

Westpine Course Descriptions

Advanced Academic Academy: A³



English 1 Honors* Grade 8

Course Number: 1001320M

The purpose of this course is to provide grade 9 students, using texts of high complexity, advanced integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness.

Algebra 1 Honors* Grade 7 (GEM) or Grade 8

Course Number: 1200320M

The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, called units, deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend, and students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

GEM Geometry Honors* Grade 8

Course Number: 1206320T

The fundamental purpose of the course in Geometry is to formalize and extend students' geometric experiences from the middle grades. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. Important differences exist between this Geometry course and the historical approach taken in Geometry classes. For example, transformations are emphasized early in this course. Close attention should be paid to the introductory content for the Geometry conceptual category found in the high school standards. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. The critical areas, organized into five units are as follows. *Prerequisite: Algebra 1 Honors*

****Qualifying Students May Be Placed Into Elements of Math Foundation****

Biology Honors* Grade 8

Course Number: 2000320M

This highly rigorous, accelerated course will provide opportunities to students for general exploratory experiences and activities in the fundamental concepts of life. Topics will include but not be limited to: the scientific method, laboratory apparatus usage and safety, biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, botany, zoology, human anatomy and physiology, and ecological relationships. Laboratory activities that include the use of the scientific method, measurement, laboratory apparatus and safety are an integral part of this course. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for literacy are infused through instructional practices that ensure reading from a wide range of information texts and provide extensive research and writing opportunities, while the mathematical practices focus on applying critical thinking and logical reasoning skills.

HOPE (Health Occupation Physical Education)* Grade 6-8

Course Number: 3026010M

The purpose of this course is to develop and enhance healthy behaviors that influence lifestyle choices and student health and fitness. Students will realize the full benefit of this course when it is taught with an integrated approach.

Debate I Honors* Grade 7-8

Course Number: 1007330M

The purpose of this course is to develop students' beginning awareness, understanding, and application of language arts as it applies to oral communication concepts and strategies for public debate in a variety of given settings.

Spanish I* Grade 7-8

Course Number: 0708340M

Spanish 1 introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Spanish II* Grade 7-8

Course Number: 0708350M

Spanish 2 reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by the students in Spanish 1. The course develops increased listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as cultural awareness. Specific content to be covered is a continuation of listening and oral skills acquired in Spanish 1. Reading and writing receive more emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective. The cultural survey of the target language-speaking people is continued. *Prerequisite: Spanish II*

World Cultural Geography* Grade 8

Course Number: 2103300

The primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of world cultural regions in terms of location, physical characteristics, demographics, historical changes, land use, and economic activity.