



Three Rivers Middle School

On-Line Course Offerings

2017-2018



English Language Arts

English Language Arts 8A and 8B

2 Semesters

In this course, students build on their knowledge and blossom as thoughtful readers and clear, effective writers. A balance of literary and informational text engages students throughout the course in reading critically, analyzing texts, and citing evidence to support claims. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through lessons designed to provide explicit modeling and ample opportunities to practice. Students also routinely write responses to texts they have read, and use more extensive, process-based lessons to produce full-length essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full-year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Read complex texts at grade level.
- Understand and analyze the structure and elements of literature from various genres.
- Increase academic and domain-specific vocabulary.
- Use text evidence to analyze, infer, and synthesize ideas.
- Engage in routine writing in response to texts read and analyzed.
- Use the writing process to complete a variety of essay writing assignments.
- Develop research skills to access, interpret, and apply information from multiple sources.
- Gain the tools for speaking and listening in discussions and presentations.
- Learn a variety of real-world and digital communication skills.

English Language Arts 9A and 9B

High School Credit

2 Semesters

Credit: 1

This freshman-year English course invites students to explore diverse texts organized into thematic units. Students will engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts both classic and contemporary. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and literary nonfiction, students will master comprehension and literary-analysis strategies. Interwoven in the lessons across two semesters are activities that encourage students to strengthen their oral language skills and produce clear, coherent writing. Students will read a range of classic texts including Homer's *The Odyssey*, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and Richard Connell's "The Most Dangerous Game." They will study also short but complex texts, including influential speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan. Contemporary texts by Richard Preston, Julia Alvarez, and Maya Angelou round out the course.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Demonstrate knowledge of foundational works of literature.
- Analyze seminal works of literary nonfiction and evaluate their structure and reasoning.
- Analyze the impact of an author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a text.
- Demonstrate increasing sophistication in the routine and process of writing.
- Learn to use Standard English from a variety of grammar lessons.

Electives

3D Art I – Modeling High School Credit One Semester Credit: .5
Prerequisite Courses: None

The 3D Art I – Modeling design course focuses on the fundamental concepts of 3D modeling and explores the basic concepts and skills of 3D animation. Students learn Blender® software to create 3D models such as a house, a creature, an animation of the creature walking, and a landscape terrain. Activities include using points on a grid to create mountains and a color gradient to create a sun and a moon. Students learn 3D space and 3D objects; creating, scaling, and rotating objects; materials and textures; poses and key frames; extruding and mirroring 3D objects; rendering animations; and appending materials, textures, objects, armatures, and animations.

3D Art II – Animation High School Credit One Semester Credit: .5
Prerequisite Courses: 3D Art I – Modeling

The 3D Art II Animation design course focuses on building animation skills including realistic movement and lighting. Students learn the Blender® software workspace and tools; location and rotation properties; scripts; IP curves; vector handles; rendering and baking animations and simulations; and particle systems and emitters. Activities and projects promote key 3D animation concepts including frames and key frames, squash and stretch, action strips, walk cycles and poses, and trajectories. Students develop the skills needed to design and create animations with an understanding of the skills needed to succeed as professional animators. (Prerequisite: 3D Art I: Modeling).

Digital Arts I

Prerequisite Courses: None High School Credit One Semester Credit: .5

The Digital Arts course focuses on building a solid foundation of the basic elements of visual art, then moves on to more advanced principles and elements of art and design. This course teaches core skills using Inkscape™, a free open-source alternative to Adobe® Illustrator®. Topics include learning processes for evaluating artwork, and identifying selected artists' works, styles, and historical periods. Students learn 3D space in a 2D environment; filters, gradients and highlights; and methods of working with color. They express themselves creatively in original digital drawings and artwork. By the end of this course, students will have created a unique portfolio of digital artwork, including repeating images to be used as a desktop

background, a logo with text, two images scaled proportionally to one another, and a poster image and layout.

Digital Arts II High School Credit

One Semester

Credits: 0.5

Prerequisite Courses: Digital Arts I

In Digital Arts II, students will build on the skills and concepts learned in Digital Arts I to further develop a vocabulary of digital design elements. Digital Arts II includes a review of the skills and concepts learned in Part 1 to support the more advanced techniques described in Digital Arts II. Students will learn about the principles of design and use them to create their own unique artwork. The principles of design include repetition, pattern, contrast, variety, movement, rhythm, proportion, balance, emphasis, dominance, unity, and harmony. By the end of Digital Arts II, students will have created a collection of art projects for a digital design portfolio. The course assignments in Digital Arts II teach students how to analyze the use of principles of design in specific artwork, and then apply those principles in student work.

Throughout this course, students will use *Inkscape*, a popular open-source vector-graphics software program, to complete the course projects.

Foundations of Personal Wellness A & B

Two Semesters

Exploring a combination of health and fitness concepts, Foundations of Personal Wellness is a comprehensive and cohesive course that explores all aspects of wellness. Offered as a two-semester course for students, this course uses pedagogical planning to ensure that students explore fitness and physical health and encourages students to learn about the nature of social interactions and how to plan a healthy lifestyle.

Throughout the course, students will meet the following goals:

- Analyze how factors such as heredity, environment, and culture affect health ☐
- Describe how individuals can address health problems and endorse health advocacy through education ☐
- Evaluate myths associated with weight training ☐
- Describe the functions and structures of the different systems of the body ☐
- Analyze the relationship between nutrition, health, and wellness ☐
- Summarize how human life begins from conception through the stages of development ☐

Human Geography A & B

High School Credit

Two Semesters

Credit: 1

Examining current global issues that impact our world today, SS2045 takes a thematic approach to understanding the development of human systems, human understanding of the world, and human social organization. Divided into two semesters, this high school-level course will challenge students to develop geographic skills, including learning to interpret maps, analyze data, and compare theories. Offering interactive content that will grow students' understanding of the development of modern civilization and human systems—from the agricultural revolution to the technological revolution—this course encourages students to analyze economic trends as well as compare global markets and urban environments.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Interpret maps and spatial data to analyze the organization of people and places ☐
- Identify factors that affect the delineation of regions and the role that natural and political boundaries play in the regionalization process ☐
- Analyze relationships and patterns that occur at different geographic scales ☐
- Examine the effect of changing political, economic, cultural, and physical systems on the ☐relationships among places ☐
- Investigate ways the environment has influenced human inhabitation, and analyze the effect that human settlement and activity have had on the environment ☐
- Use social studies skills to access, interpret, and apply information from a variety of sources ☐

Strategies for Academic Success High School Credit One Semester Credit: .5

Offering a comprehensive analysis of different types of motivation, study habits, and learning styles, Strategies for Academic Success encourages middle school students to take control of their learning by exploring varying strategies for success. Providing engaging lessons that will help students identify what works best for them individually, this one-semester course covers important study skills, such as strategies for taking high-quality notes, memorization techniques, test-taking strategies, benefits of visual aids, and reading techniques.

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Compare different types of motivation and explain how motivation affects academics ☐
- Understand the concept of academic integrity, and define cheating as it relates to online learning ☐
- Identify different types of organizers, and describe the purposes of each ☐
- Describe different strategies for remembering information ☐
- List and explain each of the five steps of test preparation ☐
- Explain the importance of following a rubric ☐
- Describe the benefits of creating study groups, and distinguish the characteristics of quality study groups ☐