



Newton

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Our Mission is to Provide Educational Excellence for All Students!

FY21



ACADEMIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Courses



ENGLISH

Course Title: 9th Grade Literature and Composition

This course focuses on a study of literary genres; the students develop initial understanding of both the structure and the meaning of a literary work. The students explore the effect of the literary form in regards to interpretation. The students will read across the curriculum to develop academic and personal interests in different subjects. While the focus is technical writing in ninth grade literature, the student will also demonstrate competency in a variety of writing genres: narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical. The students will engage in research, timed writings, and the writing process. Instruction in language conventions will occur within the context of reading, writing, and speaking, rather than in isolation. The students demonstrate an understanding of listening, speaking, and viewing skills for a variety of purposes.

Course Title: ESOL (*Elective*)

This course follows the aligned GCCPS with differentiation and appropriate teaching strategies for English language learners. This course focuses on the study of 9th Grade Literature and Composition, writing modes and genres, and essential conventions for reading, writing, and speaking. The student develops an understanding of chronological context and the relevance of period structures in American literature. The students develop an understanding of the ways the period of literature affects its structure and how the chronology of a work affects its meaning. The students read a variety of informational and literary texts in all genres and modes of discourse. Reading across the curriculum develops students' academic and personal interests in different subjects. While expository writing is the focus in American literature, the students will also demonstrate competency in a variety of writing genres: narrative, persuasive, and technical. The student will engage in research, timed writing, and the writing process. Instruction in language conventions will occur within the context of reading, writing, and speaking. The students demonstrate and understanding of listening, speaking, and viewing skills for a variety of purposes.

MATHEMATICS

Course Title: Algebra I

The fundamental purpose of Algebra I is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, organized into units, deepen and extend understanding of functions by comparing and contrasting linear, quadratic, and exponential phenomena. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. The pacing suggested below will allow students to gain a foundation in linear, quadratic, and exponential functions before they are brought together to be compared/contrasted in Unit 5. Although units 2, 3, and 4 look lengthy in terms of the number of standards, only their application to one function type per unit will be addressed. As key characteristics of functions are introduced in unit 2 and revisited within units 3, 4, and 5, students will gain a deeper understanding of such concepts as domain and range, intercepts, increasing/decreasing, relative maximum/minimum, symmetry, end

behavior, and the effect of function parameters. Unit 5 will also provide an excellent opportunity for review of many concepts in preparation for the administration of the Georgia Milestones EOC assessment.

Course Title: Accelerated Algebra I/ Geometry A

The fundamental purpose of Accelerated CCGPS Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry A is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, organized into units, deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Coordinate Algebra uses algebra to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. The next unit in the course ties together the algebraic and geometric ideas studied. Transformations on the coordinate plane provide opportunities for the formal study of congruence and similarity. The study of similarity leads to an understanding of right triangle trigonometry and connects to quadratics through Pythagorean relationships. The study of circles uses similarity and congruence to develop basic theorems relating circles and lines and rounds out the course. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Course Title: Accelerated Geometry B / Algebra II

The focus of Accelerated Geometry B /Algebra II is organized into 10 critical areas. The need for extending the set of rational numbers arises and real and complex numbers are introduced so that all quadratic equations can be solved. Quadratic expressions, equations, and functions are developed; comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear and exponential relationships from Algebra I. Circles return with their quadratic algebraic representations on the coordinate plane. The link between probability and data is explored through conditional probability. They apply methods from probability and statistics to draw inferences and conclusions from data. Students expand their repertoire of functions to include polynomial, rational, and radical functions. They expand their study of right triangle trigonometry to model periodic phenomena. And, finally, students bring together all of their experience with functions and geometry to create models and solve contextual problems. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Course Title: Geometry

Geometry is the second course in a sequence of three high school courses designed to ensure career and college readiness. The course represents a discrete study of geometry with correlated statistics applications. Building on standards from middle school, students experiment with transformations in the plane, compare transformations that preserve distance and angle to those that do not and use transformations and proportional reasoning to develop a formal understanding of similarity and congruence. Criteria for similarity and congruence of triangles are examined, facility with geometric proofs is developed, and both are applied in proving theorems and generating geometric constructions involving lines, angles, triangles, and other polygons. Similarity in right triangles is applied to understand right triangle trigonometry. Students apply theorems about circles and extend the study of cross-sections of three-dimensional shapes; use concepts of distance, midpoint, and slope to verify algebraically geometric relationships of figures in the coordinate plane; solve problems involving parallel and perpendicular lines; and develop an understanding of independence and conditional probability to be used to interpret data. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout the course

and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I or its equivalent)

SCIENCE

Course Title: Biology

The Biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations of the life sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology. This curriculum includes more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students will investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Title: American Government

An in-depth study of the American political system. This course focuses on the foundation, principles and structure of the American system of government, examines the role of political parties, social factors as they relate to the role of the citizen, and analyzes the decision-making process that are a part of the system of American political behavior. This course meets the state's Citizenship requirement for graduation.

Course Title: AP Human Geography (*Elective*)

The AP Human Geography course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and tools geographers use in their research and applications.

9TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

Agriculture

Course Title: Agriculture

This course is designed as the foundational course for all Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Pathways. The course introduces the major areas of scientific agricultural production and research; presents problem solving lessons and introductory skills and knowledge in agricultural science and agri-related technologies. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences and leadership programs and activities.

Business

Course Title: Introduction to Business Technology

This course is the foundational course for Administrative Support, Small Business Development, and Human Resources Management pathways. The course is designed for high school students as a gateway to the career pathways above, and provides an overview of business and technology skills required for today's business environment. Knowledge of business principles, the impact of financial decisions, and technology proficiencies demanded by business combine to establish the elements of this course. Emphasis is placed on developing proficient fundamental computer skills required for all career pathways. Students will learn essentials for working in a business environment, managing a business, and owning a business. The intention of this course is to prepare students to be successful both personally and professionally in an information-based society. Students will not only understand the concepts, but apply their knowledge to situations and defend their actions, decisions, and choices through the knowledge and skills acquired in this course. Employability skills are integrated into activities, tasks, and projects throughout the course standards to demonstrate the skills required by business and industry. Competencies in the co-curricular student organization, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), are integral components of both the employability skills standards and content standards for this course. Various forms of technologies will be highlighted to expose students to the emerging technologies impacting the business world. Professional communication skills and practices, problem-solving, ethical and legal issues, and the impact of effective presentation skills are taught in this course as a foundational knowledge to prepare students to be college and career ready. This course is appropriate for all high school students. After mastery of the standards in this course, students should be prepared to earn an industry recognized credential: Microsoft Office Specialist for Word Core Certification.

Marketing Pathways

Course Title: Marketing Principles

Marketing Principles is the foundational course for the Marketing and Management, Fashion Merchandising and Buying, and Marketing Communications and Promotion Pathways. Marketing Principles addresses all the ways in which marketing satisfies consumer and business needs and wants for products and services. Students develop a basic understanding of Employability, Foundational and Business Administration skills, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Financial Analysis, Human Resources Management, Information Management, Marketing, Operations, Professional Development, Strategic Management, and Global Marketing strategies. Instructional projects with real businesses, work-based learning activities including School-Based Enterprises, and DECA application experiences should be incorporated in this course.

Engineering

Course Title: Foundations of Engineering and Technology

The Foundations of Engineering and Technology is the introductory course for the Engineering and Technology Education pathways. This STEM driven course provides the students with an overview of

engineering and technology including the different methods used in the engineering design process developing fundamental technology and engineering literacy. Students will demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have learned through various project based activities while using an engineering design process to successfully master the “E” in STEM.

Family & Consumer Science

Course Title: Food, Nutrition, and Wellness

Food, Nutrition and Wellness is the foundational course in the nutrition and food science pathway. The focus of the course is centered on healthy food and lifestyle choices. Students will investigate the interrelationship of food, nutrition and wellness to promote good health. Mastery of standards through project-based learning, technical skills practice, and leadership development activities of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) will provide students with a competitive edge for either entry into the education global marketplace and/or the post- secondary institution of their choice to continue their education and training.

Legal Service/ Applications of Law

Course Title: Introduction to Law

Introduction to Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security (LPSCS) is the pre-requisite for all other courses within the Career Cluster. This course provides students with career-focused educational opportunities in various LPSCS fields. It examines the basic concepts of law related to citizens’ rights and the responsibilities, and students will receive instruction in critical skill areas including: communicating with diverse groups, conflict resolution, ethics, CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Training, or similar program), basic firefighting, report writing, terrorism, civil and criminal law. Career planning and employability skills will be emphasized.

MCJROTC

Course Title: MCJROTC

This course includes program orientation and the initial classroom instruction and practical application. The course lays the foundations for the follow-up Leadership Education courses by teaching the basics of leadership, citizenship, personal growth and responsibility, career exploration, and general military subjects. Emphasis in the first semester is on introduction to leadership and citizenship. Minimum performance requirements for the course are based on successful completion of competencies according to the national Marine Corps JROTC curriculum. The performance standards of this course are based on the performance standards identified in the course for Marine Corps JROTC. Successful completion of at least three units of credit in the Marine Corps JROTC program qualify the student for advanced placement in a college ROTC program or accelerated promotion in the military services.

Teaching as a Profession

Course Title: Examining the Teaching Profession

This course is the foundational course under the Teaching as a Profession pathway and prepares students for future positions in the field of education. Teaching as a Profession students study, apply, and practice the use of current technologies, effective teaching and learning strategies, the creation of an effective learning environment, the creation of instructional opportunities for diverse learners and students with special needs, and plan instruction based on knowledge of subject matter, students, community, and curriculum performance standards.

Information Technology

Course Title: Introduction to Digital Technology

Introduction to Digital Technology is the foundational course for Web & Digital Communications, Programming, Advanced Programming, Information Support & Services, and Network Systems pathways. This course is designed for high school students to understand, communicate, and adapt to a

digital world as it impacts their personal life, society, and the business world. Exposure to foundational knowledge in hardware, software, programming, web design, IT support, and networks are all taught in a computer lab with hands-on activities and project-focused tasks. Students will not only understand the concepts, but apply their knowledge to situations and defend their actions/decisions/choices through the knowledge and skills acquired in this course. Employability skills are integrated into activities, tasks, and projects throughout the course standards to demonstrate the skills required by business and industry. Competencies in the co-curricular student organization, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), are integral components of both the employability skills standards and content standards for this course. Various forms of technologies will be highlighted to expose students to the emerging technologies impacting the digital world. Professional communication skills and practices, problem-solving, ethical and legal issues, and the impact of effective presentation skills are taught in this course as a foundational knowledge to prepare students to be college and career ready. The knowledge and skills taught in this course build upon each other to form a comprehensive introduction to digital world.

Dance

Course Title: Modern Dance

Introduces basic concepts and skills of modern dance technique including shape, form, line, contract and release, fall and recovery, coordination, balance, core support, clarity of movement, and weight shifts. Students explore individual expression and creativity. Stresses aesthetic perception, creative expression, and performance, with a connection to historical/cultural heritage and aesthetic analysis (e.g. traditional modern, post-modern, Afro-modern, contemporary).

Course Title: Dance I

Introduces students to basic dance knowledge in order to develop coordination, flexibility, and strength while acquiring technical skills in preparation for further dance study. Students explore the role of dance in various cultures, and observe and critique dance performances using specified criteria and appropriate dance terminology.

Physical Education

Course Title: Personal Fitness

Personal Fitness encompasses health when taught on a traditional/year-long calendar. Provides instruction in methods to attain a healthy level of physical fitness. Covers how to develop a lifetime fitness program based on a personal fitness assessment and stresses strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, body composition and cardiovascular endurance. Includes fitness principles, nutrition, fad diets, weight control, stress management, adherence strategies and consumer information; promotes self-awareness and responsibility for fitness.

Foreign Languages

Course Title: Spanish I

Introduces the Spanish language; emphasizes all skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. Includes how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics and to develop an understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Course Title: Spanish II

Enhances Level One skills in Spanish and provides opportunities to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. Provides continued practice in how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics and to increase understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Course Title: French I

Enhances Level One skills in French and provides opportunities to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. Provides continued practice in how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, and to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics. Provides opportunities to increase understanding of French-speaking cultures.

Course Title: Latin I

Introduces students to the Latin language and ancient Roman civilization. Emphasizes the ability to write simple Latin phrases and to understand simple Latin passages presented orally and in writing.

Fine Arts

Course Title: Band

Provides opportunities for intermediate-level performers to increase performance skills and precision on a wind or percussion instrument. Includes performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation of music. Stresses individual progress and learning and group experiences; strengthens reading skills.

Course Title: Chorus

Provides opportunities to develop performance skills and knowledge in mixed choral singing. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation of music. Organizes objectives for self-paced progress through all four levels. Stresses individual progress and group experiences.

Course Title: Theatre Arts (Drama)

Serves as prerequisite for other theater/drama courses. Develops and applies performance skills through basic vocal, physical and emotional exercises; includes improvisation and scene study and related technical art forms.

Course Title: Visual Arts I

Introduces art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgment and studio production. Emphasizes the ability to understand and use elements and principles of design through a variety of media, processes and visual resources. Explores master artworks for historical and cultural significance.

Course Title: Visual Arts II

Enhances level-one skills in art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgment, and studio production. Emphasizes and reinforces knowledge and application of the design elements and their relationship to the principles of design. Explores different two- and three-dimensional art media and processes. Investigates master artworks to increase awareness and to examine the role of art and the artist in past and contemporary societies.

Course Title: Beginning Guitar

Introduces basic guitar techniques. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation.

Course Title: Beginning Piano Techniques

Introduces basic piano keyboard techniques. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation of music. Provides an individualized setting.