



2018-19 COURSE CATALOG



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

A combination of high-interest readings, standards-applicable activities, and real-world critical thinking skills, the Language Arts courses reflect careful consideration and research of literature and composition concepts. Projects, activities, and lessons are designed to be motivational, realistic, and engaging while fostering a love of literature and a can-do attitude for writing.

ENGLISH 6A

In this course, students will read and analyze informational texts. These texts take many different forms, including biographies, personal accounts of events, instructional documents, film reviews, and persuasive letters. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, central ideas and key details, and claims and arguments, among other ideas and concepts. Over the course, students will read the novel *The Road* by Jack London. They will also examine informational texts to better their understanding of the science behind sunsets, the lives of several important historical figures, the history of the Olympics, and the process of flotation used by archaeologists, among other topics.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

ENGLISH 6B

In this course, students will focus on learning reading skills based on literary texts. The texts come from a number of genres and include a novel, excerpts from novels, short stories, poems, and plays. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, characters, plot, poetic techniques, and figurative language, among other ideas and concepts. Students will read the entire novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in almost every lesson throughout the course. They will read excerpts from the novels *Little Women* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and stories and plays about challenging situations, getting caught doing something wrong, finding something unexpected, and why the crocodile has a wide mouth. Additionally, students will read poems from famous poets, such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Frost, and Carl Sandburg, to name a few. Students will also watch several videos of famous poems being read aloud.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 6A



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

ENGLISH 7A

In this course, students will read and analyze informational texts. These texts take many different forms, including biographies, personal accounts of events, presidential speeches, and persuasive letters. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, central ideas and key details, and claims and arguments, among other ideas and concepts. Over the course of ENG071, students will read the biography *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller. They will also examine informational texts to better their understanding of the lives of several important historical figures, including Jane Goodall and Zora Neale Hurston; places as far away as Dubai, the Galapagos Islands, and the Hoover Dam; and the similarities between country music and hip-hop, among other topics.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

ENGLISH 7B

In this course, students will focus on learning reading skills based on literary texts. The texts come from various genres. They include a novel and excerpts from novels, short stories, poems, and plays. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, characters, plot, poetic and dramatic techniques, and figurative language, among other ideas and concepts. Students will read the entire novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in almost every lesson throughout the course. They will read excerpts from the novel *Black Beauty* and a passage from Grimm's "The Golden Bird" fairy tale. Students will also read stories and plays about challenging situations, discovering alternate realities, and robot rebellions. They will witness powerful historical events and people and compare how written texts are portrayed in film or audio. Additionally, students will read poems from famous poets, such as Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, and William Wordsworth, to name a few.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 7A



ENGLISH 8A

In this course, students will read and analyze literary and informational texts. These texts will come from a number of genres and a number of sources, including short stories, novels, myths, poems, magazine articles, and autobiographies. Through the presentation of these types of reading selections, the course demonstrates ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, central idea, and figurative language. They read the novel *The Call of the Wild* and short stories, such as "The Lottery," "A Sound of Thunder," and "The Tell-Tale Heart." They examine informational texts to better their understanding of the Yukon, the Klondike Gold Rush, dog sledding, and wolves. In addition, they encounter numerous infographics and videos that build on the instruction.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



ENGLISH 8B

In this course, students focus on learning reading skills based on literary texts. The texts come from a number of genres and include a novel, excerpts from novels, short stories, poems, and plays. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, characters, plot, poetic techniques, and figurative language, among other ideas and concepts. They will read stories and plays about challenging situations, getting caught doing something wrong, finding something unexpected, and why the crocodile has a wide mouth. As they read the materials in this course, they practice ways to identify central ideas and themes; make inferences; analyze word choice; identify figurative and connotative language; and compare and contrast. In addition, they will learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation, and the elements of narrative writing. Through the lessons provided in this course, students will master techniques that help them achieve a deeper appreciation of texts and writing.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 8A



ENGLISH 9A A-G APPROVED

In this course, Students will read and analyze both literary and informational texts. These texts take many different forms, including autobiographies, personal memoirs, newspaper and magazine articles, poetry, and even filmed stage productions. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and inferred meaning through textual evidence, central ideas and details that support them, figurative language, and the effects word choice has on tone and mood, among other ideas and concepts. Throughout this course, they will read the novel *The Princess and the Goblin* by George MacDonald. They will also examine literary texts to better their understanding of different perspectives from outside the United States, including a story of Mexican citizens desperate to immigrate to the United States, and a story about a Chinese American girl's relationship with her demanding mother.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



ENGLISH 9B A-G APPROVED

In this course, students read and analyze both literary and informational texts. These texts take many different forms, including biographies, short stories, newspaper and magazine articles, poetry, and influential historical documents. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and inferred meaning through textual evidence; theme, central ideas, and details that support them; and structural elements and their influence on style, among other ideas and concepts. Throughout this course, you will read the novel *Anthem* by Ayn Rand. They will also examine informational texts to better understanding of historical moments throughout the history of the United States, including presidential speeches and a famous letter written by Martin Luther King Jr. during his imprisonment in a Birmingham jail at the height of the civil rights movement. As they read the selections in this course, students practice ways to recognize textual evidence, identify themes and central ideas, make inferences, and identify figurative and connotative language in a variety of texts. In addition, students review information on context clues and word nuances, and learn about spelling conventions, style manuals, phrases clauses, parallel structure, semicolons, and colons. Students also learn the definitions, parts of speech, and etymology of various vocabulary words you will see throughout the reading selections. In addition, they learn the elements of writing so that you can plan, write, revise, and edit informational essay and argument essays.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 9A



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

ENGLISH 10A – Intermediate Rhetoric and Composition A-G APPROVED

This course emphasizes grammar and usage, spelling, writing skills, punctuation, and literary nonfiction. Writing activities give students practice in researching, organizing, and developing descriptive, persuasive narrative and expository compositions. Intermediate Rhetoric and Composition continues to investigate the writing and discourse processes while supplementing them with the reading strategies necessary to comprehend and compose nonfiction texts. Students will also examine persuasive arguments through rhetorical techniques that enable both self-expression and persuasion of others. Students will understand the different ways of acquiring and delivering information. By honing skills in the areas of reading and writing, students will maximize their contributions in both the academic and professional worlds.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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[VIDEO COMING SOON](#)

ENGLISH 10B – World Literature A-G APPROVED

World Literature broadens students' reading experience with exposure to literature from multiple eras and cultures. Students will encounter diverse reading selections such as epic poetry, folktales, ancient verses, Greek tragedy, short stories, and excerpts from novels. They will be instructed in techniques for evaluating authors' use of language, determining meanings, making inferences, grasping central ideas, interpreting characters, and drawing conclusions to enable them to evaluate literary elements in these works. Then, students will study of classic Greek drama as students read *Antigone* by Sophocles. The course provides guided instruction in analyzing evidence, comprehending context clues, recognizing symbolism, and identifying figurative language. Students will also learn about using affixes to affect word meaning and understanding denotative and connotative meanings to enhance word choice. Writing activities challenge students' reading comprehension and composition skills with short projects involving research and writing, as well as producing character analysis and personal narrative essays.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 10A



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

ENGLISH 11A – A Survey of Informational Text A-G APPROVED

In this course, students will examine seminal American documents ranging from Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* through Barack Obama's second inaugural address. Students will learn ways to evaluate use of language, determine meanings, make inferences, grasp central ideas, evaluate bias, and draw conclusions by examining these works. The course also builds on students' abilities to speak and write formally, with an emphasis on persuading audiences. Students will analyze persuasive arguments on subjects ranging from environmental conservation to legal decisions involving the First Amendment as they learn to identify elements of argument and to use rhetorical devices. Using other nonfiction works, the course guides students in recognizing the importance of analyzing evidence, recognizing symbolism, examining word choice, and identifying figurative language in nonfiction literature. The course also covers grammar and usage, punctuation, and correct spelling and meanings of vocabulary terms, and exposes students to several types of consumer documents.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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[VIDEO COMING SOON](#)

ENGLISH 11B – American Literature **A-G APPROVED**

This is a survey course in American Literature. It involves the study of styles, techniques, philosophies, biographies, and ideas of major American writers as well as the historical events that influenced their works. The course emphasizes critical and analytical thinking as well as reading and writing skills. Students will and interpret read various works of literature, including novels, short stories, and poems.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 11A



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VIDEO COMING SOON

ENGLISH 12A – Advanced Composition and Rhetoric **A-G APPROVED**

Advanced Rhetoric and Composition and is the first semester of the 12th grade English Language Arts course. This course covers the art and craft of rhetoric—persuasion and argument—using informational and nonliterary texts, with a special emphasis on the understanding of reasoning and logic. These texts include documents and speeches that have been integral to the development of legal and social policy in the United States. The course builds in depth and complexity from beginning to end, starting with instruction on central ideas and word choice. In this course, students will learn the everyday tools of persuasion, including ethos, pathos, and logos. These serve as the foundation for understanding more complex topics, such as the elements of argument and the chain of legal reasoning used in court cases and historical documents.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

ENGLISH 12B – Exploration of British Literature **A-G APPROVED**

Exploration of British Literature covers in-depth literary analysis—comprehension and evaluation—using a wide variety of narrative texts from British literature. Texts cover eras from the Middle Ages through modern times. Students will acquire the necessary skills for gaining a deeper understanding of literature and literary analysis. The course builds in depth and complexity, starting with instruction on explicit and implicit meanings, use of figurative language and literary devices, and development of central ideas and themes. Students integrate ideas from multiple texts to compare and contrast the treatment of narrative and structural elements. These skills serve as the foundation for understanding the ways in which literature and language evolve, and appreciating authors and styles from many eras of British literature. The course includes two writing projects: a fictional narrative in the style of Gothic Romanticism and a literary analysis comparing or contrasting two texts from different eras of British literature. In these projects, students write in both short and extended forms. Emphasis is placed on the writing process, from note-taking and outline-making to revising and editing for content and style. Students take a final writing assessment as well as a Final Exam. In addition, students build their vocabulary and language skills with guided instruction and exercises, and engage with their classmates in discussions as part of each lesson.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 12A



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

ENGLISH 12A Honors - Advanced Rhetoric and Composition **A-G APPROVED**

Advanced Rhetoric and Composition Honors is the first semester of the 12th grade English Language Arts course. This course covers the art and craft of rhetoric—persuasion and argument—using informational and nonliterary texts, with a special emphasis on the understanding of reasoning and logic. These texts include documents and speeches that have been integral to the development of legal and social policy in the United States. The course builds in depth and complexity from beginning to end, starting with instruction on central ideas and word choice. In this course, students will learn the everyday tools of persuasion, including ethos, pathos, and logos. These serve as the foundation for understanding more complex topics, such as the elements of argument and the chain of legal reasoning used in court cases and historical documents. Advanced Rhetoric and Composition Honors also includes honors enrichment activities. These activities expand the depth and scope of the critical thinking and analysis required by students.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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ENGLISH 12B Honors – Exploration of British Literature A-G APPROVED

Exploration of British Literature Honors covers in-depth literary analysis—comprehension and evaluation—using a wide variety of narrative texts from British literature. Texts cover eras from the Middle Ages through modern times. Students will acquire the necessary skills for gaining a deeper understanding of literature and literary analysis. The course builds in depth and complexity, starting with instruction on explicit and implicit meanings, use of figurative language and literary devices, and development of central ideas and themes. Students integrate ideas from multiple texts to compare and contrast the treatment of narrative and structural elements. These skills serve as the foundation for understanding the ways in which literature and language evolve and appreciating authors and styles from many eras of British literature. In addition, students complete extended responses to prompts based on the course readings as they expand the depth and scope of their critical thinking and analysis. Students analyze symbolic representations; make inferences; identify and analyze themes; compare characters, setting, and tone in multiple versions of a text; and analyze the impact of structure and meaning in storytelling.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 12A Honors



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this course, English language learner students will develop the foundations of the English language. Regardless of students' native language, they will strengthen their English proficiency with grammar skills, covering everything from nouns to interjections. The vocabulary words they will learn assist in strengthening word use and will help them commit grammar rules to memory. They will improve their writing through writing skills activities which will teach them how to write a paragraph, a narrative, a poem, and peer review a classmate's work. They will learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation, including phrases and clauses and sentence structures. Through the lessons provided in this course, English language learner students will master techniques that help them achieve greater proficiency of the English language.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

MATHEMATICS

Utilizing an innovative math curriculum, students master concepts ranging from data analysis to algebra in an interactive format that is challenging, yet engaging, and exceeds the most demanding academic expectations.

MATH 6A

In this course, students will build on previously learned concepts like adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. They will deepen their knowledge of arithmetic with fractions and work with decimals and negative numbers. They will apply these new skills to help solve real-world problems using statistics, ratios, unit conversions, and geometry, as well as expand their ability to write and evaluate expressions, including ones involving new concepts like variables and exponents. Students will also begin working with equations and learn what it means to solve them.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

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MATH 6B

In this course, students will build on previously learned concepts, like positive and negative integers and fractions, to learn about rational numbers and how to compare them. They will find the distance between points, both on the number line and in the coordinate plane, and then solve geometry problems involving these concepts. They will study the relationships between variables and how to represent them in different ways. They will learn about ratios and unit rates, and then use them to solve real-world problems. Students will also work with data and discover different ways to display data and how to describe data mathematically.

PRE-REQUISITES: Math 6A

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 [COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

MATH 7A

In this course, students begin with adding and multiplying rational numbers by using number lines, rules, and properties. Then, they move their focus to proportional relationships given in tables, diagrams, graphs, equations, and verbal descriptions. They also learn how to solve problems by finding and comparing unit rates. Next, they rewrite expressions using properties, as well as write and solve simple linear equations by using different methods. The next area of study is probability and statistics, where they will interpret and calculate simple probabilities, as well as learn about populations and samples. Finally, they move on to geometry and learn how to solve problems about scale drawing, circles, and angle relationships, and draw some geometric shapes.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

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 [COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

MATH 7B

Math 7B helps students level up their skills as a mathematician. The second half of seventh grade math starts by teaching different methods to simplify arithmetic operations, focusing on subtraction and division. Students learn how to use a variety of strategies such as number lines, rules, and properties. Students then study and interpret proportional relationships, expressions, equations, and inequalities to solve multi-step mathematical and real-life problems.

In the second half of Math 7B, students begin working on compound events. They identify compound events and find their probabilities by using a formula, organized lists, tables, tree diagrams, or simulations. Students then continue with statistics and compare two data sets of random samples by using their center values and variability measures. From there, students make conclusions about the populations the data sets represent. As students near the end of the course, they apply their knowledge to geometry problems. They solve problems that involve area, surface area, volume, two- and three-dimensional objects, and cross sections.

By the end of the course, students should have a solid foundation of the math skills needed to be successful in seventh grade and beyond.

PRE-REQUISITES: Math 7A

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 [COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

MATH 8A

In this course, students begin with the fundamentals of algebra. They compare, order, and perform operations on rational and irrational numbers; use inverse operations to solve for a variable in one- and two-step equations; write and solve two-step equations from contextual situations; and analyze properties of functions, focusing on linear functions. The next area of study is very large and very small numbers, where they will solve expressions involving powers of a common base, convert numbers to and from scientific notation, and perform operations on numbers in scientific notation. They will then move on to geometry, where they will perform rigid transformations on figures and prove congruence of figures through a series of rigid transformations.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

MATH 8B

In this course, students will build on and extend the knowledge they gained in Math 8A. After reviewing how to solve one- and two-step equations, they are introduced to multi-step equations and proportions. They will apply their knowledge of proportional relationships to geometry, where they perform transformations on figures and prove similarity of figures through a series of rigid transformations and dilations. Next, students will extend their knowledge of linear relationships by identifying and comparing properties of lines and their equations. Then, students will learn how to solve systems of linear equations using graphs, substitution, and elimination. After that, they build upon their algebraic skills by applying them to statistics, where they analyze and interpret patterns in bivariate data. Finally, students will explore and analyze three-dimensional shapes including cylinders, cones, and spheres.

PRE-REQUISITES: Math 8A



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

ALGEBRA 1A A-G APPROVED

Algebra 1A helps students build a strong foundation of traditional algebra concepts. Students will delve deep into algebraic problems and apply their knowledge to real-life situations. In this course, students learn the properties of different forms of linear equations and inequalities and their graphs. Students also learn how to define a function and how to relate linear equations and functions. Students will solve systems of equations and systems of inequalities and interpret their solutions mathematically and contextually. The course concludes with a study of statistics, which helps students to discover some of the interesting ways that math is used to describe the world.

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 8-12



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

ALGEBRA 1B A-G APPROVED

Algebra 1B extends students' algebraic skills and knowledge to five new types of functions: quadratic, exponential, absolute-value, piecewise, and step. In this course, students will learn the properties and key features of nonlinear functions, including quadratic functions and exponential functions. Students will identify key features and interpret functions presented as equations, graphs, tables, and verbal descriptions. Emphasis will be placed on how different families of functions compare to one another, and transformations of functions will be performed for all function types presented. The course will conclude with an introduction of "other" functions, including absolute-value functions, piecewise functions, and step functions.

PRE-REQUISITES: Algebra 1A



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

GEOMETRY A A-G APPROVED

The content in each lesson of Geometry A is interwoven, in a story-telling style, with the adventures of Geomethor, a superhero who strives to save his world using Geometry. Students in this course will develop a deep understanding of the logical and rigorous proving system of geometry. Students will begin by looking at congruence, proofs, and constructions. In doing so, they define and use the basic geometric terms, then advance to proving statements about lines, angles, triangles, and quadrilaterals. Students apply the knowledge they have of planar transformations to learn a formal definition for similarity, and then they use that definition to write proofs and construct figures. In addition, students are introduced to trigonometry through its connection to the concept of similarity. Finally, students will explore three-dimensional figures such as planar solids and solids of revolution. Students can apply the basic understanding of geometric figures that they achieved in middle school mathematics to a more formal, rigorous proof system. Students also incorporate algebraic concepts into the same formal proof methodology. In doing so, students can better prepare themselves for the complexity of Algebra 2 and have a basis for understanding the concepts of calculus and advanced mathematics.

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



GEOMETRY B A-G APPROVED

In this course, students will use the Pythagorean theorem, distance formula, midpoint formula and slope formula to solve geometric problems and develop coordinate proofs. They will connect the algebraic and geometric meaning of a parabola by using the distance formula. Students will learn theorems about circles, find arc lengths and areas of sectors of circles, and use the distance formula to write equations of circles in the coordinate system. Students will also learn about counting methods to find the number of possible combinations of a group of objects. They will interpret theoretical and experimental probabilities, and use probability to analyze fairness of decisions. The course concludes with independent and dependent events, conditional probability, and mutually exclusive and inclusive events.

PRE-REQUISITES: Geometry A



ALGEBRA 2A A-G APPROVED

From construction to physics, the concepts in this Algebra 2 course are used in a variety of real-world situations. In Algebra 2A, students will extend the knowledge of trigonometry that they gleaned from Geometry as well as build upon the algebra they learned in Algebra 1 to start modeling tons of real-world scenarios. Students learn that the polynomials and other expressions and equations that make up Algebra 2 are the basis for things they love: from video games, to roller coasters, to the home they live in, it all has a little algebra in it.

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



ALGEBRA 2B A-G APPROVED

Algebra 2B completes the studies of high school algebra. Students will be prepared to advance to trigonometry, pre-calculus, and beyond. Students will develop and strengthen skills to read and evaluate algebraic expressions. Topics covered include exponential and logarithmic functions, rational and radical functions, properties and attributes of functions, conic sections, and data analysis. It also includes an introduction to probability and trigonometry.

PRE-REQUISITES: Algebra 2A



SCIENCE

Science courses cover a variety of science topics, including biology, ecology, chemistry, physics, physical and earth science. These courses explore the nature of science, and engineering and technology practices are threaded throughout the courses as well. The courses focus on both the understanding and application of science topics. Courses include a variety of projects—both virtual and hands-on—to help students apply their knowledge of science concepts.

SCIENCE 7A

Science 7A focuses on science concepts from the fields of chemistry, biology, and ecology. Science 7A begins by exploring the relationship between matter and energy. Next, the course examines chemical reactions. Students will then use their knowledge of matter, energy, and chemical reactions to build on their understanding of cellular respiration and photosynthesis. Finally, students will uncover the world of synthetic materials to see how they are made and how they impact society.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

SCIENCE 8A

Science 8A focuses on life science concepts from biology, ecology, and environmental science. Students will explore the nature of science and has engineering and technology practices threaded throughout the course. Students begin with an introduction to scientific processes. Then, they explore cells, heredity, evolution, ecology, and genetic technology.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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SCIENCE 8B – NGSS Integrated Science

In Science 8B, students will focus on physical science concepts, including topics from physics and space science. They will begin by exploring the history of science and highlights influential scientists who laid the groundwork for the fields students are about to discover. Students will begin with physics—one of the more interactive sciences that can be seen in action in the world. Then they will explore concepts of velocity and acceleration, and dive into forces and Newton's laws of motion. Students will also explore space, including the solar system, planets, and the Moon.

PRE-REQUISITES: Science 8A



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SCIENCE 8B

Students in this course will focus on physical science concepts, including topics from chemistry and physics. They will begin by exploring the history of science and highlights influential scientists who laid the groundwork for the fields students are about to discover. Students will explore concepts of velocity and acceleration before diving into forces and Newton's laws of motion. After that, they will explore chemistry, including the periodic table, acids and bases, and chemical reactions.

PRE-REQUISITES: Science 8A



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PHYSICAL SCIENCE A **A-G APPROVED**

Physical Science A provides an introduction to the world of chemistry. Students will begin with an introduction to science as a whole and the basic methods and tools that scientists use to produce meaningful results. Students then will explore the structure and properties of matter and how it changes in response to energy. Next, students will practice reading and interpreting the information on the periodic table as well as chemical names, formulas, equations, and models. Students will also discover the types and properties of reactions, mixtures, solutions, acids, and bases. Finally, students will examine both the scientific principles and human applications of nuclear reactions. Throughout the course, students explore the historical perspectives and modern social implications of the course topics.

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



PHYSICAL SCIENCE B **A-G APPROVED**

Physical Science B introduces students to the world of physics. They will start by building a foundation of what it means to be scientific by describing the ways scientists think, communicate, and do their jobs. Next, students will cover important aspects of motion and force, including the motion of fluids and how motion relates to Newton's laws. Building up from these fundamentals, students will explore the topics of thermodynamics, energy, work, and machines. The nature and properties of waves are covered next, and then students end by examining electricity and magnetism. Throughout the course, students will parallel their investigation into the scientific method with a course project that introduces them to the field and processes of engineering.

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



BIOLOGY A **A-G APPROVED**

In Biology A, students focus on life at the cellular level. Students will begin by reviewing the scientific method so they understand how science works to investigate questions and present findings. Then, it's full speed ahead into cells! After a study of cells' chemical makeup and size, students will examine cell structures and how they function together. From there, students will progress to learning how materials move through cells, as well as how cells obtain and use energy to carry out their functions. As students learn about DNA and RNA, they will come to understand how traits are inherited and how the study of inheritance is applied today.

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



BIOLOGY B **A-G APPROVED**

Biology B is the second course exploring life on Earth in which students will examine the bigger picture of life. Journeying through time. Then, students will explore the evolution of species and history of life on Earth. Shifting to the present-day, students will examine the intricacies of the living organisms around them, beginning with microorganisms and continuing to plants and animals. Students then turn their attention to the human body systems and finish with a look at ecology and how humans interact with the environment. The historical perspectives and societal impact of topics in biology are incorporated into all lessons of the course.

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



CHEMISTRY A A-G APPROVED

Chemistry A covers the basic principles and properties of matter. Students will discover how chemistry has evolved, learn about chemical lab equipment, techniques, and safety, and the proper way to make measurements to reduce error and uncertainty. Students will also explore atomic structure, periodic laws, types of bonding, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry.

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



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CHEMISTRY B A-G APPROVED

In Chemistry B, student will focus on the energy involved in chemistry and the uses for several types of chemical reactions. Students will begin by refreshing and deepening their understanding of the basics of matter and their relation to energy. Next, students will explore the properties of solutions, including acids, bases, and their reactions. Then, students will dive into thermodynamics, electrochemistry, organic chemistry, and finally nuclear chemistry. In this course, students will develop a solid understanding of several universal scientific principles and learn to manipulate the applications of chemistry in real-world settings.

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



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SOCIAL STUDIES

StrongMind Social Studies courses focus on the study of the past and how it applies to the future. Throughout the courses, students develop their understanding of the past by studying primary sources, comparing social movements, and exploring ancient cultures.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7A – Medieval and Early Modern Times

This course students will embark on a historical journey to Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas from about the first to the fifteenth century. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archaeologists and historians uncover the past, they will study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing at the same time throughout the world during medieval and early modern times.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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SOCIAL STUDIES 7B – Medieval and Early Modern Times

In this second segment of the course, students will study the Renaissance, Reformation, and the Age of Exploration, examining the growing economic interaction among civilizations. Students will learn about the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Finally, students assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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SOCIAL STUDIES 8A – Early American History (1491-1848)

In this course, students will learn about the history of American Indian cultures before the arrival of Europeans through the presidency of Andrew Jackson. They will also study the development of the British colonies, democracy, the American Revolution, the Constitution, social and political developments during the early period of the United States, and economic changes of the early Industrial Revolution.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



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SOCIAL STUDIES 8B – Early American History (1830 to 1900)

In Early American History, students will work with materials that show the problems and issues America experienced as a young nation and their solutions. Students will explore the diverse challenges facing Americans from the 1800s to the early-1900s. The causes, events, and consequences of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery are a special focus of the class. Throughout the course, students will study primary and secondary sources, textbook readings, biographies, period literature, and related materials that will paint a picture of American history. Each lesson has several activities that will encourage students to explore American history. Activities and discussions will challenge students to think creatively and critically about each topic. In addition, the class includes two projects designed to develop and sharpen students research and writing skills.

PRE-REQUISITES: Social Studies 8A



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WORLD HISTORY A A-G APPROVED

In World History students A will explore the key events and global historical developments from hunter-gatherer societies to the Industrial Revolution. They begin with analysis of early prehistoric people from the Paleolithic era to the Agricultural Revolution. Students then will follow the rise and fall of early empires and then consider the fall of the Rome Empire and its aftermath. Continuing through the Middle Ages, students analyze the Crusades, feudalism, the plague, and Asian empires. They will explore the impact and effects of the Renaissance and Protestant Reformation on human culture and analyze conflicts between the Roman Catholic Church and Protestant and Catholic reformers. By examining the Age of Exploration, students will study European explorers seeking out new trade routes to Asia, the discovery of the Americas, the rise of joint-stock companies, the slave trade, and emergence of the American colonies. Students will also analyze important revolutions in history. Throughout the course, students will examine and analyze materials that describe historical periods and interact with primary and secondary sources, readings, biographies, and other materials that paint a picture of world history and encourage students to explore historical topics.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



WORLD HISTORY B A-G APPROVED

World History B students will pick up where World History A concluded by examining revolutions in the world and the establishment of European colonies around the globe. Students in this course begin by exploring European colonies and the impact of European imperialistic desires on those colonies. Students will then trace the thwarting of the Napoleonic Empire and how imperialism led to great wealth for many nations. Students will also analyze the effects of the First World War, including the Great Depression and internal colonial rebellions, and how this set the stage for the Second World War. Then they examine the two spheres of influence that emerged after World War II. The course explores the power vacuum that emerged following the Cold War and how its end affected various nations in the world. Students will complete the course by analyzing modern-day concerns.

PRE-REQUISITES: World History A

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



AMERICAN HISTORY A A-G APPROVED

In this course, students will learn how the story of America starts with a journey that includes clashes between cultures, noble ideas and aspirations. Students realize how looking back through America's history, the lofty ideas that have become the American spirit. America's foundation rests on the self-evident truth that everyone is endowed with equal rights. In this course, students will begin with the closing of the Silk Road, and continue with European exploration and the impact Europeans had on the lives of those native to North America. Students will also learn about the founding of British colonies through World War I. Students take a special focus on the ideas that shaped the history of those living in the United States.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



AMERICAN HISTORY B A-G APPROVED

In American History B, students continue after World War I with the economic boom of the era known as the "Roaring Twenties." Then they will trace America's involvement in World War II and the Cold War, the Vietnam War and Korean War. Students will learn about pivotal events in the administrations of presidents and examine domestic and global events as the United States emerges into the 21st century. Along the way, students will explore some of the key individuals who contributed to the events and policies that have shaped the decades discussed within these lessons.

PRE-REQUISITES: American History A

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



AMERICAN CIVICS & GOVERNMENT A-G APPROVED

American Civics and Government provides students with basic knowledge of the history and philosophy of the United States government and its principles, which guide our democracy. Students will examine the United States Constitution to answer questions and determine the facts of government. They will also focus on the functions and duties of the three branches of government. Students pay special attention to political participation, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and government systems of the world. Students will study political institutions to explore the history, organization, and functions of the US government. In Civics and Government, students will look closely at the political knowledge and values of the country and gives students a look at the balance of powers in the country.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 11-12



CIVICS: CITIZENSHIP

This is not a credit-bearing course. The purpose is to prepare students for—and capture the successful completion of—the citizenship test required in certain states.

This course reviews and assesses knowledge about the government of the United States, citizens' rights and responsibilities, and American history. It provides students with a brief history and philosophy of the United States government and its principles, which guide our democracy. Specifically, students learn about the US Constitution and its amendments, the branches of government, the various rights and responsibilities of citizens, the US economy, the nation's geography and symbols, as well as other related areas. The course reinforces the importance of knowledge in fully realizing active citizenship, and it culminates in a final exam that mirrors the required citizenship test.

PRE-REQUISITES: None



ECONOMICS A-G APPROVED

In Economics, students explore principles that allow them to make informed decisions about personal finance, develop a broader understanding of national and international policies, and understand why economics impacts distribution of wealth and quality of life globally. Students will begin with an analysis of basic activities such as creating a budget and using debit/credit cards and progress to discussing taxes, saving, and investing for the future. They will then receive an overview of economics, including scarcity and economic systems of the world. Exploring microeconomics, they will learn how individuals and businesses fit into the overall economy; in macroeconomics, they learn how the government determines tax policies, overall spending, and the handling of debt. Throughout the course, students will examine and analyze readings, biographies, videos, and other materials, and participate in discussions with peers. The projects that span the course are designed to develop and sharpen the students' writing skills.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 11-12



ELECTIVES

Students enjoy a variety of electives that include Character Education, Criminology, and more. Many of these courses include career and technical education (CTE) components designed to introduce students to various CTE pathway(s). New electives are added on a continual basis.

GAMING UNLOCKED

Games have been played for thousands of years. Man has loved to find ways to entertain himself. In this course, the student will become the game master! Students will learn the basics of gaming: from what makes a game fun to what makes a game work. Students will explore all types of games in this course from mental games to board games to video games. The focus of the course is on developing a student's ability to recognize good game-play mechanics as well as the steps necessary to produce a game. This course will NOT require students to know or learn a programming language. The emphasis is on the history of games and the design of games, as well as learning about the different careers available in the game industry.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 6-12

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ART HISTORY: ORIGINS

Art History: Origins is designed to introduce students to the history of art. In this course, students journey through time, learning about prehistoric and ancient art, ancient Mediterranean and medieval art, and early European art from the Renaissance through Rococo. Students also learn how to read art and interpret it on a basic level. Since art is best learned through experience and expression, students have opportunities to experience the art and react to it through discussion boards and projects. The goal of this course is to show learners how art relates to their own lives, even art from long ago!

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 9 - 12

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ART HISTORY: MODERN

In this course, students will journey into art history beginning in the late 1700s. They will learn how at this time in Europe, political upheavals and scientific and technological advances had led to exploration, innovation, and great wealth for many. Students will study important Western art movements, artworks, artists, and architecture, and look at art of the past and present from a global perspective, with travels to China, Japan, Africa, Oceania, Southeast Asia, India, and back to the Americas. Since art is best learned through experience and expression, they will have opportunities to experience the art and react to it through discussion boards and projects. The goal of this course is to show students how art relates to their lives.

Please be aware that this course includes depictions of nudity, as many art movements celebrated the human form. A number of important and influential works of art include nudity, and it would be nearly impossible to teach art history without including them. Given the subject matter, the course is extensively visual.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES- 9-12

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INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY & FORENSICS

Criminology and Forensics is targeted for students at a beginner level of understanding of the topics of crime and forensic procedures. Students will be encouraged to be introspective and intrigued by the topics in the course. They will learn topics on crime and criminology, witnesses and perpetrators, and the crime lab. Students will often follow a storyline of two college interns who discover a series of connected crimes in a suburban setting. This course also addresses career readiness standards designed to introduce students to relevant CTE pathway(s).

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY & JUSTICE

Criminology and Justice is a beginner-level course on the topics of crime and forensic procedures. In this course students will learn about topics on the criminal justice system, non-forensic evidence, and what happens inside the courtroom. Students will often follow a story line of two college interns who discover a series of connected crimes in a suburban setting, what they do with that information, and how they follow it through the justice procedures. This course also addresses career readiness standards designed to introduce students to relevant CTE pathway(s).

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



INTRODUCTION TO FASHION DESIGN

In Introduction to Fashion Design, students will learn the basics of what it takes to have a career in fashion design. They will first explore the elements of fashion design in detail, including color, fabrics, and fashion design tools. After that, students will examine the fashion industry from a business perspective. While doing so, students will learn to identify careers, explore and research those careers, use communication effectively, and identify and practice employability skills. The course is graded based on students' abilities to demonstrate knowledge through the use of two multistep projects, rather than unit or final exams. This course also addresses career readiness standards designed to introduce students to relevant CTE pathway(s).

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES- 9-12



INTRODUCTION TO INTERIOR DESIGN

In this course, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of interior design. The course will start with a look at what interior design is, the fundamental principles of interior design, including analyzing color and design elements, environmental concerns, and setting up rooms with furniture and decorations. Then, students will dive into what careers are available in the field, and how to go about working towards a career in the interior design field. This course also addresses career readiness standards designed to introduce students to relevant CTE pathway(s).

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC & WEB DESIGN

This course is an introduction to how, through design, communication between people can happen. Each unit will cover topics such as the principles and elements of design or printing and publishing projects. Students will understand the foundation of visual communication through design, and this could potentially be a great introduction to a career path! This course also addresses career readiness standards designed to introduce students to relevant CTE pathway(s).

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY BASICS

In Photography Basics, students will learn how to correctly explain the setup and proper use of basic photography equipment. Through projects and research activities embedded in the course, students will create and present a portfolio of work. In addition, students will be able to describe professional habits, etiquette, and technology essential to creating a photograph. Students will not need access to photography equipment in order to take the course; opportunities to practice with digital simulations and theory will be present throughout the course. This course is designed for any beginner interested in learning about photography and what it could take to make a career out of their interest in this exciting, dynamic field of study. Photography Basics is designed for students in ninth grade or higher with no background in photography. This course also addresses career readiness standards designed to introduce students to relevant CTE pathway(s).

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 6-12



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

RETAILING

In this course, students will learn how retailing goes beyond sales, as they explore the skills needed to succeed in real-world careers. Students will learn that opening a store requires research, strategy, and planning, and how a successful retail store requires careful merchandise selection, as well as buying and pricing expertise. In addition, students learn about customer service and the management of employees at various levels. This course also addresses career readiness standards designed to introduce students to relevant CTE pathway(s).

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



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[VIDEO COMING SOON](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH

This course provides an overview of how behavior affects health. The broad range of topics include nutrition and physical activity; growth, development, and sexual health; injury and safety prevention; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; mental, emotional, and social health; and personal and community health. Students will explore how the choices they make about their bodies affect both their present and future. They will also be given the tools to make informed decisions to better their health.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 6-8

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 [COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

HEALTH 101

This course provides an overview of how behavior affects health. Students will learn about nutrition and physical activity; growth, development, and sexual health; injury and safety prevention; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; mental, emotional, and social health; and personal and community health. Students will also explore how the choices they make about their bodies affect both their present and future. They will also be given tools to make informed decisions to better their health.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12

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 [COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1A

In this course students will learn about the importance of physical activity and personal fitness, aspects of sport and recreation, and healthy eating habits. Throughout the course students will evaluate their own fitness, design an exercise plan, and track their results.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12

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 [COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1B

In this course students learn about the fundamentals of exercise science, including principles of the relevant body systems, fitness testing, training, and program design. Throughout the course, students will evaluate their own fitness, design an exercise plan, and track their results.

PRE-REQUISITES: Physical Education 1A

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12

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PERSONAL FITNESS 2A

In this course, students will explore key concepts from combative sports, gymnastics and tumbling, and a variety of team sports and activities. Students will also focus on advanced fitness guidelines, motor skill development, game strategy, and the physical, emotional, and cognitive factors that affect performance. Throughout the course, students will evaluate their own fitness by setting goals, designing an exercise plan, and tracking their results.

PRE-REQUISITES: Physical Education 1B

RECOMMENDED GRADES- 9-12



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

PERSONAL FITNESS 2B

In this course, students explore how to develop physical fitness plans for themselves and others. They will begin by learning how to assess fitness levels, as well as how to set and modify fitness goals. Students will also learn how to become smart consumers by evaluating fitness products and programs. In addition, they will explore ways to become the best leaders they can be. Because this is a physical education course, students will exercise throughout the entire course. They are given the freedom to participate in physical activities that they enjoy. To track their progress, they will maintain a daily physical activity log.

PRE-REQUISITES: Personal Fitness 2A

RECOMMENDED GRADES- 9-12



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[COURSE INTRO VIDEO](#)

SPANISH 7A

In this introductory course, students will be introduced to the basics of the Spanish language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will learn how to introduce themselves and others, talk about interests and hobbies, ask for directions, and more! In addition to learning the language, students will also learn about the cultures of some Spanish-speaking countries. They will learn about daily life in Mexico, the history of Spain, cultural traditions in Argentina, and more. Students will participate in discussion boards, speaking practice, a culture project, and a speaking project.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 6-8



SPANISH 7B

In this course, students will continue gaining the skills needed for speaking and interpreting Spanish. They will learn the language needed to discuss activities they might enjoy with friends, as well as vocabulary associated with restaurants, traveling, vacations, and much more. They will also start learning about Spanish, Argentinian, and Peruvian culture by exploring their histories, cultural products, and traditions. Students will participate in discussion boards, speaking practice, a culture project, and a speaking project.

PRE-REQUISITES: Spanish 7A

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 6-8



SPANISH 8A

In this introductory course, students will continue with the basics of the Spanish language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will learn how to discuss school subjects, various professions, and their daily routines. In addition to learning the language, students will also learn about the cultures of some Spanish-speaking countries. They will learn about the history, daily life, and cultural products of Venezuela and Chile. Students will participate in discussion boards, speaking practice, a culture project, and a speaking project.

PRE-REQUISITES: Spanish 7B

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 6-8



SPANISH 8B

In this introductory course, students will continue with the basics of the Spanish language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will learn how to discuss illness and injuries, shopping, and money. In addition to learning the language, students will also learn about the cultures of some Spanish-speaking countries. They will learn about the history, daily life, and cultural products of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Cuba. Students will participate in discussion boards, speaking practice, a culture project, and a speaking project.

PRE-REQUISITES: Spanish 8A

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 6-8



SPANISH 1A A-G APPROVED

In this introductory course, students will learn the basics of the Spanish language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will learn how to introduce themselves and others, talk about interests and hobbies, ask for directions, and more! Students will also learn about the cultures of some Spanish-speaking countries. They will learn about daily life in Mexico, the history of Spain, cultural traditions in Argentina, and more.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



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SPANISH 1B A-G APPROVED

This course is the second semester of year one of Spanish. Students will continue with the introduction to the basics of Spanish language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will learn how to discuss school subjects, various professions, daily routines, and likes and dislikes. In addition to learning the language, students will also learn about the cultures of Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Cuba. Students will learn about the history, traditions, and practices of each of these countries. Students will participate in discussion boards, speaking practice, a multimedia writing project, and a speaking project.

PRE-REQUISITES: Spanish 1A or Spanish 7B

RECOMMENDED GRADES: 9-12



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