



**CRESTED BUTTE  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**2024 – 2025**



## Introduction

The courses a student takes in high school will have long-lasting effects on the future. We urge students to discuss educational and career goals with parents, teachers, and counselors and to take challenging academic courses for four years in order to have many college and career choices. Colleges and universities consider the following criteria important: the degree of difficulty of courses taken, grades, standardized test results, extracurricular activities, community service, leadership, and discipline records.

## Graduation Requirements

Crested Butte Community School requires **26 credits** for graduation as follows:

- **English: 4 credits**
- **Social Studies: 3 credits**
- **Civics: .5 credit**
- **Mathematics: 3 credits**
- **Science: 3 credits (2 credits lab sciences)**
- **World Languages: 1 credit**
- **Fine and Practical Arts: 1 credits**
- **Physical Education: 1 credits**
- **Health: .5 credit**
- **Electives: 9 credits**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has established Higher Education Admission Recommendations (HEAR). To qualify for admission to a public four-year college or university in Colorado, a student should complete the following HEAR classes (asterisks identify qualifying courses in the program list):

- **English: 4 years**
- **Social Studies: 3 years**
- **Math: 4 years**
- **Science: 3 years (2 credits must be lab sciences)**
- **Foreign Language: 1 year**
- **Electives: 2 years**

**Selective colleges often exceed the above expectations, requiring four or more years in all core subjects.** It is imperative that you check admissions requirements of any college or university you may attend in order to plan accordingly.

## Colorado College and Career-Ready Demonstrations

Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, prior to graduation students must demonstrate college or career readiness in English and math based on at least one measure from the menu of options provided by the Colorado Department of Education. For more information and specific options, refer to the Gunnison Watershed School District Board Policy IKF.

## Credit

All credit will be awarded upon course completion (a semester course equals .5 Carnegie unit and a year long course equals 1 Carnegie unit). Students who register for a full year course in the fall are expected to remain in the course for the entire year.

The drop/add period ends on the Friday of the second week of each semester. Classes dropped during this period will not be documented on the transcript. Students who withdraw after the first two weeks of the semester and before the first nine weeks of the semester will receive a **WF** (withdraw failing) or a **WP** (withdraw passing) depending on whether the student is failing or passing on the date of withdrawal. Students who withdraw from a class after the first nine weeks will receive an F grade on the transcript. A student who withdraws from a full year course at semester will receive a WF or WP as applicable on the transcript for the second semester. If a student changes his or her courses senior year, the counseling office is ethically bound to report those changes to all higher education institutions to which the student has applied.

Students who are unable to finish course work at the end of a semester due to an illness or family emergency may receive an **I** (incomplete). The incomplete must be cleared within two weeks or the grade will be calculated by the work completed prior to the illness/emergency.

## Concurrent Enrollment

The Gunnison Watershed School District works with Western Colorado University to offer concurrent enrollment courses. Through this program, students can take courses for both high school and college credit. Please contact the counseling office for more information. A course worth 2 or 3 college credits will equate to .5 high school credit and a course worth 4 or 5 college credits will equate to 1.0 high school credit.

## **English Course Descriptions**

### **World Literature I (grade 9)\***

#### **1 credit English**

World Literature I is an introductory global studies class that compliments World History/Geography I for a humanities approach to studying cultures through literature. Regions of study include Africa, East Asia, India, and the Mediterranean through a mix of fiction and nonfiction material. There are also studies in modern fiction and research paper writing. Students will focus on developing reading, writing, and speaking skills.

### **World Literature II (grade 10)\***

#### **1 credit English**

World Literature II is tightly aligned with World History/Geography II for a humanities approach to studying cultures through literature. Using a mix of fiction and nonfiction texts, the course focuses strongly on literature from the Middle Ages to Industrialization as well as an intensive study in poetry and some modern literature. Students will further refine reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students enrolled in this course should also be enrolled in World History/Geography II.

### **Honors World Literature II\* (grade 10)\***

#### **1 credit English**

Honors World Literature II is tightly aligned with Honors World History/Geography II for a humanities approach to studying cultures through literature. Using a mix of fiction and nonfiction texts, the course focuses strongly on literature from the Middle Ages to Industrialization as well as an intensive study in poetry and some modern literature. Honors requires a higher level of rigor, additional readings including primary texts, more in-depth assessments, and extended written work. Students are expected to apply high-level reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students enrolled in this course should also be enrolled in Honors World History/Geography II.

### **Modern American Literature: Reconstruction to Present (grade 11)\***

#### **1 credit English**

Modern American Literature: Reconstruction to Present covers the literature of America in the context of world history from 1865 – present. Students are expected to apply high-level reading, writing, and speaking skills.

### **Honors Modern American Literature: Reconstruction to Present (grade 11)\***

#### **1 credit English**

Honors Modern American Literature: Reconstruction to Present covers the literature of America in the context of world history from 1865 – present. Honors requires a higher level of rigor, additional readings including primary texts, more in-depth assessments, and extended written work. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of reading, writing, and speaking skills.

### **Contemporary Literature (grade 12)\***

#### **1 credit English**

Contemporary Literature is a survey course exploring modern, diverse literature and culture from around the world. Texts include novels, short stories, plays, poetry, film, and non-fiction pieces. Emphasis will be on critical reading, analytical writing, and creative writing with attention to audience and purpose.

### **Honors Contemporary Literature (grade 12)\***

#### **1 credit English**

Honors Contemporary Literature is a survey course exploring modern, diverse literature and culture from around the world. Texts include novels, short stories, plays, poetry, film, and non-fiction pieces. Emphasis will be on critical reading, analytical writing, and creative writing, with attention to audience and purpose. Honors requires a higher level of rigor, additional readings including primary texts, more in-depth assessments, and extended written work. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery in critical reading, analytical writing, and creative writing, with attention to audience and purpose.

### **AP Language and Composition (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2025 – 2026)\***

#### **1 credit English**

Prerequisite: Honors World Literature II, Honors Modern American Literature, or AP Literature with a B or better or teacher recommendation. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. Advanced Placement Language and Composition is a college level course emphasizing non-fiction and the elements that define effective argument and composition through the critical analysis and interpretation of complex texts. Students read from predominantly nonfiction works, including expository, argumentative, and analytical texts as well as visual materials from a variety of authors and time periods. Students complete informed research and synthesize varied sources, culminating in a researched argument paper. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for the exam.

## **AP Literature and Composition (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025)\***

### **1 credit English**

Prerequisite: Honors World Literature II, Honors Modern American Literature, or AP Language with a B or better or teacher recommendation. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. AP Literature and Composition is designed for college-bound juniors and seniors; it is a college-level course stressing close and careful reading of literature and analytical writing in response to that literature. The course includes intensive study of representative works from 16<sup>th</sup> century to today concentrating on works of recognized literary merit including novels, short stories, plays, and poetry. The course prepares students for the Advanced Placement Examination given in the spring (required). Purchasing literature books is encouraged but not required. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for the exam.

## **Social Studies Course Descriptions**

### **World History/Geography I (grade 9)\***

#### **1 credit Social Studies**

World History/Geography I is an introductory global studies class that compliments World Literature I for a humanities approach to studying cultures. Topics include history, culture, geography, and contemporary issues of Africa, Asia, and the Mediterranean region. Students will develop writing, speaking, critical thinking, and historical analysis skills.

### **World History/Geography II (grade 10)\***

#### **1 credit Social Studies**

World History/Geography II is tightly aligned with World Literature II for a humanities approach to studying cultures. First semester explores the history (500-1500 C.E.), culture, geography, and contemporary issues of Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. Second semester focuses on the Renaissance through the Industrial Revolution (1500-1900). Students will further develop writing, speaking, critical thinking, and historical analysis skills. Students enrolled in this course will also be enrolled in World Literature II.

### **Honors World History/Geography II (grade 10)\***

#### **1 credit Social Studies**

Honors World History/Geography II is tightly aligned with Honors World Literature II for a humanities approach to studying cultures. First semester explores the history (500-1500 C.E.), culture, geography, and contemporary issues of Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. Second semester focuses on the Renaissance through the Industrial Revolution (1500-1900). Students will further develop writing, speaking, critical thinking, and historical analysis skills. Honors requires a higher level of rigor, additional readings including primary texts, more in-depth assessments, and extended written work. Students are expected to apply high-level reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students enrolled in this course will also be enrolled in Honors World Literature II.

### **Modern American History: Reconstruction to Present (grade 11)\***

#### **1 credit Social Studies**

Modern American History: Reconstruction to Present combines the history and geography of America in the context of world history from 1865 – present. Students are expected to apply high-level speaking and writing skills.

### **Honors Modern American History: Reconstruction to Present (grade 11)\***

#### **1 credit Social Studies**

Honors Modern American History: Reconstruction to Present combines the history, literature, and geography of America in the context of world history from 1865 – present. Honors requires a higher level of rigor, additional readings including primary texts, more in-depth assessments, and extended written work. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of speaking and writing skills.

### **Civics (grades 11 – 12)\***

#### **.5 credit Social Studies**

Civics focuses on the structure and function of the United States government as well as state and local governments. Students will examine how citizens exercise their roles, rights, and responsibilities of participation at all levels of government.

### **Current World Affairs (grade 11 – 12)\***

#### **.5 credit Social Studies**

This semester course examines the global condition in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Students will explore various aspects of the international system including diplomacy, defense, international law, economics, and resources. Emphasis will be placed on analysis and debate of controversial problems we face today such as terrorism, the environment, and human rights.

### **AP United States History (grade 11)\***

#### **1 credit Social Studies**

Prerequisite: Honors World History/Geography II, Honors Modern American History, or AP World History with a B or better or teacher recommendation. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. Advanced Placement United States History is a college level course and an extension of American History. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for the exam.

**AP World History (grades 10, 12)\*****1 credit Social Studies**

Prerequisite: Honors World History/Geography II, Honors Modern American History, AP US History with a B or better or teacher recommendation. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. Advanced Placement World History is a college level course structured around the investigation of six course themes in four different chronological periods from approximately 1200 C.E. to the present. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for the exam.

**Math Course Descriptions****Algebra I (grades 9 – 10)\*****1 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation. Algebra I is the study of using symbols to explore relationships between numbers and the operations used to work with them. Topics include linear functions, systems of equations, exponential functions, quadratic functions, polynomials, rational equations, radicals, geometry, and statistics.

**Geometry (grades 9 – 12)\*****1 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Algebra I. Geometry is the study of relations, properties, and measurements of solids, surfaces, lines, points, and angles. Topics include logical arguments (proofs), congruent triangles, properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, transformations, similarity, trigonometry, circles, area, and volume.

**Honors Geometry (grades 9 – 12)\*****1 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Algebra I with a B or better or teacher recommendation. Honors Geometry is an in-depth study of relations, properties, and measurements of solids, surfaces, lines, points, and angles. This course includes a heavier emphasis on application of concepts for students who plan to take Honors Algebra II and Honors Precalculus. Topics include logical arguments (proofs), congruent triangles, properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, transformations, similarity, trigonometry, circles, area, and volume. Honors requires a higher level of rigor, additional assignments and more in-depth assessments. Students who enroll in honors are expected to apply high-level critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Algebra II (grades 10 – 12)\*****1 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Geometry. Algebra II is an in-depth study of algebraic concepts. Topics include inequalities, functions, quadratics, polynomials, roots and radicals, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, probability, statistics, and trigonometry.

**Honors Algebra II (grades 10 – 12)\*****1 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Geometry with a B or better or teacher recommendation. Honors Algebra II is an in-depth study of algebraic concepts with a heavier emphasis on the mathematical applications of concepts and is intended for students who plan to take Precalculus. Topics include inequalities, functions, quadratics, polynomials, roots and radicals, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, probability, statistics, and trigonometry. Honors requires a higher level of rigor, additional assignments and more in-depth assessments. Students who enroll in honors are expected to apply high-level critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Honors Precalculus/Trigonometry (grades 11 – 12)\*****1 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Algebra II with a B or better or teacher recommendation. Honors Precalculus/trigonometry is the study of the algebra of calculus and of properties of triangles. Topics include trigonometric, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions, limits, and derivatives.

**Statistics (grades 11 – 12)\*****1 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Algebra II or teacher recommendation. Statistics is an introduction to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Topics include exploring data: describing patterns and departures from patterns, sampling and experimentation: planning and conducting a study, anticipating patterns: exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, and statistical inference: estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses.

**AP Statistics (grades 11 – 12)\*****1 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Algebra II or higher with a B or better or teacher recommendation. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. Statistics is an introduction to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Topics include exploring data: describing patterns and departures from patterns, sampling and experimentation: planning and conducting a study, anticipating patterns: exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, and statistical inference: estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses. Advanced Placement Statistics is a college level course. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for the exam.

**AP Calculus (grades 11 – 12)\*****1 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Honors Precalculus/trigonometry with a B or better or teacher recommendation. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. Advanced Placement Calculus is a college level course covering limits, differentiation, applications of the derivative, and integration. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for the exam.

**Math Skills (grades 9 – 12)****.5 credit Mathematics**

Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation. Math Skills is a course for core mathematics support provided through parallel instruction, supplemental skill building and foundational remediation. In addition, there is a focus on real world applications, connections, and problem solving to help prepare for future math courses as well as vocational tracks and other employment opportunities. Can be repeated for credit.

**Science Course Descriptions****Biology (grade 9)\*****1 credit Lab Science**

Biology is the study of living organisms and their processes. Topics include cellular biology, energy transformations in living organisms, genetics, and heredity. Basic scientific skills and analytical reasoning will be emphasized in laboratory inquiries and investigations.

**Physical Science (grade 10)\*****1 credit Lab Science**

Physical Science is the study of the key concepts and principles of chemistry and physics. Topics include the classification of matter, the periodic table, atomic structure, and variables of motion, dynamics, energy, fluids, electricity, sound, heat, and light. Basic scientific skills and analytical reasoning will be emphasized in laboratory inquiries and investigations.

**Anatomy & Physiology (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2025 – 2026, offered second semester only)\*****.5 credit Lab Science**

Prerequisite: Biology. Anatomy and Physiology is the study of the human body and its processes. The 12 systems of the human body, how they function together, the role of genetics, and the impact of diseases will be studied and discussed.

**Astronomy (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025, offered second semester only)\*****.5 credit Lab Science**

Astronomy is the study of our amazing universe. Chemical and physical properties of planetary objects and stars are evaluated using a variety of techniques. Topics include planets, stars, deep space, galaxies, and the origin of the universe.

**Biomedical Sciences (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025, offered first semester only)\*****.5 credit Lab Science**

Prerequisite: Biology. In Biomedical Sciences, students explore biomedical careers, use appropriate medical terminology, explore body protection and homeostasis of the human body, and engage in project-based curriculum. Students discover a wide range of interventions related to immunology, medical devices, and diagnostics for prevention/treatment of disease. Lifestyle choices and preventative measures are emphasized throughout the course along with the roles of scientific thinking, forensic science, and engineering design play in the development of interventions in the future.

**Botany (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025, offered second semester only)\*****.5 credit Lab Science**

Botany is the study of the structure, growth, and classification of plants. In addition, the principles of plant science will be applied to the propagation, cultivation, and protection of plants. Aspects of landscape design will be addressed as students design landscapes for varied climates.

**Chemistry (grades 10 – 12)\*****1 credit Lab Science**

Chemistry is the study of the composition, structure, and properties of matter and its transformations. Topics include chemical reactions, the Atomic Theory, Kinetic Theory, solutions solubility, ions, the Periodic Table, the composition of the atom and radioactivity, Quantum Theory, chemical bonding, energy (chemical and nuclear reactions), chemical equilibrium, and aqueous acids and bases. Lab work is essential.

**Ecology (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025, offered first semester only)\*****.5 credit Lab Science**

Ecology is the study of the relationship of living things to one another in their environment. This course will be hands-on and experiment-based. Students will spend much time outside in the field to explore the ecology of our valley.

**Geology (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2025 – 2026, offered first semester only)\*****.5 credit Lab Science**

Geology is the study of the earth's history and its processes. Topics include rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, Earth's energy resources, and global climate change. Students will engage in laboratories, problem solving, and hands-on investigations of local geology.

**Physics (grades 11 – 12)\*****1 credit Lab Science**

Prerequisite: Algebra II. Physics is the study of matter and energy and their interactions. Topics include mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, sound and light. Lab work with an emphasis on utilizing math is essential. Strong math skills are recommended.

**AP Biology (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025)\*****1 credit Lab Science**

Prerequisite: Chemistry with a B or better or teacher recommendation. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. Advanced Placement Biology is an introductory college level course. Students will cultivate their understanding of biology through exploration of the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, genetics, ecology, and biological systems. The course is designed so that students engage in active investigation of these science concepts. A minimum of 25% of the instructional time for this course is devoted to student-directed, hands-on investigations. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for the exam.

**AP Chemistry (grades 11 – 12, offered in 2025 – 2026)\*****1 credit Lab Science**

Prerequisite: Chemistry with a B or better or teacher recommendation. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. Advanced Placement Chemistry is a college level course. AP chemistry builds on the fundamental concepts learned in first year chemistry, including structure and states of matter, reactions, and how to solve chemical problems. The course is designed so that students engage in hands-on laboratory investigation to learn chemical concepts through direct experience and observations while working in groups to think analytically about problems, identify experimental questions, and design experiments to answer those questions. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for the exam.

**World Language Course Descriptions****Spanish I (grades 9 – 12)\*****1 credit Foreign Language**

Spanish I is an introduction to the Spanish language and the culture of the Spanish speaking world. In Spanish I students will learn to listen, speak, read and write at a basic level, using present tense structures. Students will learn to understand and produce language about such topics as likes/dislikes, school, friends, family, food, home, sports and health.

**Spanish II (grades 10 – 12)\*****1 credit Foreign Language**

Prerequisite: Middle School Spanish 1 and 2 or Spanish I. In Spanish II, students will refine skills used in Spanish I and further their knowledge of grammatical concepts and vocabulary. Students will also learn to listen, speak, read and write using past tense structures. Students will learn to understand and produce language about such topics as health, summer and winter activities, art and music, shopping for food and clothing, travel, body parts, and camping.

**Spanish III (grades 9 – 12)\*****1 credit Foreign Language**

Prerequisite: Spanish II or teacher approval. In Spanish III, students define, investigate, and present their findings through a variety of creative mediums using a project based curriculum and various formative and summative assessments. Project topics include but are not limited to: scenarios using practical vocabulary and conversation for daily life, cultural identity, Spanish speaking artists and authors and Iberian history. Students will learn to work within the Spanish language, building their confidence with grammatical concepts and vocabulary through listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



**Spanish IV (grades 10 – 12)\*****1 credit Foreign Language**

Prerequisite: Spanish III or teacher approval. In Spanish IV, students study and analyze a variety of topics with a project-based approach. Topics include but are not limited to: travel, friends and family, and immigration. There is a strong focus on reading authentic materials at a higher level and increasing expression and accuracy when writing in Spanish. Students will use the writing process to produce organized, grammatically correct papers showing control over syntactic patterns and vocabulary pertaining to the subject matter. Spanish IV also contains a structured grammar review to reinforce concepts learned in earlier courses and contains some structural elements to help prepare them for AP Spanish.

**AP Spanish (grades 11 – 12)\*****1 credit Foreign Language**

Prerequisite: Teacher approval. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. AP Spanish will involve a complete review of the Spanish language. Students read and analyze writing from a variety of authentic sources (novels, magazine and newspaper articles, etc.). There will be a strong emphasis on speaking and writing spontaneously without support of books or dictionaries. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for the exam.

**Conversational Spanish (grades 11 – 12)\*****.5 credit Foreign Language**

Prerequisite: Spanish IV or teacher approval. This class is intended to provide the opportunity for advanced Spanish students to improve communication skills through conversation. The content will incorporate and expand on grammar concepts and vocabulary themes from Spanish levels I - IV. This class can serve as a segue between Spanish IV and AP Spanish or it can be a way to maintain Spanish language skills after completing AP Spanish. The class will be project-based and will incorporate community involvement.

**Fine and Applied Arts Course Descriptions****Ceramics/Ceramics II (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2025 – 2026)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

Ceramics is an introduction to the properties of clay and a variety of construction approaches. Students will create pieces, both functional and non-functional, using hand, coil, and slab construction as well as throwing on the wheel. Students will also be introduced to a variety of coloring and glazing techniques.

**Drawing/Drawing II (grades 9 – 12)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

Drawing is a course in which students use a variety of media such as pencil, colored pencil, charcoal, ink, pen, and conte crayon to develop rendering skills and aesthetic sensibilities. Students will work on long term projects structured around the elements and principles of art such as composition, value, and perspective. Students will keep a sketchbook, are introduced to the artists of historical relevance, and reflect on each project through group critiques.

**Film as Art (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

This class explores film as an art form. Students will examine the birth of film and the influence this new technological innovation had on various art forms, including literature, painting, architecture, dance, theater, sculpture, and many others. Students will understand the evolution of film in relation to other movements in art. Students will explore innovations in technique and technology related to domestic and foreign films. Students will learn to critique film as they would critique art.

**Graphic Design/Graphic Design II (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

Graphic Design will help students learn and master the basics of Adobe Suite Programs. Students will learn to communicate through the use of concept, type and images. Students will gain an understanding of retouching, solving design problems, designing logos, and creating layouts and advertisements.

**Guitar (grades 9 – 12)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

Guitar class students will learn fundamental guitar skills including playing chords and melodies, reading standard notation and tablature, and playing individually and in a small group setting. Students will learn songs in a variety of musical styles including folk, bluegrass, rock and pop and will have the opportunity to suggest songs they are specifically interested in learning. This class is open to students with no previous experience. However, students are welcome and encouraged to take this class multiple times to continue their guitar journey. Can be repeated for credit.

**Guitar and Acoustic String Ensemble (grades 9 – 12)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

This class is an ensemble focused version of Guitar Class. It is open to guitar students of all ability levels (including beginners) as well as students who have previous experience on another string instrument (mandolin, banjo, violin, viola, cello, bass...). The focus of this class will be playing American string band music, including folk, bluegrass, old-time and Americana in an ensemble setting. Students without previous string experience will begin on guitar but will have the opportunity to try different string instruments. Can be repeated for credit.

**Industrial Arts (grades 9 – 12, not offered in 2024 – 2025 due to facilities expansion)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

Industrial Arts will cover a broad range of woodworking techniques and skills. Students will learn to safely work with both hand and power tools to create a variety of projects. Community carpenters will visit regularly to share their expertise with the class. Can be repeated for credit.

**Jazz Band (grades 9 – 12)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

Prerequisite: Previous instrumental experience. Jazz is a style of Black American Music which has had a huge influence on American and global popular musical styles ever since! In Jazz Band, students will play together in an ensemble, learn to improvise, read music and rehearse to prepare for performances. Students will also learn the history of this rich American art form. In addition to performing in an end of semester concert, jazz band may be invited to perform at various school and community events. Jazz band is open to wind, brass and string instruments, including bass and guitar, as well as piano and drums. Can be repeated for credit.

**Painting/Painting II (grades 9 – 12)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

This course is an introduction to the basic elements of painting. Students will work with paints which may include acrylic, watercolor, silk and oil paints and explore a variety of techniques and subject matter. Technical demonstrations and group critiques will complement the studio work. Historically significant painters will also be introduced and individually researched.

**Photography/Photography II (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

This course is an introduction to digital photography. Students will explore composition, learn to balance aperture and shutter speed in manual mode, edit images using Adobe Lightroom as well as participate in numerous photo shoots and critiques. Several projects involving photography, such as photo collage and photo transfer are also embedded in the curriculum.

**Sculpture/Sculpture II (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2026 – 2027)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

Sculpture is an introduction to the use of a variety of tools and materials in the process of designing and constructing three-dimensional forms and structures in an effort to solve aesthetic problems. Historically significant sculptors will also be introduced and individually researched.

**Advanced Art (grades 10 – 12)\*****.5 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

Prerequisite: Two fine arts classes and teacher approval. This course is the first semester of the AP Studio art program. Students may do one semester or year of Advanced Art or continue on for a second year to complete the AP Studio Art portfolio for submission. The course covers a wide variety of media, skill development, and subject matter.

**AP Studio Art (grades 11 – 12)\*****1.0 credit Fine and Applied Arts**

Prerequisite: Advanced Art and teacher approval. An AP Enrollment Form must be completed during course registration. AP Studio Art encourages students to develop quality work, a concentration of a particular visual interest or problem, and breadth of experience. Students will complete and submit a portfolio for Drawing, 2-D design or 3-D design. A complete course description can be found at [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org). Students must accept responsibility for the workload as well as pay a fee for materials and portfolio submission.

**Physical Education and Health Course Descriptions****Health (grades 9 – 12)****.5 credit Health**

Health addresses the physical, mental, emotional, and social dimensions of personal well-being. This course is designed to motivate students to maintain and improve their health as well as prevent harmful behaviors and disease.

**Physical Education (grades 9 – 12)****.5 credit Physical Education**

Students will be given the opportunity to compete in a variety of games while analyzing strategy and developing skills related to teamwork and leadership. When possible, a tournament style format will be used for games. Student will also explore concepts based on lifelong health habits, fitness, nutrition, and safety. Can be repeated for credit.

## **Weights and Fitness (grades 9 – 12)**

### **.5 credit Physical Education**

Weights and Fitness focuses on exploring various types of exercise and the benefits of being fit. Students will develop the tools and experience to exercise safely and efficiently in a weight room. Students will also be given the opportunity to explore fitness through recreational activities through gym games. Can be repeated for credit.

## **Yoga (grades 9 – 12)**

### **.5 credit Physical Education**

Yoga allows students to learn the techniques of Ashtanga flow yoga in a multi-level class designed to increase flexibility, relaxation, alignment and strength. Students may also participate in various gym-style games if space and facilities allow. Can be repeated for credit.

## **Engineering Course Descriptions**

### **Applied Architecture (grades 10 – 12)\***

#### **1.0 credit Elective**

Prerequisites: Civil Engineering and Architecture or teacher recommendation. Students work as a team to design a house to be built (by students) the following summer. This class works directly with a local professional architect and general contractor to create the specific house design. Students basically function as professional architects and are responsible for design decisions, technical documentation and presentations to official design review committees. Topics include residential design guidelines, residential code, architectural design principles, structural engineering, construction budgeting, public speaking, and architectural design software (Autodesk Revit).

### **Civil Engineering and Architecture (grades 10 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025)\***

#### **1.0 credit Elective**

Prerequisites: Geometry; Engineering Design or Principles of Engineering encouraged. Students learn important aspects of building and site design and development. They apply math, science, and standard engineering practices to design both residential and commercial projects and document their work using 3D architecture design software.

### **Engineering Design (grades 9 – 12)\***

#### **1.0 credit Elective**

The major focus of this course is the design process and its application. Through hands-on projects, students apply engineering standards and document their work. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to help them design solutions to solve proposed problems, document their work using an engineer's notebook, and communicate solutions to peers and members of the professional community.

### **Principles of Engineering (grades 10 – 12, offered in 2025 – 2026)\***

#### **1.0 credit Elective**

Prerequisites: Geometry; Engineering Design recommended. Through problems that engage and challenge, students explore a broad range of engineering topics including mechanisms, the strength of structures and materials, and automation. Students develop skills in problem solving, research, and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration, and presentation. Students engage in open-ended problem solving, learn and apply the engineering design process, and use the same industry-leading technology and software that is used in the world's top companies.

## **Other Elective Course Descriptions**

### **Creative Writing (grades 9 – 12)\***

#### **.5 credit Elective**

Students will read and write multi-genre fiction, poetry, and screenwriting. We will explore character arcs, systematic designs for plot, and rivoting dialogue. We will study the shapes of stories with the ultimate goal of writing finished products. Can be repeated for credit.

### **Design: Sheet to Form (grades 9 – 12)\***

#### **.5 credit Elective**

Students explore design techniques with paper and other sheet materials as a way of developing design thinking and model making. Techniques taught in this class can be considered foundational approaches to design. The course is divided into four sections: folding, pop-up design, structural packaging, and a final design project. Photography, computer modeling, 3D printing and other fabrication techniques will be explored as well.

### **Economics & Financial Literacy (grades 9 – 12, offered second semester only)\***

#### **.5 credit Elective**

This course will focus on the basic principles of macroeconomic and microeconomic theory as applied to the United States economy. This course will be linked to the historical and current events of the nation. Students will explore personal finance, including investments, finance, economic choices, budgeting, credit, insurance, and other personal finance topics. This course emphasizes life-long decision-making skills in personal financial management: exploring the economic way of thinking, calculating taxes, spending and budgeting, credit and debt, saving and investing, and types of insurance.

**Film as Philosophy (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2025 – 2026)\*****.5 credit Elective**

This class explores the sociological implications of film in world history. How has this new form of story-telling contributed to philosophical understanding of who we are? Students will examine the most relevant films that contributed to social change and have challenged the traditional conservative notion of who we are. Film will be the medium to explore identity, community, and culture.

**Introduction to Business (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2025 – 2026, offered first semester only)\*****.5 credit Elective**

This course focuses on the operation of the American business system. Students will learn about fundamentals of the economy, careers and opportunities, marketing, management, production, governmental regulations, tools of business, and social responsibilities.

**Library Assistant (grades 9 – 12)****.5 credit Elective**

Prerequisite: Librarian approval. Library Assistant is open to students who wish to gain experience working in the library media center. Students will become more adept in the use of educational materials, including computer and online research, and be expected to help fellow students and teachers. Can be repeated for credit.

**Life Skills (grades 9 – 12)****.5 credit Elective**

Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation. Life Skills is a class designed to prepare students for real-world challenges ranging from personal safety, health and wellness, relationship-building, social skills, and applicable reading skills. The students will learn ways to maintain relationships through social skill activities, address ways for managing conflicts, and practice basic reading skills to use in everyday life. Career and job exploration is an important part of the process of preparing students for higher education and the workforce. All students will gain self-advocacy skills and understand the importance of advocating for themselves while in high school and after graduation. Can be repeated for credit.

**Office Assistant (grades 10 – 12)****.5 credit Elective**

Prerequisite: Office manager approval. Office Assistant is open to students who wish to gain experience working in the office. Students will be expected to help with a variety of tasks including receiving visitors, answering the phone, photocopying, and typing. Can be repeated for credit.

**Psychology (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2025 – 2026)\*****.5 credit Elective**

Psychology is an introduction to the science of behavior and mental processes in humans and other animals. Students will examine many different perspectives on human behavior, while also emphasizing the common themes that hold the various areas of psychology together as an academic discipline. Topics will include psychology's origins, research methods, classic experiments, the brain, human development, social psychology, and applied psychology.

**Publications (grades 10 – 12)****.5 credit Elective**

Prerequisite: Teacher approval. This course utilizes computer software programs to create and manage the yearbook as well as communicate ideas clearly to multiple audiences. Additionally, students will review copyright laws and infringements. Can be repeated for credit.

**Recreation & Tourism (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025, offered first semester only)\*****.5 credit Elective**

Students will delve into the multifaceted industry of leisure and travel, with a strong focus on its business and economic dimensions. From understanding market trends and consumer behavior to analyzing the economic impact of tourism on local and global scales, students will develop essential skills in business management, marketing, and financial analysis tailored to the unique demands of the recreation and tourism sector. Additionally, students will explore crucial aspects such as insurance policies, hiring and training employees, risk management strategies, and equipment procurement, ensuring a holistic understanding of the operational and logistical considerations within the industry.

**Senior Seminar (grade 12, offered first semester only)****.5 credit Elective**

Senior Seminar provides seniors with the opportunity to explore post-secondary educational and/or employment opportunities. This course emphasizes post-graduate planning, financial readiness, and professional awareness.

**Skills Workshop (grades 9 – 12)****.5 credit Elective**

Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation. Skills Workshop allows students to address skill deficits and improve grades. Intervention strategies will be implemented based on test data and classroom performance. Can be repeated for credit.

**Sociology (grades 9 – 12, offered in 2024 – 2025)\***

**.5 credit Elective**

Sociology is the study of human society and social behavior. The course will examine our lives and social experiences, as well as many issues facing society today. Sociology teaches us to look at life in terms of the values, beliefs, and peer-influence, as well as the historical events that help to mold us into unique individuals. This class will cover topics such as culture, violence, deviance, social control, group behavior, social class and social institutions.

**Work Study (grades 11 – 12)**

**.5 credit Elective**

Prerequisite: Counselor and principal approval. Work study is available for students who have a G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher as well as excellent work habits and citizenship. An application must be submitted for approval prior to the start of the semester. Can be repeated for credit.

\*Asterisks identify courses which qualify for Colorado Commission on Higher Education Higher Education Admission Requirements.

**Pathways Opportunities**

For additional district course options, please refer to the Pathways Course Catalogue available on the school website. Options include but are not limited to Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant, Hair Styling, Wilderness First Responder, and outdoor education opportunities.