

NORTH HILLS PREP



**2009-2010
UPPER SCHOOL
CURRICULUM GUIDE**

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UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

Introduction

North Hills Preparatory School strives to provide a nurturing environment for academically capable middle and high school students who are more able to maximize academic and social success from small class sizes and flexible schedules. Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), our mission is to provide each student with the environment necessary to achieve the California high school graduation requirements and to promote a desire for continuing post-high school education.

The purpose of this institution is to accomplish our goal whether or not the students are those who have gifted and/or advanced skill, require more of the individualized programs, or are able to function within the public system but at a reduced level of performance. We believe that it is important to admit students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, or religious belief.

Every student in the Upper School must complete the minimum academic requirements for graduation. Students must also satisfy additional requirements in the arts, computer science, health/life skills, physical education, and community service/service learning

Requirements for Graduation

Students must enroll in at least four academic classes per semester for at least the first two years, and must complete the following course work and additional requirements in order to receive a diploma:

English	4 years
Mathematics	2 years (Algebra 1AB and Geometry AB required)
Social Studies	3 years
Science	2 years (biological and physical lab required)
Health/Life Skills 21 st C	1 year
Physical Education	2 years
Technical Arts	1 year (one semester of computers required)
Fine Arts	1 year

Additional Requirements

Elective Credits	Must total 70 credits
Foreign Language	2 years or more of same foreign language for college entrance
Community Service	60 hours (10 hours for 9 th -10 th , 20 for 11 th , 30 for 12 th)
Transition Services/ Service Learning	4 years

The most selective colleges in the United States have the expectation that students will take the “Magic 20” courses in high school, that is, four years of course work in each of the five major areas of study.

These include English, foreign language, mathematics, science, and social studies. As a college preparatory school, North Hills Prep School believes that students should be aware of that expectation.

Program Models

Grade 9	English 9, Honors English 9	(2 semesters)
	Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry	(2 semesters)
	World History*	(2 semesters)
	Biology or Advanced Physical Science	(2 semesters)
	Physical Education, Yoga, or Dance	(2 semesters)
	Spanish I or French I	(2 semesters)
	Technical Art or Fine Art	(1-2 semesters)
	Elective	
Grade 10	English 10, Honors English 10	(2 semesters)
	Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II	(2 semesters)
	Biology, Adv Phys Science, or Chemistry	(2 semesters)
	Health / Life Skills 21 st Century*	(1 semester each)
	Physical Education, Yoga, or Dance	(2 semesters)
	Spanish I or II or French I or II	(2 semesters)
	Technical Art or Fine Art	(1-2 semesters)
	Electives	
Grade 11	American Comp/Lit, Hon American Comp/Lit,	(2 semesters)
	AP English Literature	
	Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry,	(2 semesters)
	Pre-Calculus, or Calculus	
	Chemistry or Physics; prerequisite required	(2 semesters)
	United States History	(2 semesters)
	Spanish II or III or French II or III	(2 semesters)
	Electives	
Grade 12	Expo Comp/World Lit, Hon Expo Comp/World Lit, (2 semesters)	
	or AP English Literature	
	Algebra II, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus,	(2 semesters)
	or Calculus (AP available for students)	
	Chemistry, Physics, or AP available for	(2 semesters)
	students who meet prerequisites	
Government / Economics	(1 semester each)	
Electives		

* These courses are offered in alternating years based on course enrollment in the eighth grade.

Honors Courses

The Upper School offers honors course work in subject areas for those students who are able and motivated to complete a very rigorous academic program. Typically, these courses consist of more challenging work in greater depth and with additional expectations of research and homework.

Admission is by permission of the instructor and approval by the Director of Education. The school offers the following honors courses when there are six or more eligible students.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement courses offer students the opportunity to study subjects at a level of rigor and depth equivalent to college-level work. Students most often prosper at the AP level in subjects where they demonstrate a considerable interest and talent. Admission is by permission of the instructor and approval by the Director of Education. Courses are offered depending on number of students approved for course and staff available to teach the courses.

Academic Advising

Each student in Grades 7 through 12 meets with the Director of Education during the second semester to plan the student's program for the following school year. The Director of Education serves as the college counselor for students entering grades 11 and 12.

Community Service

North Hills Prep School is dedicated to the education of the students' heart, mind, and soul. A rigorous college preparatory education prepares the students for the intellectual demands needed in today's society. Small class size provides an intimate atmosphere to develop the skills of academic excellence. Inherent in any lesson is the implicit responsibility that all of us have to share our knowledge and expertise with those that are in need. Each grade will adopt a community service program to sponsor throughout the year. Community days will take place during the school year to help students complete their hours.

Permission to Enroll

Students will need to obtain permission to enroll in all honors and advanced placement courses as well as some advanced art and computer courses. Permission must be obtained from the Director of Education as well as the Instructor.

Admission to the University of California

One of the finest and most selective public university systems in the nation, the University of California, has established strict admission criteria known as the a-g requirements. NHP's graduation requirements exceed the minimum entry requirements of the UC system and of the most selective private colleges, thereby qualifying superior students of the most selective schools in the country, public or private. The majority of our art courses are approved to meet the Visual and Performing Arts requirement of the University of California. Please visit the University of California website at www.ucop.edu/pathways for more information about admission requirements.

Weighted Courses

The UC system as well other colleges and universities **may** grant additional credit to honors and AP courses taken in the sophomore, junior, and senior years: i.e., A=5, B=4, C=3. The UC policy on this matter varies among campuses in the UC System. Some campuses do not weigh honors courses. North Hills Prep grants additional credit (weight) to honors or AP courses for classes taken throughout high school.

ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

Art Program

The Art Department's philosophy is based upon the belief that art is essential for the development of the whole person. Art encourages creative thinking, self-expression, originality, emotional release, questioning, and problem solving, as well as an appreciation of the world, past and present. Students learn the elements and principles of design: line, color, pattern, texture, value, shape, movement, contrast, and repetition through a wide variety of media. Slides, films, videos, books, and prints help students to develop a critical and historical appreciation of art. All courses in the Arts address the five components required by the University of California: Artistic Perception, Creative Expression, Historical and Cultural Content, Aesthetic Valuing, and Connection and Applications. All require some work beyond class time.

Art I

One Semester

Grades, 9, 10, 11, and 12

This course offers students an introduction to the elements of art and to the principles of design. Students explore various mediums and techniques while learning about the work of past and present artists. Expectations of the course will include weekly artistic submissions, reports on technical aspects of art, and cross-curricular projects.

Art II

One Semester

Prerequisite: Art I

Grades, 9, 10, 11, and 12

This course consists of more advanced work and continues on from Art I to include three-dimensional form. The course integrates historical examples as well. Art I is a prerequisite. Weekly submission of sketchbook work will be required, as will museum critiques and a larger project.

Art III

One Semester

Prerequisites: Art I and II

Grades, 9, 10, 11, and 12

Art III is a third semester course that gives students a wide range of experiences in drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed media. The students will work with the elements of art and principles of design. They will research and analyze two contemporary artists, and learn about art form diverse cultures. Students will be responsible for required materials. (Pending UC approval)

Art IV

One Semester

Prerequisites: Art I, II, and III

Grades, 9, 10, 11, and 12

Art IV is a semester course that provides students with the opportunities to produce art projects that demonstrate evidence of intellectual, perceptual, and technical range. The students will continue to learn about the elements of art and principles of design. The students will study organization in drawing and two-dimensional visual design. They will learn about the historical and cultural aspects of art and develop a body of original artworks that reflect a variety of art forms and techniques. Students will be responsible for required materials. (Pending UC approval)

Photography I

One semester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Requirements: Digital camera

Photography students learn through hands-on experience how to visualize and process pictures from the camera to the final print. Students will learn how to “see” through assignments designed towards self-expression, articulation and problem solving. Seeing also includes students learning to cut mat’s, mount their work, and install an exhibition. When a project is complete the students hold a critique so they may learn how to evaluate artwork with sensitivity.

Digital Photography

One semester

Prerequisite: Photography I

Grades 10, 11, 12

Requirements: Digital camera

Students begin with a study of photographic history leading to the innovation of digital capture. They will grow their image making abilities by learning ambient and studio light control, and learn the importance of total scene contrast and exposure control by understanding main and fill light ratios. A full study of photographic tools and vocabulary is detailed and explained including, but not limited to, camera formats, light types, exposure, f-stops, depth-of-field, and the Zone System. Students will have an opportunity to experience hands-on use of a 35mm style digital camera in pursuit of understanding in camera depth of field control. Projects will include form and texture image capture and image manipulation using Photoshop.

Industrial Arts

One semester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Students will have the opportunity to work on a series of progressively more difficult projects using a variety of tools and materials. Projects will include: wood carving, laminating and basic cabinetry.

Computer Science Program

Today's students need knowledge of the computer, its power, and its limitations in order to enter the work force of tomorrow with the appropriate skills. Every facet of society has become increasingly dependent upon the computer. The computer is no longer the exclusive domain of the engineer and scientist. It has become an essential tool of our society.

Computers I

One semester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

The major emphasis of this course is to enable students to develop an awareness of computers, technology, and the Internet. Students will learn computer history, hardware, and software including word processing, publishing, spreadsheets, photo manipulation, and basic web design.

Web Design

One semester

Prerequisite: Computers I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

In advanced computers, students will take a more in-depth look at all software packages, HTML, and web design. Students will take an active role in maintaining the NHP Website.

Three Dimensional Computer Animation

One Semester

Prerequisites: Computers I and Web Design (with a grade of C or better)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Students learn the fundamentals of 3D graphics and animation design. Projects include the following: creating and editing simple objects, polygonal modeling, surfaces of revolution, lofting curves to create a surface, using the key framer for animation, path animation, skeletons and kinematics (skins), character animation, rendering a scene, and inverse kinematics. Teacher may change some of these projects based on student abilities and needs.

Filmmaking 1: Cinema as a Social Force

One Semester Each

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course will introduce students to the history and analysis of film. Students will learn the technical and critical vocabularies of film studies and analyze films representing a variety of styles and genres. Primary emphasis will be American films from the silent period to the present. Students will become familiar with the aesthetic elements of cinema such as visual style, sound, and formal structure. They will learn the terminology of film production and film theories. Films will be discussed from aesthetic, historical, and social perspectives. There will be a guest lecturer on screenwriting and small budget film production. Students will choose a film from any studied genre and analyze it from a historical, artistic and social perspective.

Filmmaking 2: Film Production

One Semester Each

Grades 10, 11, 12

In Film Production, students will demonstrate understanding of learned concepts such as lighting, framing action, static and dynamic shots, and sound. An industry guest lecturer will discuss screenwriting, storyboarding, the function of the director, and film production. Classroom activities will include processing captured footage, editing, effects, and scene completion. Final supervised filming will be done on a broadcast quality digital video camera. Shooting will be done on campus grounds, and will consist of individual and group activities. Finally, the students will produce a finished piece, of their choosing, based on the concepts learned in Filmmaking 1 & 2.

Yearbook

Second Semester Only

Grades 10,11,12

Students in Yearbook produce NHP's yearbook. Layout, photography, and copyediting are some of the main areas of responsibility. Student editors are chosen from among students taking the course for the second year and are selected by the teacher on the basis of recommendation and application. Meeting deadlines is a primary task in this class, and grades are based on quality of work, ability to work with a team, and the ability to meet deadlines.

English Program

The English curriculum builds on sequential competency in various rhetorical forms, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. Teachers foster the appreciation of literature and encourage students' individual creativity. Successful students of English come to recognize and to value the artistry of language, and to employ it effectively in speech and writing. Students in their own analytical and creative work acquire control of oral and written expression and evolve their own expressive voices.

English 9/10

One Year Each

This course consists of three principal elements and selected readings from significant works of world literature. The first element is a review of essential usage and writing skills. The second element is the study of vocabulary and verbal reasoning, using vocabulary from required texts. The third element is an introduction to the criteria used for literary analysis. The readings, which are intended to complement the Ancient and Medieval History curriculum, include a Homeric epic, ancient drama, Arthurian legends, a wide selection of poetry, a Shakespearean play, and at least one modern novel. Individual teachers will differ in teaching methods and literary selections.

In English 10 students hone their writing skills with continued emphasis on literary analysis and the study of vocabulary. A more rigorous examination of the process of producing a formal close reading serves as the foundation of the course's essay writing. Students develop these skills during the critical analysis of representative works of world literature.

11th Grade English
American Composition and Literature
One Year

This course is designed to provide students with an English curriculum with a focus on American literature. Students will engage in the careful reading and critical analysis of literary works from a variety of culture. Through the close reading of selected texts, students will examine the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. Students will study literary elements and rhetorical devices as well as literary time periods and examine how they are used in/influence texts. Writing will be an integral part of the course as well. After developing their own ideas about each literary work, students will refine and deepen their insights through class discussion.

12th Grade English
World Literature/Expository Composition
One Semester Each

The purpose of this course is to examine literature from various cultures around the world. With the media such a pervasive presence in our lives, we have access to more information about the world in which we live than at any other time in history. Many people believe that our focus should be on our membership in the global community rather than in a particular nation, what we have in common, rather than what separates us. The focus in class will be the themes - truth, justice, the question of identity, fate vs. free will, the individual vs. society, good vs. evil - that are common to the literature of many cultures.

The goal of this course is to help students become confident and effective writers in preparation for their post high school career, learning skills that will benefit their writing across the curriculum. Students will write in a variety of expository modes, such as description, personal narrative, argumentation, comparison-contrast, and film analysis. In addition, this course makes students aware of writing as a process that involves drafting, peer editing, and conscientious revision.

Journalism
One semester
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Members of this class are experienced staff writers and new or returning section editors for *The Gator Gazette*, the school newspaper. In this course, students study interviewing techniques, investigative reporting, news and feature writing, as they hone both peer-editing and self-critiquing skills. The focus of this class is to learn about media, mass communication, and the place that ethical journalism holds in our society. Students continue to write, edit, and produce the paper.

Foreign Languages

At every level the Department promotes interest in the language, culture and peoples of France and French-speaking countries, Latin America, Spain. Mere technical knowledge taught in a cultural vacuum is inadequate for secondary education in foreign languages. Students must also gain an understanding of the contributions and the achievements of these civilizations. Teachers conduct modern language classes in Spanish or French to develop students' ability to understand and respond in these languages. Through the extensive use of tape recorders both in and out of

class, students learn to speak and to think spontaneously in the target language, as well as try to enjoy the intellectual challenge of learning another language.

French

Beginning in the first year with little or no knowledge of French, students learn the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. They acquire the vocabulary, grammar, idioms and verbal structures necessary for an appropriate level of fluency in the language. Students study French culture and history, and work with tapes and videos to improve oral/aural skills.

French I

Full Year

Grades 9, 10, 11

In this course conversation is generally in the present, near future, and simple past tenses and pertains to the basic vocabulary of school, home, and everyday life. Students learn the written language through use of workbooks and reading texts.

French II

Full Year

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

In this course students learn additional verbal tenses, broaden their vocabulary, and supplement their conversational, grammatical, and written skills. In addition, they learn to read more challenging material and to express themselves with greater ease.

French III

Full Year

Grades 10, 11, 12

In this course students refine their understanding of the language and develop a strong foundation in essential grammatical concepts. The course continues to expand upon students' significant repertoire of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. Students learn to converse more spontaneously using vocabulary and grammar in communicative situations. Students also learn to read unabridged literature.

French IV

Full Year

Grades 11, 12

In this course students continue to strengthen the four language skills while reading increasingly sophisticated literature from a variety of genres and ages. Students also use current French newspapers and magazines in oral and written discussions.

Spanish

Beginning in the first year with little or no knowledge of Spanish, students learn the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. They acquire the vocabulary, grammar, idioms, and verbal structures necessary for an appropriate level of fluency in the language. Students study Hispanic culture and history and spend additional time working individually with tapes to improve oral/aural skills. Students also spend significant class time doing role-play and cooperative activities that enable them to practice all skills.

Spanish I
Full Year
Grades 9, 10, 11

In this course conversation is generally in present and simple past tenses, and pertains to the basic vocabulary of school, home, and everyday life. Students learn the language through the use of a main text, workbooks, reading texts, computer practice programs, video programs, and supplementary handouts. Students also study the cultures and geography of Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish II
Full Year
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

In this course students learn the remaining verbal tenses, broaden their vocabulary, and supplement their conversational, grammatical, and written skills. They expand their knowledge of Spanish through a continued use of a main text, workbook, handouts, videos, and listening comprehension sources.

Spanish III
Full Year
Grades 10, 11, 12

In this course students refine their understanding of the language and develop a stronger foundation in essential grammatical concepts. The course continues to expand upon a significant repertoire of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. Students use Spanish in meaningful communicative situations and read unabridged literature.

Spanish IV
Full Year
Grades 11 and 12

In this course students continue to strengthen the four language skills while spending more time reading increasingly sophisticated literature from a variety of genres and ages.

Mathematics Program

The curriculum in mathematics is designed to prepare students for successful study at the college level through the understanding of mathematical concepts and the acquisition of manipulative skills.

Algebra I
Full Year
Grade 8, 9, 10, 11

This course emphasizes the development of analytical ability to solve word problems. Students learn the skills of mathematical algorithms and operations necessary for solving linear equations, inequalities, simultaneous equations, and quadratic equations. The course covers Cartesian coordinate graphing of linear equations and inequalities, conjunctions, and disjunctions of these sets. Number theory in the course includes extension of the number system to irrational and

imaginary numbers with rules of exponents and simplifying. *Algebra I may be spread out over a two-year program for those students who struggle with math.*

Geometry

Full Year

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course stresses the development of a system of logic based on deductive reasoning. Students learn definitions and postulates, prove theorems, and build the system of geometry. They also gain the ability to analyze a problem, to hypothesize a conclusion, and then to write a logical, 2-column formal proof. The courses include the study of angle relationships of parallel and perpendicular lines; similarity and congruence of polygons; circles, arcs, and associated angles; coordinated geometry; area and volume; and constructions.

Algebra II

Full Year

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, and Instructor recommendation

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is an extension in depth and in breadth of the study of Algebra I. Students learn to solve equations and inequalities by factoring, quadratic formulas, or by synthetic division. Topics include number analysis, operations on polynomials, exponents and roots, analysis of conic sections, and an introduction to logarithmic functions.

Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus

Full Year

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Instructor recommendation

Grades 11 and 12

This course covers a comprehensive review of Algebra II during the first ten weeks, but with more challenging exercises and greater depth. Topics in Trigonometry include the properties of the real number system, relations, functions and their graphs, circular and trigonometric functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, as well as real world applications of interest and annuities, polar coordinates and vectors, DeMoivre's theorem, complex numbers, and conic sections. The course follows a functional and graphing approach integrating as many concepts as possible. *Students must purchase a graphing calculator before enrolling in this course.*

Calculus

Full Year

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus, and Instructor recommendation

Grade 12

This course covers a variety of topics and applications using the skills and concepts learned in Algebra, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus. Topics include the properties of real numbers, relations, functions, and their graphs, trigonometry, exponential and logarithmic functions, vector analysis, and complex numbers. Students learn differential calculus and its applications to real-world problems. Graphing calculators reinforce essential topics.

Music Program

The Music Program believes that the study of music helps to make a complete person. Our goal is to allow all students the opportunity to experience music in many different aspects, so that music becomes a lifelong experience. Whether the student is a performer, listener, leader, team member or critic, we provide opportunities to experience singing, playing, listening intelligently, composing, arranging, and movement. In addition, students study music from different time periods, styles, and cultures. All courses in Music address the five components required by the University of California: Artistic Perception, Creative Expression, Historical and Cultural Context, Aesthetic Valuing, and Connections and Applications.

Songwriting

Semester

Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

In class analysis of various song forms, including “pop”. Students will deconstruct song lyrics to enhance artistic perception and connect to other music genres. Students will learn step-by-step application of techniques of song writing leading to each student’s composition. Every student will be recorded onto a compilation CD.

Guitar Primer I and II

One or Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

This course will cover beginning guitar techniques. Basic musicianship skills will also be emphasized. The student will also learn about the guitar via guitar literature that includes a study of guitar style characteristics within major historical periods.

Popular Music Appreciation

Semester

Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

This course emphasizes listening and related activities to develop the ability to make discriminating judgments regarding popular music. Students are encouraged to appreciate music from many cultures and to enjoy a variety of music.

Modern Music Essentials/Fundamentals

Learn the inner workings of the most awesome language in the world: the language of music. Become a complete musician in a music fundamentals class designed especially for instrumentalists and vocalists. This class will give you an understanding of theory and harmonic concepts as they apply to rock, blues, pop, funk, metal and other musical styles. In-class workshops and labs will help you apply these amazing concepts to your area of instrumental/vocal expertise.

Music Ensemble

Co requisites: Guitar I or Music Essentials/Fundamentals

If you play any instrument, you really should take this course. The emphasis of this course will cover a detailed study of music ensemble performance. Ensembles may include duos, trios, a small guitar orchestra.....maybe even a Rock Band!

Physical Education

North Hills Prep believes that physical education serves as an important component in the development of a well-rounded student. The program provides every student with the opportunity to develop and to maintain a level of physical fitness and skill development commensurate with individual needs. This goal is accomplished through the use of drills, tasks, and activities with emphasis on development of basic skills and conditioning. The program also emphasizes teamwork and good sportsmanship among its athletes on competitive teams. The Department promotes good health through proper nutrition and exercise, a knowledge of how the body functions, and an understanding of injury prevention. In addition to team sports, the program emphasizes individual and recreational sports to help students find lifetime athletic activities.

Movement I/II

Movement educates students in both the physical and aesthetic elements of dance as well as the understanding of dance as a performing art. It informs students as to the evolution of dance as an art form integral to the development of civilization as both an influence upon society and a reflection of culture. It helps the students develop methods for viewing performance and a vocabulary for discussing those experiences. Students will be instructed in basic techniques of classical and modern dance and will demonstrate skills learned in class. Students are assessed according to the quality and maturity of work performed and the progress of that quality from the beginning to the end of the course. They are not graded according to “natural” ability or innate talent. These courses may be used for both Art and Physical Education credit. One semester of Dance supplies one semester of P.E. credit.

Extracurricular Sports

North Hills Prep offers three after-school sports programs throughout the year. Football is offered in the fall; Basketball is offered in the winter; Softball is offered in the spring. Students may earn up to three hours per week towards PE credit by participating in after-school athletics on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please see the Director of Education and the coaches for more information.

Independent Study P.E.

Students may petition for off campus independent study to satisfy the P.E. requirement. The Director of Education should be consulted regarding the conditions and requirements for independent study. All activities approved will require a minimum of sixty hours of directly-supervised physical activity to satisfy a semester of PE credit. Such a petition requires administrative approval.

Science Program

The goals of the Science Program are to develop in students an understanding of the scientific process, to foster an awareness of and an appreciation for the physical and biological world, and to prepare students for college-level courses in science. In addition, the curriculum is designed to develop in students a level of scientific literacy that will enable them to participate as informed citizens in resolving the issues that confront a technologically-oriented society.

Biology and Biology Honors

Full Year

Grades 9,10,11

These courses are laboratory-oriented introductions to the study of living things from the level of the cell to the relationships of organisms with each other and with the environment. Students consider the cell's process in detail. Students survey the five animal kingdoms and study the physiology, anatomy, genetics, reproduction, development, and ecology of selected organisms. The Honors course will be offered based on number of students eligible for course and covers all the topics of Biology at a more accelerated pace and in greater depth. As this course requires significant additional study, admission is by permission of the department.

Advanced Placement Biology

Full Year

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Grades 11 and 12

AP Biology is the equivalent of a college introductory course taken by biology majors. The goals of this course are twofold. The first goal is to equip students with an advanced knowledge of biology in order for them to be successful on the A.P. Examination and in college biology courses. The second goal is for students to develop an understanding of the interweaving relationships between biology and our world. Admission is by permission of the department

Chemistry

Full Year

Prerequisite: Completion of, or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II

Grades 10, 11, and 12

This laboratory course reinforces existing knowledge of chemistry learned in physical science and introduce new principles and concepts of chemistry. With an emphasis on the inorganic and physical aspects of chemistry, the courses also integrate organic chemistry. Students learn laboratory safety and techniques through extensive experiments, which draw on their skills in critical thinking, writing, and mathematics.

Physics

Full Year

Prerequisite: Biology

Grades 11 and 12

In this laboratory course students study the principles and concepts of physical matter and change. The course includes mechanics, thermal physics, electricity and magnetism, waves and optics, and atomic and nuclear physics. The class emphasizes mathematical functions, problem solving, and laboratory investigations as well as practical experience and application of these principles to everyday life.

Social Studies Program

The Social Studies Program is designed to provide students with an understanding of the past and the historical process. Students explore the political, economic, and social developments of world.

Modern World History

Full Year

Grade 10

This course begins with a review of the Renaissance and continues with an examination of absolute and Constitutional Monarchies, the Age of Reason, the French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, 19th Century Nationalism, World Wars, and conflicts in the contemporary world. Analytical writing in the form of essays and tests and the development of class discussion skills are critical elements of the course.

United States History

Full Year

Grade 11

A survey study of the United States from pre-colonial to modern times, this course emphasizes America's political and economic development. Organizational and evaluative techniques are applied to the strong material base students obtain. Students learn study skills appropriate to the social sciences, particularly those needed to manage a challenging textbook and to succeed on college-modeled exams. Honors class available based on eligibility.

Government

One Semester

Grade 12

This course examines the reasons for relative political stability in the industrial democracies of Western Europe and examines the struggles for stability faced by the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation. Using the most current source material available, students compare political systems, examine economic challenges in a post-communist world, and investigate changing diplomatic and military alliances. This course is a prerequisite to AP Comparative Government and Politics that is offered during the second semester. Honors class available based on eligibility.

Economics

One Semester

Grade 12

This course explores the fundamental concepts of economics and their application in modern American society and business. There are long-term class projects on business formation and financial markets. While the class explores the theoretical issues of supply and demand, and allocation, there is continuing emphasis on the opportunities, problems, and solutions of American businesses and social institutions. Honors class available based on eligibility.

Theater Arts

The curriculum is designed to serve as an introduction to the principles of drama and dance. Students learn effective skills in oral interpretation, critical analysis, acting, and play production. Students also acquire knowledge of the history of drama as an art form, including the various kinds of drama and the major contributing figures. Theater Production and Dance classes address the five components required by the University of California: Artistic Perception, Creative Expression, Historical and Cultural Context, Aesthetic Valuing, and Connections and Applications. All require some work beyond class time.

Theater I and II
Two Independent Semester Courses
Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

Theater I/II students will learn to demonstrate their ability to solve problems and think critically. Students will achieve this by using sensory information that is communicated through the language of the theater and through the skill of performance. Students will prepare written analyses and critical assessments of various plays through research and problem solving. They will study the historical and theatrical contexts from which the studied plays come. Students will demonstrate their skills through performance and their writing. Assessment comes through the presentation of the genre studied to an audience, plus class critique and self-evaluation. Students achieve self-confidence by successfully acting out the scene or play in front of an audience. Students may also take part in a service learning project designed to bring theater arts to the larger community.

Co-Curricular Programs

This co-curricular course addresses topics of adolescent growth and development in an age appropriate fashion. By providing students with a body of knowledge and an educational forum for discussion, instructors help students understand the dramatic, often anxiety-ridden, emotional, social, and physical changes they are experiencing throughout their adolescence. Classes include a range of methodologies: lecture, discussion, guest speakers, and video.

Transition Services

Full Year

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2.5 credits per semester (Credit/No Credit)

In Grade 9, a year-long course covers some of following:

- Coming of Age
- Wellness and Your Body
- Chemicals and Your Mind
- Sexuality

In Grades 10 and 11, teachers will cover some of the following:

- College Application Process
- Decision Making
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Prevention
- Gender Roles

In Grade 12, students will learn about some of the following:

- Transitions
- Self-Management
- Sexuality
- Assertiveness

California State University, Northridge Talented Students Program

This honors program gives seniors the opportunity to attend regular CSUN courses in lieu of one or two electives at North Hills Prep. To qualify, students must have a 3.0 grade-point average in

the 10th and 11th grades, or must meet the minimum eligibility index for first-time freshmen at CSUN. Students must also have the Director of Education's approval. Normally, the deadline for application is April 1st of the year prior to enrollment.

Pierce College Honors Programs

In this 12th grade students may attend courses at Pierce while enrolled concurrently at North Hills Prep. Students may substitute up to two elective courses. To be eligible, students must have a minimum of a 3.0 grade-point average in the 10th and 11th grades. Approval by the Director of Education is also required.