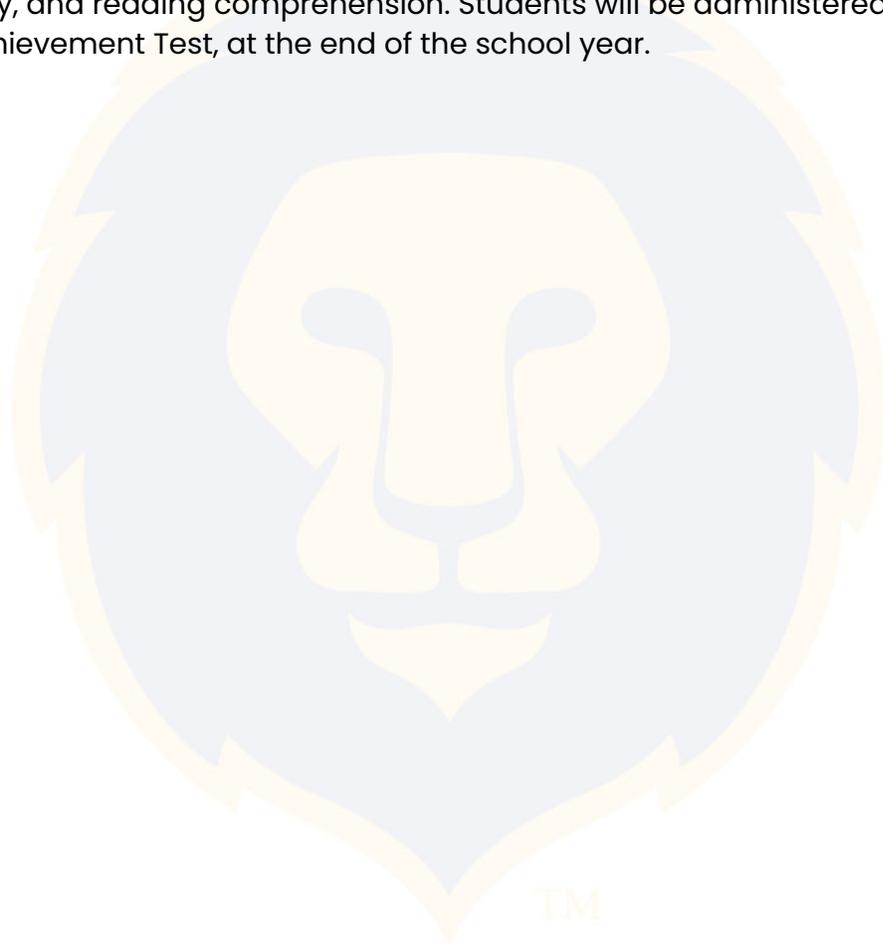


CONCORD ACADEMY

8th Grade Social Studies

Course Description

The eighth grade Social Studies curriculum focuses on the period of American history from the colonization of North America, to Reconstruction and the American West.. Students also investigate the relationship between the government and the economy, social interactions regarding injustice, and global interactions and conflicts. The use of primary source documents is of importance in promoting both the study of history, and reading comprehension. Students will be administered the eighth grade Social Studies TCAP Achievement Test, at the end of the school year.



TM

Learn Differently



Fine Arts

High School and Middle School

Music Appreciation(9th)

Course Description

Music Appreciation will introduce the student to the classical music genres of European music, classical and popular forms of music from America such as folk, blues, jazz, forms of rock and roll, as well as music from around the world. The composers, performers, and their music are showcased in relation to the social, political, and religious events happening at the time the compositions were created and performed. A music theory portion of the course will explore the materials and components that create and organize music. Music theory in our class will include the study of notation, types and uses of scales, melodic and harmonic analysis, and rhythm. A performance component of this course will consist of practicing and performing on a recorder/ and percussive instruments as well as singing.

Art Appreciation(9th)

Course Description

This course offers the student the opportunity to explore art from ancient times to the present. Through readings, research, slides, videos, and museum visits, students will view significant artworks from around the world. Students will engage in discussions about the art and complete note-taking guides to record class discussions on significant historical events, art periods/styles, specific artworks, and issues/themes that connect these artworks. In addition to examining significant artworks, students will plan, test, modify and complete their own artworks with a variety of materials and techniques. Previous art training is not required. This course is offered for one semester.

Middle School Art

Course Description

Students are exposed to art vocabulary that shapes their understanding of line, shape, color, and form. They are required to work with various mediums, including painting, collage, printmaking, and textiles. In middle school art, students will be responsible for completing projects designed for individualized levels of rigor and intensity. The curriculum allows students to explore 3D and 2D representations to enhance spatial depth, while practicing thinking conceptually and translating thoughts into visual imagery.



Foreign Language

High School

Spanish I (11th)

Course Description

This is a first-year beginning-level course in Spanish. In this year students will begin building a language base for communicating in Spanish. These first-year students will also begin to explore the culture and geography of the Spanish-speaking world, using the study of family, food, daily routine, clothing, vacations, and celebrations to further their skills and confidence in the Spanish language. Emphasis is placed on basic structures that allow understanding and communication of the written and spoken language.

Spanish II (12th)

Course Description

This is a second-year beginning-level course in Spanish. In this year students will continue building a language base for communicating in Spanish, focusing on modality and time to enhance their exposure to authentic texts. Students will have opportunities to encounter and explore authentic language through conversation, cooperative group projects, and written expression. Students will increase their skills in listening to, speaking, and reading the language.



Support

10th Transition

Course Description

This course will focus on effective transition skills and real-life challenges that teens encounter throughout high school and beyond. The course objectives will assist students in building a solid foundation that will sustain them throughout life by providing them with tools to assist them in solving life's challenges. It will empower students to make smart choices, utilize critical thinking skills, and manage the many challenges they will encounter throughout life, such as friendships, professionalism, workplace expectations, and navigating social stress, with an emphasis on preparation awareness.

11th Transition

Course Description

This course will focus on effective transition skills and real-life challenges that teens encounter throughout high school and beyond. The course objectives will assist students in building a solid foundation that will sustain them throughout life by providing them with tools to assist them in solving life's challenges. It will empower students to make smart choices, utilize critical thinking skills, and manage the many challenges they will encounter throughout life, such as friendships, professionalism, workplace expectations, and navigating social stress, with an emphasis on preparation awareness.

12th Transition

Course Description

This course will focus on real-life challenges high school seniors will encounter in their final year of high school and beyond. Graduating high school and moving on to further education or the workplace brings with it a whole new set of challenges. The course objectives will teach basic principles and guidelines, as well as provide practical experience activities which include "mock" interviews with established Memphis business community members, writing cover letters, assistance in selecting a college, or vocation, the college admissions process and job shadowing internships. It will empower students to utilize key skills they will need in order to succeed in college or at work.



Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) Lab

Course Description

Students engage in a work development lab where they assume the role of employee and teachers function as employers. Students' competitive work potential and interest levels are assessed while they explore various jobs using real tools and develop work behaviors that are appropriate to a variety of scenarios. The curriculum for the PAES Lab is a research-based, functional skill curriculum with an embedded formative assessment of career and employability skills. The PAES Lab will assess functional skill levels, career interests, and aptitudes for community-based employment. Students are required to participate in simulated work environments that focus on work-related problem solving through an increased understanding of their own learning and training styles.

Physical Education (P.E., Middle and High School)

Course Description

The Physical Education curriculum focuses on getting the student up and moving as well as building teamwork skills. The students will be participating in activities that are inclusive to a variety of abilities, such as kickball, stretches, yoga, limbo, and walking. They will also be introduced to group games and be provided opportunities to practice positive competition behaviors. Students in this class are encouraged to form lifelong habits of fitness and physical activity, and the connection between physical and mental health is emphasized through games and group learning.