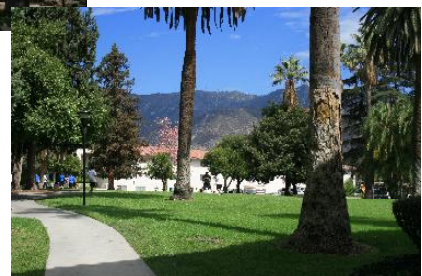




# Excelsior School

A College Preparatory School  
Since 1986



## *Catalog*

*Pasadena Campus*  
*1539 East Howard Street*  
*Pasadena CA. 91104*  
*Tel: (626)398-2388 Fax: (626)398-2454*  
[www.excelsiorschool.com](http://www.excelsiorschool.com)

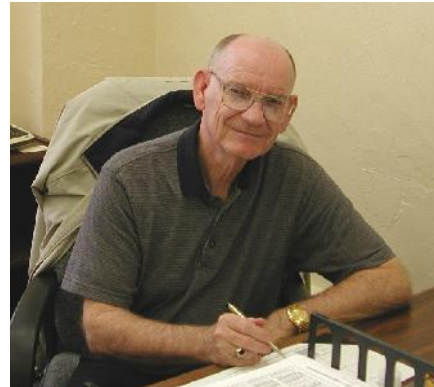


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## Principal's Message

Excelsior is a small private prep school whose name signifies the Philosophy of "onward and upward" with regard to success in Education. We are interested in maximizing the potential creatively, as well as academically, of all of our students. To that end, we stress small class sizes, and individualized attention, for greater and more rapid mastery in all subjects.



We employ an interdisciplinary approach. Reading and writing skills, for example, are taught not only in English classes, but also in science and history as well. Likewise, math concepts are covered in science, economics and other courses when relevant. In addition, SAT /ACT prep are covered within the framework of the regular high school English and math classes, as well as in after hours elective courses. This allows the students a greater familiarity with (and a greater success in taking) College Board tests when they are preparing to apply for the best colleges.

Our educational philosophy works not only for high achievers, but also for those who have the ability to succeed, and have not had a proper educational atmosphere to permit that outcome.

We have demonstrated excellence by our SAT scores and our students' records of acceptances to many distinguished colleges and universities. We truly believe that every Excelsior School student can be successful with the educational foundation we help build.

Harvey Wyma  
Principal

## School Profile

Excelsior School is a small private prep school, grades 9-12 which has been in existence since 1986.



Excelsior offers small group learning and individual attention to students. This kind of personalized instruction, which has been advocated by many education experts as being preferable for most children, is often lacking in large public, as well as private schools.

Excelsior's mission is to prepare students not only for college, but also for life, so that our students can develop the skills necessary to succeed in our fast changing, multi-cultural, and technologically dominated world.

We can provide condensed schedules and independent study for students in the entertainment field and for students with special needs. A number of very successful actors/entertainers have attended our school.

Our alumni have attended many of the prominent colleges in California and elsewhere. A few examples are UCLA, USC, Loyola Marymount University, Occidental College, Pepperdine University, Fordham University, Syracuse University, and many others.

Over the years, we have acquired a diverse, well-qualified, and highly experienced faculty, which is always willing to advance the growth of each student in an interdisciplinary manner.

Since 1992, we have been approved by the INS and the U.S. government for the issuance of I-20's. A variety of foreign students with F-1 student visas, come to the U.S. to study at our school.

## Accreditation

### Excelsior School



**IS ACCREDITED BY**

**THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

**(WASC).**

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is one of six regional associations, which accredit public and private schools, colleges, and universities in the United States. Regional accreditation began about 100 years ago and arose from a desire on the part of educational institutions to establish standards of quality.

Accreditation is a voluntary, non-governmental process, which plays an important role in developing and maintaining the high quality of education in this country.

Accreditation certifies to other institutions and the general public that education programs meet established standards. High school accreditation is established through a partnership between WASC and the California Department of Education (CDE). This ensures that diploma-granting high schools meet the standards of WASC and the CDE Program Quality Review required by the California State Education Code.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is the most prestigious and widely accepted accrediting body for schools in California. The accreditation process ensures that academic standards are high and the school is focused on continuously improving the learning of their students.

WASC accreditation validates the excellent work of our parents and staff – Excelsior School is a place where students learn and grow in an environment of their choosing supported by a personalized curriculum tailored to their specific needs and learning style.



## The Campus

Nestled at the foot of the beautiful San Gabriel Mountains in Pasadena, California, Excelsior School is located in a historical 17-acre park like residential campus complete with cafeteria, library, and dormitory facilities. The trees, lawns, gardens and pathways provide favorite spots for studying, gathering with friends or solitary enjoyment.



Library



Dormitories



Cafeteria



Classrooms & Administration Office

The campus provides classrooms, a computer technology center, administrative offices, sports facilities, performance venues, and social spaces in a variety of settings. Students can enjoy tennis and basketball courts as well as a weight room. One of the most valuable aspects of the Excelsior student is the interaction with people who live and work on campus. Excelsior students will share dorms with students from around the world, exposing them to many different cultures.



Campus Grounds



Beach Volleyball

## Mission Statement

Excelsior School offers a rigorous moral learning environment. We nurture students in the skills, knowledge, values,



and inspiration essential to a rewarding college experience. Our teachers and faculty help provide a lifelong embrace of education, a devotion to community, and help our students to achieve a full and responsible life.

## Vision Statement

We are committed to providing a school environment that values ethical and emotional development, which are equally important to intellectual development.

## Our School Goals:

Excelsior School has created five goals to help accomplish their vision.

- I. Become responsible, self-directed individuals
- II. Experience success and build confidence
- III. Develop critical thinking and decision making skills
- IV. Become productive citizens, and positive role models
- V. Develop positive communication and become competent communicators



## Academics



Excelsior School is a small, independent middle and high school that offers a rigorous, college-preparatory education. Our school has established an excellent record of accomplishment of graduates, matriculating at distinguished colleges and universities.

Our program is designed to develop an awareness of their potential. Commitment to community service, and individual responsibility, are also strongly emphasized. An in-depth, enriched curriculum, close faculty-student relations, diverse activities, and a variety of special programs and traditions support these goals.



The Excelsior School curriculum is varied and challenging, providing a strong college-preparatory program in nine fields of study: English, history, mathematics, computer science, science, foreign language, art, performing arts and physical education.

Students may qualify for honors-level courses in English, history, math, science and foreign language. Advanced Placement preparation is available in English, history, math, science, foreign language, art and performing arts. The Excelsior faculty employs a wide variety of teaching methods. In history class, students might debate the merits of Athenian democracy and Roman imperialism; in biology, students might do a laboratory experiment to determine factors that influence enzyme activity. Teachers may ask students to work together to design a computer-based solution to a mathematical problem. All courses emphasize reading, writing and research skills, and many courses include educational field trips to local museums, theatres and historical sites.

The visual and performing arts are an integral part of the Excelsior experience. Each student is required to enroll in at least one full-year studio art course and one music course before graduation, and many students choose to take additional electives in these fields.



# Excelsior School

## Graduation Requirements



<b>High School Graduation Requirements</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Course Requirements</b>	<b>Required Semester Credits</b>
<b>English:</b>	4 years of English	<b>40</b>
<b>Social Science:</b>	3 years of social science 1 year of World History 1 year of United States History 1 semester of American Government 1 semester of Economics	<b>30</b>
<b>Mathematics:</b>	2 years of math Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 and Geometry Integrated Math 2 or higher level courses.	<b>20</b>
<b>Science:</b>	2 years college prep laboratory science Including both biological and physical sciences	<b>20</b>
<b>Fine Arts or Foreign Language:</b>	1 year of fine arts or foreign language	<b>10</b>
<b>Physical Education:</b>	2 years of physical education	<b>20</b>
<b>Electives:</b>	80 units of credit Student may select elective courses in the following areas: art, business, consumer and homemaking education, English, foreign language, mathematics, music, industrial technology education, physical education, reading, science, social science and work experience/CCOC/ROP.	<b>80</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>220</b>
<b>Exam:</b>	Pass the high school proficiency examinations	

### CREDITS

FIVE SEMESTER CREDITS ARE GRANTED FOR SUCCESSFULLY PASSING A COURSE WHICH MEETS FIVE PERIODS PER WEEK FOR ONE SEMESTER. NO CREDIT IS EARNED FOR COURSES WHICH ARE REPEATED IF CREDIT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY GRANTED OR FOR COURSES IN WHICH AN "F" GRADE IS RECEIVED.

### GRADING SYSTEM

Students attending Excelsior School will be assessed using the following grading scales. Students will be expected to follow the Academic Misconduct and Cheating

policy (plagiarism) as outlined in the student handbook.

<b>Grading Scale</b>	<b>GPA</b>	<b>*Weighted GPA</b>
90-100 = A	A = 4.0	A = 5.0
80-89 = B	B = 3.0	B = 4.0
70-79 = C	C = 2.0	C = 3.0
60-69 = D	D = 1.0	D = 2.0
59-0 = F	F = No credit	F = No Credit

\* Courses that have weighted grades are indicated in the description of the course. Weighted grades are assigned to classes that are accelerated and academically more challenging.

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

## University of California Requirements (starting 2003) (A-G Requirement)

### *A-F/G Subject Requirements:*

**a) College Prep English:** 4 years

English that includes frequent and regular writing and reading of classic and modern literature. Not more than two semesters of ninth-grade English can be used to meet this requirement.

**b) Mathematics:** 3 years (4 recommended)  
(Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)

**c) History / Social Science:** 2 years required  
Includes one year of U.S. History and one year of World Studies.

**\*d) Lab Science:** 2 years (3 recommended)  
CP Integrated Science I, II, and III (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), physiology

**e) Language** (other than English): 2 years (3 recommended)  
(Must be the same foreign language)

**f) Visual and Performing Arts:** 1 year  
Students must complete a year-long approved course from a single visual and performing arts subject area (dance, music, visual arts, or drama/theater.)

**g) College Preparatory Electives** (1 year required)  
Additional courses taken in subject requirement a-f above. They are to be chosen from the following subject areas: social science, English, advanced math, laboratory science, foreign language, and visual and performing arts. Also selected elective courses listed on the UC approved list.

### **SAT I or ACT and SAT II required**

Students must submit test scores for either the SAT I or ACT and two SAT II tests (Subject Tests including writing, mathematics level 1 or level 2, and one test in one of the following areas – English literature, foreign language, science, or social science).

Students applying for admission to the fall term must take these tests no later than December of their senior year, preferably earlier, to ensure that their application receives prompt and full consideration

\* The Science College Requirements must satisfy 1 year life science and 1 year physical science.

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

## California State University Requirements (starting 2003) (A-G Requirements)

Students must complete the following minimum requirements:

- a) College Prep English:** 4 years  
English that includes frequent and regular writing and reading of classic and modern literature. Not more than two semesters of ninth-grade English can be used to meet this requirement.
- b) Mathematics:** 3 years  
(Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)
- c) History / Social Science:** 2 years required  
Includes one year of U.S. History and one year of World Studies.
- \*d) Lab Science:** 2 years  
Biology, Chemistry, Physics  
Physiology
- e) Foreign Language:** 2 years  
2 years same language
- f) Visual and Performing Arts:** 1 year  
Students must complete a year-long approved course from a single visual and performing arts subject area (dance, music, visual arts, or drama/theater.)
- g) Elective Course:** 1 year  
(includes any subjects a-f above and selected college prep elective courses)

### SAT I or ACT required

Other requirements include:

- Graduation from high school
- An eligibility index that places applicants among the top one-third of California's public high school graduates.

GPA	SAT	ACT
Above 3.0	qualifies with any score	
2.80	660	14
2.60	820	18
2.40	980	22
2.20	1140	26
2.0	1300	30

\*\*Scores from the Writing section will not be used for admission purposes to the CSU

## Excelsior School

### UC/CSU-Approved Courses List

#### a-History / Social Science - 2 years required

Two years of history/social science, including one year of World History, Cultures or Geography; and one year of US History or one-half year of US History and one-half year of American Government/Civics

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
AP United States History 🌟	AP US Hist	U.S. History	AP	
AP World History 🌟	AP World Hist	World History / Geography / Cultures	AP	
U.S. History AB		U.S. History		
World History, Cultures, & Geog. AB		World History / Geography / Cultures		

#### b-English - 4 years required

Four years of college preparatory English. Students may only use 1 year of ESL/ELD, SDAIE, or Sheltered English.


Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
AP English Literature and Composition 🌟	AP Engl Lit	English	AP	
English 10AB		English		
English 11AB		English		
English 12AB		English		
English 9AB		English		
English AB (H) ☐🔴		English	H	

#### c-Mathematics - 3 years required, 4 years recommended

Three years of college preparatory mathematics that includes the topics covered in Elementary Algebra/Algebra 1, Geometry and Advanced Algebra/Algebra 2. Approved Integrated Math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement.




Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
Algebra IAB ☐🔴		Algebra 1		
AP Calculus AB 🌟	AP Calculus AB, Calculus AB	Advanced Mathematics	AP	
AP Statistics 🌟	AP Stat	Statistics	AP	
Geometry AB ☐🔴		Geometry		



Intermediate Alg./Trigonometry AB 		Algebra 2		
Math Analysis AB		Advanced Mathematics		Pre-Calculus



**d-Laboratory Science - 2 years required, 3 years recommended**

Two years of laboratory science, including two of the three fundamental disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This requirement can also be met by completing the latter two years of a 3-year Integrated Science program.



Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
AP Biology 	AP Bio	Biological Science	AP	
AP Physics B 	AP Phys B	Physics	AP	
Biology AB		Biological Science		
Chemistry (AP) 		Chemistry	AP	
Chemistry AB		Chemistry		
Physics - Lab		Physics		

**e-Language Other than English - 2 years required, 3 years recommended**


Two years of the same language other than English.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
French IAB 		LOTE Year 1		
French IIAB		LOTE Year 2		
French IIIAB		LOTE Year 3		
Spanish IAB 		LOTE Year 1		
Spanish IIAB		LOTE Year 2		
Spanish IIIAB		LOTE Year 3		

**f-Visual & Performing Arts - 1 year required**

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
Art History & Analysis AB 	Art History & Analysis AB	Visual Arts (Intro)		
introduction to music theory 	intro music	Music (Intro)		

**g-Elective - 1 year required**

One year (two semesters), in addition to those required in "a-f" above. All courses must be listed under "a-f" above with the exception of courses marked with a blue diamond () in Mathematics, Language Other than English, and VPA; plus the following:

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Transcript Abbreviation(s)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Honors Type</b>	<b>Course Notes</b>
Computer Science (Programming) AB		Math		
Creative Writing AB		English		
Economics AB		History / Social Science		Semester
Intro. to Anthropology	Intro. to Anthropology	History / Social Science		
Introduction to Sociology	Sociology I	History / Social Science		
Physical/Earth Science AB		Science-Physical		
Psychology	Psychology	History / Social Science		

## Course Descriptions

### ENGLISH

#### ENG 101A - FRESHMAN ENGLISH 1

<b>Grade:</b> 9	1 Semester	5 Credits
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The first semester of the freshman year focuses on the writing process and literary themes that will be developed throughout high school. The composition skills that we teach stress critical thinking, paragraph development, coherence, the grammar skills needed to write well, and to talk intelligently about the writing process. The play Inherit the Wind is supplemented with short stories, poetry, and non-fiction. Throughout the semester students learn literary terms such as exposition, irony, foreshadowing, and suspense. Students also develop the oral skills needed to give a narrative speech.

#### ENG 101B - FRESHMAN ENGLISH 2

<b>Grade:</b> 9	1 Semester	5 Credits
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The second semester of the freshman year reinforces writing concepts learned earlier in the year. Students experience various types of writing including journals, literary essays, and personal essays. The literature study this semester centers around Romeo and Juliet and To Kill a Mockingbird. Again the course is supplemented with short stories, poetry, and non-fiction. The writing continues to emphasize paragraph development including introductory and concluding paragraphs.

#### ENG 102H - ENGLISH I - HONORS

<b>Grade:</b> 9	2 Semester	10 Credits
		Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Honors teacher recommendation

Students in this course will learn narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and expository essay writing skills. Readings include novels, short stories, essays, dramas, biographies, poetry, and an epic poem. Literary studies include critical analysis and analytical reading.

#### ENG 201A - SOPHOMORE ENGLISH 1

<b>Grade:</b> 10	1 Semester	5 Credits
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The first semester of the sophomore year introduces the student to classical themes and archetypes such as the initiation, the quest, and the hero. Selected works include myths and legends, The Odyssey, and such modern works as The Catcher in the Rye. Teachers will also choose one work from the following list: Antigone, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,

The Merchant of Venice, Oedipus, or The Tales of King Arthur. Supplemental works of different genres reflecting the themes will be introduced. Intensive and varied composition work will include the writing of the multi-paragraph essay, knowledge of expository speech techniques, and the giving of an expository speech.

#### ENG 201B - SOPHOMORE ENGLISH 2

<b>Grade:</b> 10	1 Semester	5 Credits
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In the second semester of the sophomore year the thematic focus will be extended to include the role of the individual in society. Required works include Lord of the Flies and one of these works: A Separate Peace, The Sound of Waves, Montana 1948, Of Mice and Men, or Othello. Short stories and poetry are also part of the curriculum. Related written assignments reinforce core literature and themes. The focus of student writing will be the organized multi-paragraph essay.

#### ENG 202H - ENGLISH II - HONORS

<b>Grade:</b> 10	2 Semester	10 Credits
		Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Honors teacher recommendation

Students in this course will continue to develop the essay and language skills required for entry into advanced placement programs in English. World literature is the basis for reading and writing activities. Composition skills are emphasized.

#### ENG 301A - JUNIOR ENGLISH 1

<b>Grade:</b> 11	1 Semester	5 Credits
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In the junior year, English students analyze all genres of American literature. Students compare works of different periods that deal with similar themes, learn to appreciate the impact history has had on our literature, and analyze the writings of major American authors. Students will acquire an understanding of the major periods in literature including American Puritan Thought, Deism/Rationalism, Romanticism, Transcendentalism, and Realism. Required works include The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and works by historically significant authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Stephen Crane. Frequent and varied composition work will accompany all units. Students learn the logic, rhetoric, and advanced

writing techniques needed to write a persuasive essay and to give a persuasive speech. The persuasive essay, speech and a historical investigation research paper are all requirements of this semester.

### **ENG 301B - JUNIOR ENGLISH 2**

<b>Grade:</b> 11	1 Semester	5 Credits
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In the second semester of the junior year, students will explore the themes of American literature as they apply to the twentieth century. Required works include The Great Gatsby and a choice of Death of a Salesman, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Glass Menagerie or A Raisin in the Sun. As in all English classes, composition will be an integral part of the study of literature.

### **ENG 302H - ENGLISH III - HONORS**

<b>Grade:</b> 11	2 Semester	10 Credits
		Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Honors teacher recommendation

Students in this course continue to develop the skills required for entry into advanced placement programs in English. American literature is the basis for the reading and writing activities. The course examines American ideas as reflected in American literature and traces the themes and literary movements in America.

### **ENG 303H - ENGLISH III/AMERICAN/U.S. HISTORY**

<b>Grade:</b> 11	2 Semester	20 Credits
		Weighted Grade
		Two Hour Block Course

This course combines the curriculum of American/U.S. History and American literature into an interdisciplinary, cross-curricular program of study. The course will meet graduation requirements for Junior English and Twentieth Century U.S. History. Students are involved in simulations, research, and other special projects. Composition skills are emphasized.

### **ENG 401A - ENGLISH IV - CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE**

<b>Grade:</b> 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
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This course will involve examining a number of literary works including poems, essays, short stories, novellas, and novels to illustrate the social and philosophical underpinnings of our contemporary human existence.

### **ENG 401B - ENGLISH IV - SENIOR COMPOSITION**

<b>Grade:</b> 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
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Students in this course will learn expository, research, and creative writing. This course will also focus on the development of vocabulary, literary analysis, and logical thinking.

### **ENG 401C - ENGLISH IV - WORLD LITERATURE**

<b>Grade:</b> 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
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Students in this course will study an array of world literature, including poetry, short stories, novels, and drama. Emphasis will be on developing analytical reading and writing skills.

### **ENG 402H - ENGLISH IV - SHAKESPEARE**

<b>Grade:</b> 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
		Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This course deals with the author's historical, tragic, and comedic plays, as well as his sonnets. Emphasis will be placed upon critical writing that demonstrates a clear understanding of Shakespearean themes and conventions. This course requires the permission and/or recommendation of the faculty involved.

### **ENG 403H - ENGLISH IV - ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

<b>Grade:</b> 12	2 Semester	10 Credits
		Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: English III-Honors and/or teacher recommendation

*This course fulfills senior composition requirements upon completion of the entire year. Students in this challenging course will prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam. Critical reading and in-class writing skills are emphasized. Because of the mature reading level, honor students who are interested in this course may wish to review the reading list. Only students planning to take the Advanced Placement Exam should take this course.*

### **ENG 404A - AP SENIOR ENGLISH 1 - HONORS**

<b>Grade:</b> 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
		Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This course will continue the study of poetry introduced in AP Junior English 2. A Shakespearean play and two or three novels and/or plays will be included in the literature requirements. Students will study Chaucer,



sixteenth century poetry, and other pre-eighteenth century literature. Students will be required to write a minimum of three lengthy essays of literary analysis, in addition to a personal essay appropriate for college applications.

### ENG 404B - AP SENIOR ENGLISH 2 - HONORS

**Grade:** 12                      1 Semester   5 Credits  
Weighted Grade  
**Prerequisite:** Teacher recommendation

AP English 2 is a course designed to help students sharpen their analytical skills and to structure their review of literature in preparation for the challenging AP Exam in Literature and Composition. The course includes analysis of various types of literature, such as poetic explication, as well as the study of techniques involved in the writing of timed essays of analysis. Students are expected to read well and employ composition skills with a high level of competence before entering this course. Students will write approximately one essay per week and reread and analyze six to eight works of literary merit in the first quarter of the course. In the five weeks preceding the exam, students will complete a variety of activities intended to prepare them for the rigorous examination. Following the AP exam, the students complete independent projects related to literature.

### ENG 011C - JOURNALISM I

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
or 10 Elective Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Completed application and teacher recommendation

This course will teach students basic journalism skills. Writing design and layout is emphasized. This course is a prerequisite for Journalism II.

### ENG 012C - JOURNALISM II

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
or 10 Elective Credits

**Prerequisite:** Completed application  
*Course may be repeated for credit but not for grade change.*  
*This course will meet computer technology proficiency requirement upon completion of the entire year.*

This course will implement the skills learned in Journalism I by publishing the school newspaper.

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

### ESL 101C - BEGINNING ESL

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
or 20 Elective Credits

**Prerequisite:** Placement by language assessment  
*This course may be repeated for credit but not for grade change.*

This course is for students whose English experience is very limited. The focus is on language acquisition. Emphasis is on functional vocabulary, basic grammar, listening, and oral skills. Reading, writing, and study skills are introduced. Students enroll for 3 hours of ESL daily.

### ESL 102C - INTERMEDIATE ESL

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
or 10 Elective Credits

**Prerequisite:** Satisfactory completion of Beginning ESL, intermediate level on language assessment measures, or teacher recommendation  
*This course may be repeated for credit but not for grade change.*

This course is for students whose English experience is limited yet functional. The focus is on more specific/specialized vocabulary and more complex grammar structures. Emphasis is on written expression and reading; however, speaking and listening skills continue to be developed. Study skills are further defined and refined. Students enroll for two hours of ESL daily.

### ESL 103C - ADVANCED ESL

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
or 10 Elective Credits

**Prerequisite:** Satisfactory completion of Intermediate ESL, advanced level on language assessment measures, or teacher recommendation  
*This course may be repeated for credit but not for grade change.*

This course is for students whose English (speaking, reading, and writing) skills are generally good. The focus is on listening, reading, writing, and speaking, especially as these skills are used to acquire and communicate ideas. Emphasis is on establishing fluency in writing and speaking, along with sharpening reading and listening comprehension. Students enroll for one hour of ESL.

## FINE ARTS

### FRT 201 - INTRODUCTION TO ART

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      1 Semester   5 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** None, may be repeated for a maximum of two semesters.

This course provides instruction in two and three-dimensional art forms. Students will be given the opportunity to develop their skills in drawing, painting and perspective. Design will be investigated through problem solving activities such as printmaking, sculpture and paper mache. This course is designed to accommodate beginning art students and promises to be challenging to the most experienced. It prepares students for advanced classes.

### FRT 101A - ART & DESIGN I

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      1 Semester   5Credits  
**Prerequisite:** None

This course introduces students to basic Principles and elements of design. It involves right brain drawing techniques emphasizing line, positive/negative space, perspective, value, texture, lettering, and portrait proportion utilizing pencil, pen and ink, and various other media.

### FRT 101B - ART & DESIGN II

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      1 Semester   5 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Art & Design I

This course adds color in a variety of media and further develops composition using elements and principles of design. Subjects include color graphics, life drawing, landscape, still life, portrait and experimental media.

### FRT 301A - PAINTING I

**Grades:** 11, 12      1 Semester   5 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Art & Design I and II

This course is for the serious art student who wishes to learn the tools, techniques, and processes of watercolor, acrylic, oil and other various painting media. Historic and current artists are studied to learn about style, subject matter, and composition.

### FRT 301B - PAINTING II

**Grades:** 11, 12      1 Semester   5 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Painting I and instructor recommendation

This course will continue the study of painting techniques with a concentration in student-generated subject matter based on independent

student-teacher contracts. Students will work on thematic development, in-depth media exploration and/or student generated problems and solutions.

### FRT 302 - ART HISTORY

**Grades:** 11, 12      1 Semester   5 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** None

Art History will cover some of the earliest efforts man made to create art. We will look at these efforts chronologically from cave paintings to the early twentieth century. Students will participate in the following activities for each unit: slide-illustrated lecture, class and small group discussions, and reading and writing assignments based on textbook and supplementary sources. Students will be required to visit one art museum by the end of the semester.

### FRT 303H - AP HISTORY OF ART - HONORS

**Grades:** 11, 12      2 Semester   10Credits  
Weighted Grade  
**Prerequisite:** Teacher Approval

Advanced Placement History of Art will trace the development of man's artistic accomplishments from prehistory to the present. Emphasis will be placed on learning to analyze art in terms of its visual nature, as well as being able to understand and describe the time frame and cultural situation from which a work of art was produced. This course will be conducted in the manner of a college level art history survey. It is recommended that students who elect this course have advanced skills in reading, writing and discussion. Students who pass the Advanced Placement examination in the History of Art may earn college credits and/or advanced placement in college art courses. To enroll in the AP History of Art class, students need a letter of acceptance from the instructor. Museum field trips are required.

### FRT 202 - DRAWING

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Art & Design I and II

This course is designed as a comprehensive understanding, appreciation, and exploration of drawing, both wet and dry media in perspective, landscape, portrait, still-life, and figure drawing. Historical aspects, contemporary trends, and art criticism included.

### **FRT 304 -MUSIC HISTORY AND APPRECIATION**

**Grades:** 11, 12      1 Semester   5 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** None

This course will follow music from its early beginnings to current trends. Listening skills, basic theory, and historical perspectives are among the many facets of music appreciation to be covered. Creative participation is encouraged and field trips will be included.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

### **FLS 101 - FRENCH I**

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** None

This course emphasizes oral communication in French with close attention to basic grammar and vocabulary. Development of reading and listening comprehension is accomplished through short readings and the presentation of auditory stimuli via audio and visual media. Students will begin to write original paragraphs in the second semester. Students are introduced to the culture of French speaking countries.

### **FLS 201 - FRENCH II**

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** French I

This course continues to emphasize the skills taught in French I. Reading comprehension and oral communication skills continue to be an integral part of the program. At this level vocabulary building is emphasized through listening, reading, writing and speaking. Students also continue their study of Francophone culture.

### **FLS 301 - FRENCH III**

**Grades:** 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** French II

In this course emphasis in the class is placed on the mechanics of French which will enable the student of think and speak clearly in the language. Students will write compositions, study French culture, and prepare oral presentations. Selections from various French authors such as St. Exupery, Camus, and Sartre will be studied. Some sections may be designated honors.

### **FLS 401H -FRENCH IV**

**Grades:** 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
Weighted Grade  
**Prerequisite:** French III

This course will continue to refine skills acquired in French III. Emphasis will be on conversation, writing skills and a general grammar review. Literary studies of works by Sartre, Ionesco, and Sagon will also be included.

### **FLS 402H - AP FRENCH IV - HONORS**

**Grades:** 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
Weighted Grade  
**Prerequisite:** French III

Advanced Placement French 4 is designed to further develop oral and written language skills covered in preceding years. It is the equivalent of a third-year college course in French composition and grammar, with emphasis on both formal and conversational situations. The study of French literature and culture is stressed. Students enrolling in Advanced Placement Foreign Language should have attained reasonable proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Since they must speak the foreign language as part of the AP exam, students must be willing to participate in a mostly communicative classroom situation.

### **FLS 102 - MANDARIN I**

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Replacement Test

This course is designed to introduce students to Mandarin Chinese through a communication-based approach. The course provides practice in listening for comprehension and practice in speaking by the use of basic sentence patterns and an emphasis on good pronunciation. Students will acquire the essential Mandarin language survival skills needed to function at a minimum in the classroom and in the target community. They will also be introduced to the culture, the Pin Yin phonetic system and the simplified written form of Chinese characters.

### **FLS 103 - MANDARIN II**

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester   10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Mandarin I

The course builds on the skills developed in Mandarin I, emphasizing more extensive practice in listening and speaking skills through the use of basic sentence patterns, helping students develop mastery of the basics of oral and written Mandarin. Vocabulary building plays a greater role in increasing communication skills.

**FLS 202 - MANDARIN III**

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Mandarin II

This course further develops speaking and listening skills, and provides reinforcement of language learned in the first two years of instruction. It stresses continued expansion of vocabulary and strengthening of reading and writing skills. A Chinese dictionary is used extensively. Readings and audio-visual materials expose students to Chinese culture and civilization.

**FLS 302H - MANDARIN IV**

**Grades:** 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
    Weighted Grade  
**Prerequisite:** Mandarin III

Mandarin 4 further develops listening and reading comprehension skills as well as speaking and writing ability. The course increases students' understanding of Chinese through extensive reading of modern and classical literature, newspapers, and magazines. Emphasis is placed on in-depth study of Chinese culture. The course is conducted in Mandarin.

**FLS 403H - MANDARIN V - HONORS**

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
    Weighted Grade  
**Prerequisite:** Mandarin IV

Students will read and discuss significant literature, poetry, prose and fiction by Chinese authors from Mainland China, Taiwan and overseas Chinese communities. Focus will be on developing students' critical thinking ability and using appropriate oral and written language styles in various contexts. In addition, students will learn to understand native customs, values and attitudes in social and professional situations.

**FLS 104 - SPANISH I**

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** None

Extensive oral practice emphasizing communication and application of grammatical structures in oral patterns comprise the basis for this course. Students are introduced to the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. In the second semester the students will begin to write original paragraphs and to read more extensively in the target language.

**FLS 105 - SPANISH II**

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Spanish I

Spanish II continues to emphasize the skills taught in Spanish I. Reading comprehension and oral communication skills continue to be an integral part of the program. At this level much emphasis is placed upon the instruction of the various Spanish verb tenses. In preparation for the more advanced courses, the students utilize their knowledge of original paragraph writing to develop compositions. They also continue their study of Hispanic culture. One section will be designated honors.

**FLS 203 - SPANISH III**

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** Spanish II

The Spanish III emphasis will be placed on the mechanics of the Spanish language which will enable the student to think and speak clearly in Spanish. The student will be required to prepare numerous oral presentations and write several essays and reports.

**FLS 303H - SPANISH IV**

**Grades:** 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
    Weighted Grade  
**Prerequisite:** Spanish III

This course focuses on the refinement of speaking and listening skills. Much work is devoted to the study of authentic materials, such as newspapers and advertisements. The readings, which include short stories and poems, are used to increase vocabulary and cultural knowledge, as a springboard for oral and written communication.

**FLS 404H - AP SPANISH IV**

**Grades:** 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
    Weighted Grade  
**Prerequisite:** Spanish III

Advanced Placement Spanish Language is the equivalent of a third-year college course in advanced Spanish composition and grammar. The course emphasizes the use of Spanish for active communication. Dedication to speaking, listening, and reading Spanish in and outside the classes are necessary for success in the course and on the AP test. The AP Spanish Language Examination administered in May assesses the achievement of students by evaluating their level of performance in the use of the language. Students are required to demonstrate achievement by understanding written and



spoken Spanish and by writing and speaking easily in correct and idiomatic Spanish.

## GUIDANCE & COUNSELING

### GUC 201C -COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

<b>Grades:</b> 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
<b>Prerequisite:</b> None		

This course is for students who wish to do volunteer work without pay in the community. This is excellent training for students interested in careers in business or social service and for students who want to make a difference for others. Students receive 5 credits for 90 hours per semester. Students attend class on campus once a week during the semester and the rest of the time is spent at the volunteer site. Students must complete a log prior to receiving credit. A grade of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory will be assigned at the completion of the course.

### GUC 101C - LEADERSHIP DYNAMICS

<b>Grades:</b> 9,10, 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
<b>Prerequisite:</b> None		

This class will provide students an opportunity to explore and experience school leadership. Students will study the theories, attributes, and impact of good leadership. Talents, skills, and tools necessary for productive leadership will be practiced through a variety of campus and community involved projects and activities. Important world leaders, interpersonal skills, public speaking, planning, goal setting, facilitation, local leadership, campus leadership, shared decision making, business, government, future leading careers, and diversity will be included in the class curriculum. The student will have access to technology resources such as power point, Internet, and college and career search programs.

## MATHEMATICS

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Four semesters (20 units) of math are required for graduation. **Beginning with the graduating class of 2004, students must pass one year of Algebra 1 as part of their 20 credits of math required for graduation. Students can meet this new Algebra 1 requirement by completing the year course titled Algebra 1 or the three-semester Algebra G program.**

### PREREQUISITES

In order to be admitted to any math class, a student must have a "rising C average" in the preceding course. This requires a "C" average and at least a "C" in the last semester of the class. A few math classes require a "B" average, and/or teacher recommendation; see the course descriptions below for these exceptions. Please note that for Algebra G, all three-semester grades are averaged together.

Example: If an algebra student earns a grade of "D" in the fall and then a "B" in the spring, he/she may go on to geometry since both a "C" average and at least a "C" was earned in the last semester. However, if a "B" is earned in the fall and a "D" in spring, the student may NOT go on because a grade of "C" was not earned in the last semester of the class, even though the average grade is a "C."

Math classes may be taken over the summer to improve a grade in a previous class in order to meet the prerequisite. All work must be done at an ACCREDITED school and students must submit an official transcript of completed work.

### MAH 101 - INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA

<b>Grades:</b> 9,10, 11	2 Semester	10 Credits
<b>Prerequisite:</b> None		

This course prepares students to take Algebra, and thus covers all of the fundamental arithmetic skills using the set of real numbers, plus incorporates use of variables and variable expressions. Topics also include data analysis, probability, and simple functions. Problems are presented in context, and students are expected to read, interpret and respond both orally and in writing.

### MAT 401 - INVESTIGATING MATH 2

<b>Grades:</b> 12	2 Semester	10 Credits
<b>Prerequisite:</b> Completion of one-year high school math		

This course is designed for seniors who have completed Introduction to Algebra or who have attempted Algebra 1 or Algebra 1G without success. Topics covered can vary to help meet the needs of a variety of students.



enhance understanding. Students will complete projects and experiments using the graphing calculator and other technology. Calculus is designed as an alternative to Advanced Placement Calculus A and B, for students who do not want the demands of an AP class and want a head start on college calculus. The entire AP Calculus curriculum will not be covered in this course.

### **MAT 403H - CALCULUS A (AP and HONORS)**

<b>Grades:</b> 10, 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Weighted Grade		
Prerequisite: : Math Analysis with a rising "C" average OR Pre-Calculus with a rising "C" average		

This one semester class is the beginning of calculus. Topics covered include functions, limits, continuity, and differentiation rules for elementary functions, trig functions, logarithmic and exponential functions. Applications of the derivative are covered extensively. An introduction to the definite integral and integration are also included.

### **MAT 404H - CALCULUS B (AP)**

<b>Grades:</b> 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Weighted Grade		
Prerequisite: : Completion of Calculus A with a rising "C" average		

This course includes a thorough study of integral calculus, covering a variety of integration techniques, as well as many different applications of the definite integral, such as area and volume. This course also includes extensive work in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in May, of which successful completion may allow students to earn college credit. [Note: This course is intended for students who have not yet taken the AP Calculus BC exam.]

### **MAT 405H - CALCULUS C (AP)**

<b>Grades:</b> 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Weighted Grade		
Prerequisite: : Completion of Calculus A and B with a rising "C" average		

Topics covered in include simple differential equations, exponential and logistic growth, parametric and polar functions, vectors, and infinite series. This course also includes extensive work in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in May, of which successful completion may allow students to earn college credit. [Note: This course is intended for students

who have not yet taken the AP Calculus BC exam.]

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

### **COM101 - COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**

<b>Grades:</b> 9,10, 11	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

This class is for the student who wants a basic introduction to the Windows operating system. Improving keyboarding skills and learning word processing, spreadsheets, and a basic Web structure are the class focuses. Students completing this course have a good foundation in computer literacy and can move on to additional computer courses.

### **COM 102 - COMPUTER SCIENCE**

<b>Grades:</b> 9,10, 11	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

This class will emphasize a variety of areas. Students will begin with computer literacy and the Windows environment. Desktop applications including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint will be covered. Students will progress to web page production including html, frames, and other advanced topics.

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

### **PRT101 - INTRODUCTION TO INSTRUMENTS**

<b>Grades:</b> 9,10, 11	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

Students in this beginning instrument course can hone their instrumental skills and improve their musicianship in preparation for entrance into one of the more advanced instrumental groups. Entrance into this class is dependent upon enrollment numbers and classroom space. Currently, this class meets in the spring semester.

### **PRT201H - AP MUSIC THEORY - HONORS**

<b>Grades:</b> 9,10, 11,12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Weighted Grade		

Prerequisite: Students must have the ability to read and write musical notation; permission of instructor

AP Music Theory covers the first year of college work in music theory and is designed for students of the musical structure. The curriculum introduces the student to musicianship, theory, musical material,

procedures, and to some extent, history and style. Emphasis is placed on integrating melodic, harmonic, textural, rhythmic, and formal aspects of music. Musicianship skills such as dictation and other listening skills, sight singing, and keyboard harmony are considered and important part of the theory course. The goal of this course is to develop a student's ability to recognize and understand the basic materials and processes of music that is heard or read in the score, providing a solid foundation in intervals, scales, chords, patterns and terms used to describe the elements of music.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### PED 101A -FRESHMAN PE

<b>Grades:</b> 9	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

Students will participate in four major sport areas; soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. Along with these sports, students will participate on a daily basis in cardiovascular fitness, upper body strength, abdominal strength, and flexibility. Once a week, students will participate in a weight training program. A Wellness Report Card is completed and mailed home for each student and includes height, weight, body composition, blood pressure, lung capacity, and their scores on the following fitness tests: mile run, curl-ups, sit and reach, and, push-ups. Each week, students will be offered instruction in Health, covering such topics as lifestyle appraisal, nutrition, diet analysis, the skeletal system, first aid, and CPR.

### PED 101B FRESHMAN PE

<b>Grades:</b> 9	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

Students will participate in four major sport areas; basketball, football, softball and swimming. A one week aquatics seminar will be offered to those students who are interested in snorkeling and kayaking. Along with these sports, students will continue to work on improving their cardiovascular fitness, upper body strength, abdominal strength, and flexibility through daily activities. They will also be tested in the following skill-related fitness areas: agility, balance, hand-eye coordination, and power. Students will continue to utilize the weight room once a week. Health topics this semester will include tobacco, alcohol, drugs, teen sexuality, AIDS and HIV.

### PED 201A - SOPHOMORE PE

<b>Grades:</b> 10	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

Students will continue to develop skills acquired during their freshman year and will be exposed to new activities. The primary emphasis of the sophomore curriculum is individual and dual sports, with badminton and swimming as required core activities. Three or four days a week, students will participate in team or individual sports activities. They will have a choice of two activities throughout the semester from the following selections: basketball, football, softball, and field sports. In addition, one or two days a week, students will participate in personal fitness and weight training.

### PED 201B - SOPHOMORE PE

<b>Grades:</b> 10	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

Students will continue to participate three or four days a week in dual, team, and individual sports with golf and tennis as required core activities, choosing two of the following selections: track & field, outdoor education, soccer, and volleyball. In addition, one or two days a week the student will participate in weight training and personal fitness.

## SCIENCE

### SCI 101 - BIOLOGY

<b>Grades:</b> 9, 10, 11, 12	2 Semester	10 Credits
Prerequisite: Enrolled in Algebra 1 or Algebra G series or a more advanced math course.		

Biology is a balanced approach serving both the college preparatory liberal arts student and the science student requiring a college preparatory course in biology. The central theme is molecular rather than anatomical or systems. The course provides an accurate, modern background to help the student understand the biological issues. Critical topics include DNA, evolution, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, energy and reproduction. The student is expected to develop scientific thinking, a reasoned approach to problem solving and an understanding of the role science plays in daily lives.



### **SCI 201H - AP BIOLOGY - HONORS**

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 1 with a "B" or higher; Completion of Biology with an "A". Completion of Algebra 1 with a "B" or higher; Completion of Biology with an "A".

Students will study materials presented in a rigorous, biochemical oriented, introductory college biology course which stresses basic biological principles, problem solving and laboratory experiences. The course includes a study of molecules and cells; genetics, evolution, organisms and populations. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement Biology examination in May.

### **SCI 102 - CHEMISTRY**

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12    2 Semester    10 Credits  
Prerequisite: Freshman and Sophomore 3.0 GPA overall; Freshman and Sophomore completion of Algebra 1 with "B" or higher. Juniors/Seniors - completion of Algebra 1 with a "C" or higher

Chemistry is a balanced approach serving both the liberal arts and science student requiring a college preparatory course in chemistry. Students will develop basic foundations in atomic structure, atomic periodicity, bond structure, chemical formulation, and nomenclature culminating in solving stoichiometric equations. The course also includes the study of gases, solutions, and rates of reactions and their temperatures.

### **SCI 202H - CHEMISTRY HONORS - HONORS**

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Sophomore must have a "B" or higher in Geometry Honors. Junior and Senior must have received a "B" or higher in Geometry.

Honors Chemistry is designed for the student who wishes to study a college level chemistry course without the constraints imposed by AP Chemistry. This course is taught using a college freshmen text providing a foundation for students entering engineering, health sciences, mathematics, or science as a career. The course includes an in-depth study of gases, solutions, and rates of reactions and their temperatures. Quantitative and qualitative observations are made on both small scale and macro scale systems in chemistry. Students will develop basic foundations in atomic structure, atomic periodicity, bond structure, chemical formulation,

and nomenclature culminating in solving stoichiometric equations.

### **SCI 301H - AP CHEMISTRY - HONORS**

**Grades:** 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Completion of Chemistry (with an "A"), Chemistry Honors, Physics Honors, or AP Physics (with at least a "B") in both semesters.

AP Chemistry is a full year elective course designed to be equivalent to a first year college level general chemistry course, emphasizing the mathematical basis for chemical phenomena.

Due to the lengthy and complex nature of the laboratory experiments performed in the course, students planning to take AP Chemistry need to have a strong background in science and mathematics, and be willing to devote extra time outside the classroom. This course will provide an excellent background for students who wish to pursue science majors in college. Topics covered include structure and states of matter, reactions, and descriptive chemistry. Emphasis is placed on independent learning, strong communication skills and mathematical reasoning. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement Chemistry Exam in May.

### **SCI 203 - PHYSICS**

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits

Prerequisite: Completion of both semesters of Geometry or a more advanced math course at AHS with a "C" or higher. Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2 or Math Analysis is not required, but is encouraged.

Students investigate the following topics: energy, forces, motion and matter at a college preparatory level of analysis. Laboratory activities are designed to lead to discovery and appreciation of concepts in these areas.

### **SCI 204H - PHYSICS HONORS - HONORS**

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Sophomores who have completed Geometry Honors with a "B" or higher. Juniors and seniors who have completed Geometry or a more advanced math course at AHS with a "B" or higher. Algebra 2 is not required for enrollment, but is strongly recommended. Concurrent enrollment in Math Analysis is encouraged.

Honors Physics is designed for students who wish to approach a college level physics course without the constraints imposed by AP Physics.

This course addresses physics topics as rigorously as possible without the use of calculus, so a sound functional grasp of fundamental algebra is essential. Honors Physics provides a foundation for students entering engineering, health sciences, mathematics, or other sciences as a career. Qualitative and quantitative observations and measurements of physical systems involving interactions between matter and energy are made in the course of laboratory investigations. The extent of these investigations, and student responsibility for lab procedure design and execution, is greater than would be found in the standard college preparatory Physics course. The features of the physical systems studied include mass, motion, force, work, heat, sound, light, and electricity.

### SCI 302H - AP PHYSICS - HONORS

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
Weighted Grade  
Prerequisite: Completed Algebra 2 Honors with a "B" or Algebra 2 with an "A."

The AP Physics course provides a systematic introduction to the main topics of physics and strongly emphasizes the development of problem-solving ability. It is assumed that the student is very familiar with Algebra 2 and Trigonometry. In most colleges, this is a one-year course and is not the usual preparation for more advanced physics and engineering courses. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement Physics examination in May. To remain in AP Physics, a student must earn a "C" or above in the first semester.

### SCI 303 - ENVIRONMENTAL CROSS-AGE SCIENCE

**Grades:** 11, 12      1 Semester    5 Credits  
Prerequisite: Must have completed one year of lab science (biology, chemistry, or physics) and have an interest in science, environmental issues, and instruction of middle and elementary students

This semester class offers students the opportunity to develop labs and activities for the elementary and middle school student. These activities will be planned, developed, and taught by the students in the class, and presented throughout the semester to the younger students. Themes will include energy, systems, scale and structure, and patterns of change, all touching upon environmental issues. Class time will include lesson preparation, development of instructional strategies, teaching students at the

middle and elementary schools, and evaluations of their performance. The high school student will develop a portfolio containing lesson plans, presentations, labs, and evaluations.

### SCI 304H - AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE – HONORS

**Grades:** 11, 12      2 Semester    10 Credits  
Weighted Grade  
Prerequisite must have completed both a biology and either a chemistry or physics course with an "A" in one and at least a "B" in the other. If AP or Honors has been taken and a "B" earned, the "A" requirement is waived.

AP Environmental Science is an elective intended for students interested in using scientific principles to understand the human impact on the environment. Students investigate the following topics: human population dynamics, environmental quality, renewable-nonrenewable resources, global changes, their consequences, environment, society, interdependence of Earth's systems, and the choices for the future.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

### SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR AP and HONORS Social Science Classes

#### DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION A

An entering sophomore must request permission from a counselor to take the course. The counselor will make a determination based on the student's English and Modern World History grade, whether or not he/she should be placed in Honors:

1. B in English
2. B in Modern World History
3. 3.30 over-all GPA

#### AP US HISTORY

*Prerequisite:* Sophomore students who enroll in AP US History should meet the following criteria:

- A minimum grade of "B" in Modern World.
- A minimum grade of "B" in Development of Civilization A (Honors) or PAC RIM International Studies Honors.
- A minimum grade of "B" in English Honors or "B" in College Prep English.
- An overall GPA of 3.5.
- Advanced writing and language skills.

- Teacher recommendation where appropriate.

To remain in AP American History, a student must maintain a C average in the course.

### AP GOVERNMENT

Junior students who are interested in enrolling in AP Government must apply for the course in the Spring before their senior year with the AP Government instructor.

All students applying for AP Government will have their transcripts reviewed. Special consideration will be given to students with a GPA of 3.5 or better, and with grades in previous Social Science and English courses of B or better.

All AP Government applicants must receive a "B" or better in Development of Civilization A and in AP U.S. History. For those students transferring from another school or those who do not take Development of Civilization A or AP U.S. History, they will be required to take and pass a reading and an essay exam.

To remain in AP Government, a student must maintain good attendance and a "C" average in the course.

### STY 201 - MODERN WORLD HISTORY

<b>Grades:</b> 10	2 Semester	10 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

This course is the study of significant movements, events and ideologies from the Enlightenment to the present day as they are reflected in world literature and historical sources.

### STY 202 -DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

<b>Grades:</b> 10, 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

A study of human's development from prehistoric time through the Age of Discovery, including Egypt, Middle East, Greece, Rome, medieval society, the Renaissance and Reformation. Focus will be on the contributions of the many different peoples to Western Society.

### STY 301 - AMERICAN EXPERIENCE-HISTORY

<b>Grades:</b> 11	2 Semester	10 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

This course is an interdisciplinary program for juniors in American Literature and US History. Integrating the two disciplines into a single

course offers the potential for an enriching and enlightening curriculum as students and instructors explore the American experience together.

### STY 302 - 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY

<b>Grades:</b> 11, 12	2 Semester	10 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

This course traces the development of the United States from the Spanish American War to the present. Students will review the significant factors responsible for the emergence of the United States as a major world leader.

### STY 303H - AP US HISTORY - HONORS

<b>Grades:</b> 11, 12	2 Semester	10 Credits
Weighted Grade		

Prerequisite: Approval of instructor based on written application and recommendation of English teacher. See prerequisite list at beginning of the social science section

AP US History is an advanced college level course, which emphasizes research, writing, and discussion. Students, who complete this course and perform successfully on the Advanced Placement Exam in May, may earn college credit from a participating college or university.

### STY 304H - 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY - HONORS

<b>Grades:</b> 11	2 Semester	10 Credits
Weighted Grade		

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation. See prerequisite list at beginning of the social science section

This course is designed to increase student understanding of the American people through study questions directed to social, historical, and cultural events. Study will begin with short review sections covering events to 1890, then will focus on turn of the century, to present day in more comprehensive units.

### STY 401 - ECONOMICS

<b>Grades:</b> 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

Students study fundamental economic concepts such as scarcity, opportunity costs and trade-offs, productivity, economic systems, economic institutions and incentives.

The course will also include such microeconomics concepts as market and prices, supply and demand, competition and market structure, income distribution and the role of

government. Macroeconomics concepts include international trade, unemployment, inflation and deflation, and fiscal and monetary policy.

#### **STY 402 - CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

<b>Grades:</b> 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

This course is a survey of the U.S. Federal System at the National, State and local levels. Students study the U.S. Constitution and examine American political, social, economic and legal systems. The economic and political systems of the major countries of the world are compared and contrasted with those of the US.

#### **STY 403H -AP CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT - HONORS**

<b>Grades:</b> 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Weighted Grade		

Prerequisite: Approval of instructor based on written application and recommendation of English teacher. See Social Science prerequisites for AP and Honors classes

This is an accelerated course in the American Governmental System. Included is a thorough examination of these aspects of our government: The Constitution, fundamental rights, political system and major governmental institutions. The course prepares students for the May Advanced Placement American Government Exam.

#### **STY 404H - AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT - HONORS**

<b>Grades:</b> 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Weighted Grade		

Prerequisite: "B" or higher in AP US History and overall GPA of 3.3 or Teacher Recommendation

This course will encompass a comparative study of the governments of four core nations, Great Britain, France, China, and Russia, along with a fifth developing nation of India, Mexico or Nigeria. A comparative study requires an understanding of five major areas of the select nations: sources of public authority and political power, the relationship of the citizen to the state, the political institutions and framework, the relationship between social and economic classes, and the state, and the sources, scope, and consequences of political change.

In addition, students will be taught basic methodology essential to the comparative study of politics. Thus offering the college bound

student a greater understanding of modern world affairs. The course prepares students for the May Advanced Placement Exam.

## **REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM (ROP)**

#### **ROP 301 - BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

<b>Grades:</b> 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

This course is designed to provide students with the skills to be successful in a business of their own. Study will include business opportunities, salesmanship, presentation of merchandise, business plans, sales promotion, marketing, personnel, financial knowledge, laws, licenses, permits, and insurance.

#### **ROP 302 - OFFICE TECHNOLOGY**

<b>Grades:</b> 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

This course is designed to train students for entry-level positions in the business/clerical area. Students may choose to be placed at a community classroom site for additional training.

#### **ROP 303 - ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

<b>Grades:</b> 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: None		

This class is designed to provide students with the skills to be successful in a business of their own. Students will develop business skills during classroom sessions and while working in the high school student store, The Trading Post. Students must agree to work four shifts per week in the student store. Ten credits will be earned, five for class work and five for participation at the Trading Post. Student attendance and behavior is regularly reviewed.

#### **ROP 304 - WORK EXPERIENCE**

<b>Grades:</b> 11, 12	1 Semester	5 Credits
Prerequisite: Must have a job		

Must have a job food, retail, or office occupations - gives special attention to students who are currently working. A knowledge of customer relations, career advancement, safe work habits, tax preparation, and terminology used in the industry will be stressed.

### **ROP 305 - RETAIL MARKETING**

**Grades:** 11, 12      1 Semester   5 Credits  
**Prerequisite:** None

This course is designed to provide students with the necessary skills for entry-level employment in merchandising and retail sales occupations.

Students will acquire knowledge of basic sales techniques, cash register training, sales promotions, stock keeping and inventory control, and hands-on experience in the retail merchandising setting

### **College Counseling**

The college counseling program is committed to the careful matching of each student with a school that is particularly appropriate for each individual. Excelsior recognizes that each student is unique — that student has his/her own educational and professional goals, academic strengths, financial resources and preference for certain geographical locations. A full-time college counselor directs an intensive counseling program which begins as soon as a student enrolls in the Upper School. Each student is advised to pursue a course of study that emphasizes his/her particular talents and strengths. All sophomores and juniors take the PSAT. SAT I and SAT II tests are taken when appropriate in the sophomore, junior, and senior years. During the spring of the junior year and fall of the senior year, students meet in a monthly class with the counselor to go over all aspects of the college application process.



Early in the senior year, there is a college night for senior parents. In the fall, seniors visit colleges, arrange interviews and prepare applications and essays.

Students also have access to extensive computer resources for researching colleges,

## Admission Policy

Excelsior School admits students of any color, racial or ethnic origin. They are entitled to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities accorded to students at the school. Excelsior does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, ethnic origin or religious affiliation. This includes the administration of its education policies, admissions policies, and scholarship and aid programs.



Entrance requirements are based on intellectual ability, personal character, and a demonstrated willingness to learn. The specific criteria for admission to Excelsior School include:

- Report cards or transcripts
- Written recommendations from teacher/counselor/principal
- Placement Exam scores
- Completed application form

Excelsior School is first and foremost a community with an unparalleled academic program that seeks to educate future leaders. The Admission Committee selects students who possess character, scholarship, an interest in belonging to a vigorous and diverse community, and a willingness to share extracurricular talents or abilities.

Of course, the best predictor of academic success is past performance combined with a clear understanding of academic expectations. Through teacher and personal recommendations, a current transcript, a personal interview, and student essays, the Admissions Committee seeks to assess a student's capacity to thrive in the Excelsior environment. We also use standardized testing to support our assessment of student academic ability and potential. Students with special talents should not hesitate to submit portfolios or videos of independent work or activities.



## Foreign Student Program

*"This school is authorized under Federal laws to enroll non-immigrant alien students."*

Excelsior School is authorized under federal laws to enroll non-immigrant alien students who are citizens of countries other than the United States. International applicants who need an F-1 student visa are required to submit documentation in addition to the academic credentials necessary for admission committee review.



The following documents are required and **all** must be received before an I-20 can be issued:

- Personal statement or statement from benefactor affirming that all expenses will be met during the student's period of enrollment at Excelsior. Expenses include tuition, fees, books, housing, medical and all other living expenses (in U.S. dollars).
- Declaration of Finances Form must be accompanied by a current bank statement issued within 90-180 days of the expected start date (in U.S. dollars). Current bank statement must verify that funds are available to support the student's stay at Excelsior.
- Students must have health insurance. Students who have health insurance that is valid in the United States must show proof of insurance coverage in English at registration (a minimum of \$250,000 U.S. dollars in coverage). Otherwise, students must purchase health insurance at registration.
- Tuition payment for the first semester (U.S. currency bank check payable to Excelsior School).

### Eligibility Requirements:

To apply for enrollment at Excelsior School's international program, you must meet the following minimum requirements.

- A student must be middle or high school age, 12 to 19 years old.
- Your academic grade point average (GPA) must be 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for the school year programs and 2.0 or above for the summer and winter programs.
- Students need to demonstrate qualities that are essential to intercultural adjustment such as flexibility, open-mindedness, curiosity, and tolerance for personal error.
- An ability to adapt to an unfamiliar environment is necessary.



## English Language Proficiency:

An international student's ability to excel at Excelsior School is dependent upon his/her ability to communicate in the English language. Excelsior School requires English proficiency in reading, writing and speech. Presently the Test of English as a Foreign Language ([TOEFL](#)) is **not required** for admission to Excelsior School but ESL classes are required if students do not pass an English proficiency test.

However any international student who has taken the Test of TOEFL examination, please send your TOEFL scores to Excelsior School. Excelsior School's TOEFL DI code is **0075**.

## Clubs and Activities

Excelsior has a variety of clubs for the enjoyment and physical development of the student body. Clubs primarily focus on four aspects: fundraising, community service, career interest, and interpersonal dynamics. A few of the more popular examples include basketball, tennis, and volleyball. If you enjoy tough competition, but in a friendly good sportsmanship like atmosphere, then this is a place where you may shine.



Students are encouraged to take some initiative and start their own clubs, if none exist that cater to their interests.



## Student Housing

The dormitory of Excelsior School provides accommodations that are clean and economical for students who are attending School.

Each room has 2 beds, dresser, desk, telephone, and bookcase. There are clothes closets in each room. Bathroom facilities are conveniently located



on each floor of the dorm.

### Facilities

- Common Facilities
- Laundry facilities
- Vending machines for drinks
- Student Lounge (includes pool table, Ping-Pong table etc.)
- Tennis court
- Basketball court
- Parking lot



## Supervision

Students live on campus dormitories that are monitored by dorm supervisors. They are responsible for assisting the students with their daily routines and activities before and after school. The dorm supervisors live in the dormitories in their own rooms. By living with the students, they are available day or night to help them with any issues that may arise.



## Dining

All students eat their meals in the cafeteria and are on the meal plan, which covers three meals a day, Monday thru Friday and Saturday breakfast.

## Internet Service



Students are encouraged to bring their own computers, and those who do may access the internet via dormitory room connections or wireless connections, provided their computers have Ethernet cards that meet Excelsior School specifications.

### Telephone

All students have access to telephone in their rooms. Telephone numbers and voice mailbox numbers assigned to students.

## Direction to our campus

Excelsior School is located in a quiet residential neighborhood of northeast Pasadena on the 17 acre campus complete with cafeteria, library, and dormitory facilities.

Directions: Take the **210** to the **Hill Avenue** exit, go north on Hill Avenue **past Washington Boulevard**, turn **right on Howard Street**, then continue straight past Wesley Avenue.

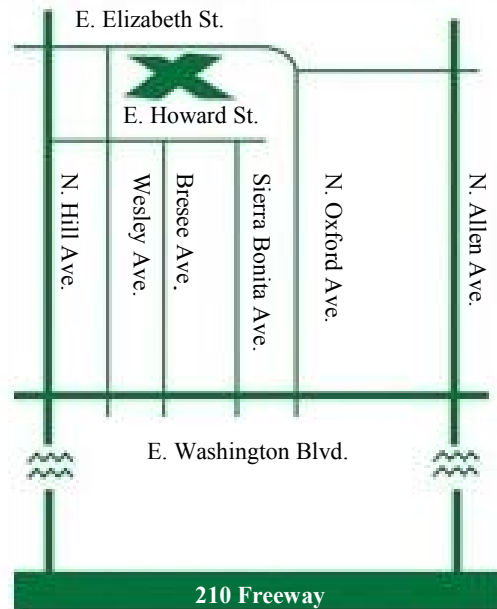
**1539 East Howard Street**

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