

26
27

HIGH SCHOOL
CURRICULUM



ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Fairhill School requires all students to complete a standard 4x4 graduation plan. High school students must take four years of coursework in each of the four core academic areas: English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. This comprehensive college-preparatory sequence provides students with a strong academic foundation and supports readiness for a wide range of colleges and universities.

Fairhill requires a total of 28 credits for graduation. One credit is granted for each full year of a subject completed with passing grades.

Course	Credit
English	1
Literature	1
Integrated English/Literature	3
Mathematics	4
Social Studies	4
Science	4
Fine Arts	1
Foreign Language	2
Health	.5
Physical Education	1
Speech	.5
Technology	1
Financial Literacy	.5
Electives	4.5

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students are required to complete at least 90 hours of community service by graduation. These hours should be completed as follows:

Senior year	30 hours
Junior year	25 hours
Sophomore year	20 hours
Freshman year	15 hours

ENGLISH AND LITERATURE

ENGLISH I

English I builds upon the writing process with a continuation of study in various essay formats within both personal and academic styles. Students assess their work throughout the year by building and maintaining a writing portfolio that encourages them to reflect on and refine their work. Elements of grammar and new vocabulary words are introduced through daily lessons and writing projects. This course is a one hour course that complements the one hour literature course.

LITERATURE I

Literature I explores the role of literature in expressing and reflecting multiple aspects of the human experience. Along with various short stories, essays, and poems from the textbook, students read several novels, with emphasis placed on word building, context clues, inferences, identification of central ideas, and improving comprehension skills through critical analysis. Each unit of study is designed to prepare students for upper level high school courses and the SAT and ACT exams.

INTEGRATED ENGLISH II AND LITERATURE II

English II prepares students for the types of analytical writing they will complete in upper level high school courses. Students compose essays that expand and polish their ability to express a unique inner voice through lessons in grammar, vocabulary, diction, structure, and style. They also complete comprehensive research papers, developing the research skills necessary for writing papers in formal academic settings. Literature II devotes study to the exploration, interpretation, and response to literary works from around the world, identifying universal themes prevalent in the literature of different cultures. By means of developing greater multicultural awareness through reading and reflecting, students gain further understanding of themselves and the world around them. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension skills, along with recognizing and understanding the techniques of characterization, tone, mood, point of view, and imagery in multiple genres.

ENGLISH AND LITERATURE— HONORS

The Honors English and Literature class is a combined class of freshmen and sophomores with a rotating reading schedule to accommodate incoming students each year. Reading assignments include an assortment of genres from different cultures and periods in history, encouraging reflection on relevant social issues and literature's impact on society. Students apply their knowledge of literary concepts and connect the texts studied through class discussion, writing portfolios, and creative projects. Honors course registration requires a recommendation.



ENGLISH AND LITERATURE CONTINUED

INTEGRATED ENGLISH III AND LITERATURE III

This is a combined, one hour course that progresses in a chronological sequence, focusing on important historical figures and events that molded the literature of America. Readings address American culture in the 16th-18th Centuries, the American Renaissance, American Romanticism, the Civil War/Post War Era, and the Modern and Contemporary Periods. Students complete both analytical and creative responses to the literature, examining and practicing the various writing techniques required after high school. Additionally, juniors complete grammar assignments and weekly vocabulary units.

ENGLISH AND LITERATURE — HONORS

Honors English/literature at the junior and senior levels focuses heavily on independent reading, discourse, and the styles of writing that will prepare students for college level work. Each unit follows a thematic structure, connecting readings, discussions, and writing assignments that generate higher critical analysis skills. In addition to comprehension quizzes, several analytical essays, and a great deal of reading, lessons require students to write a personal response journal for each week's assignments and participate in Socratic discussions with their peers. Honors course registration requires a recommendation.

INTEGRATED ENGLISH AND LITERATURE IV

English and Literature IV focuses on British literature, starting in the Anglo-Saxon Era and moving through the Medieval Period, the Renaissance and Shakespeare Era, the Restoration, the Romantic Period, the Victorian Period, and the 20th and 21st Centuries. In studying the history of each period, students learn to recognize the relationship between writing and the development of political, socioeconomic, gender, religious, and historic ideologies. In addition to the literature, students expand their writing skills, deepening their analyses and improving their form through both academic and creative pieces designed to prepare them for college level writing.

ENGLISH AND LITERATURE — HONORS

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MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA I

Algebra I students use functions to represent and model problem situations, set up equations, and use a variety of methods to solve these equations. Modules focus on solving linear equations and quadratic equations using models, tables, graphs, and algebraic methods. Goals of the course include helping students reach a comfort level in using the language of algebra and familiarizing students with problem solving strategies and techniques.

ALGEBRA IA & IB

Students may choose to divide the Algebra I curriculum over a period of two years by taking Algebra IA and Algebra IB. These courses use the same curriculum as the Algebra I course, while allowing for a more concentrated study of the mathematical concepts involved.

GEOMETRY

Geometry consists of the study of geometric figures of zero, one, two, and three dimensions and the relationships among them. Students study properties and associations related to size, shape, location, direction, and orientation of these figures. In addition to familiarizing students with the language of geometry, lessons provide insight to the role of shapes and figures in representing mathematical situations and expressing generalizations about space and spatial relationships.

ALGEBRA II

Algebra II is an extension of Algebra I and further augments students' comprehension of the concept of functions. After reviewing the basic equations learned in Algebra I, students develop advanced algebraic skills by studying inequalities and proof, product and factors of polynomials, rational expressions, irrational and complex numbers, and quadratic equations and functions.

PRE-CALCULUS—HONORS

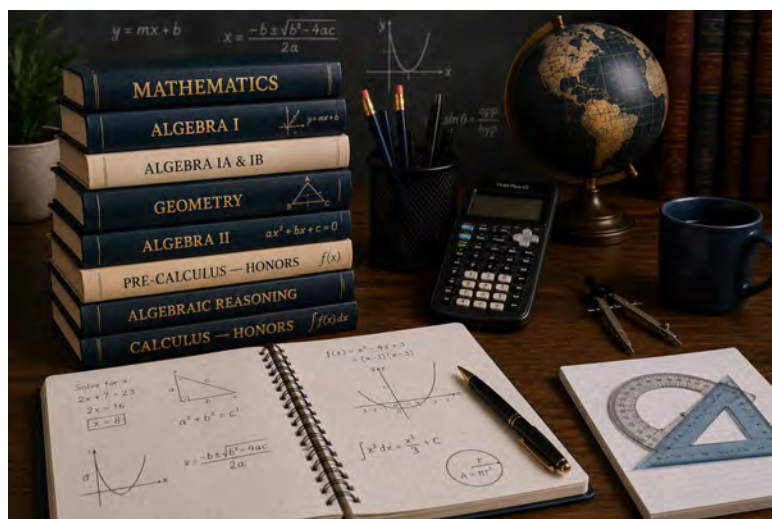
In pre-calculus, students use symbolic reasoning and analytical methods to represent mathematical situations, express generalizations, and further their study of mathematical concepts. Concrete, pictorial, numerical, symbolic, graphical, and verbal representations help students model functions and equations and solve real-life problems.

ALGEBRAIC REASONING

Algebraic Reasoning helps students develop skills in graphical, geometric reasoning, pattern recognition, model information, and solve problems from a wide variety of advanced applications in both mathematical and non-mathematical situations.

CALCULUS—HONORS

Through the interplay between geometric and analytic information, calculus is taught to both predict and explain the observed local and global behavior of functions. Derivatives are presented graphically, numerically, and analytically, with an understanding of the relationship between differentiability and continuity. This is a one-year, honors-level course designed for the accelerated 12th grade mathematics student who is considering advanced placement in college or wishes to have maximum preparation for college calculus.



SCIENCE

BIOLOGY

Biology is a laboratory science course that covers the study of living things. The scientific process is emphasized along with biology's connections to other scientific disciplines. Units in the biology class include the classification of organisms, the history of life on Earth, speciation, plant life, vertebrates and invertebrates, and the human body. Students explore these concepts through textbook readings, online and written assignments, projects, and hands-on laboratory activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Environmental science challenges students to think about their roles in our environment. Students explore how beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors affect the environment, as well as learn how scientists are working to solve the numerous environmental problems we face today. Topics include ecology and ecosystems, endangered species, our national wetlands, global energy needs and historic energy disasters, and consumption and recycling. Coursework includes textbook readings, online and written assignments, projects, and hands-on laboratory activities.

CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is an introduction to the study of the physical world. Through lecture, group discussion, online and written assignments, and laboratory work, students engage in topics such as matter and energy, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, the mathematics of chemistry, kinetics and equilibrium, acidbase theories, redox and organic chemistry. Emphasis is placed on the development of critical thinking by using the scientific method.

CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

Conceptual Physics is a conceptual based introductory physics course. Students are introduced to basic physics concepts, including mechanics, properties of matter, heat, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, and atomic physics. Concepts are introduced via lecture and reinforced through the use of demonstration, video, class discussion, and lab activities. Selected projects allow students to creatively demonstrate their understanding of specific concepts.

PHYSICS— HONORS

Honors Physics is a project based course allowing students to gain hands on experience of physics concepts through construction and implementation of projects. Students are introduced to basic physics concepts, including motion, accelerated motion, one and two dimensional forces, gravitation, rotational motion, momentum, energy, work, simple machines, thermal energy, and states of matter. Through a combination of class work, lecture, demonstration, video, and hands on projects, students experience physics concepts. Critical thinking skills are practiced through project construction.



SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

World Geography extends Social Studies studies to more closely look at the cultures and customs of various regions around the world, such as the United States, Canada, Latin America, Russia, Eurasia, Africa, Australia, the Middle East, the Polar Regions, and Oceania. Topics covered include map making and map studying, weather, climate, vegetation, religions, cultures and their traditions, and governments. Students use periodicals as a basis for discussion, debate, and weekly research about current events in different societies.

WORLD HISTORY

World History covers many topics, including the transformations of civilizations, political systems, the expansion of world nations, the first empires, the development of religions, and the world at war. Periodicals serve as a catalyst for discussions and debates, inviting students to immerse themselves in the events taking place around the world. Additionally, students keep a notebook of weekly assignments concerning current events, and note taking skills are emphasized on a daily basis.

AMERICAN HISTORY IY II

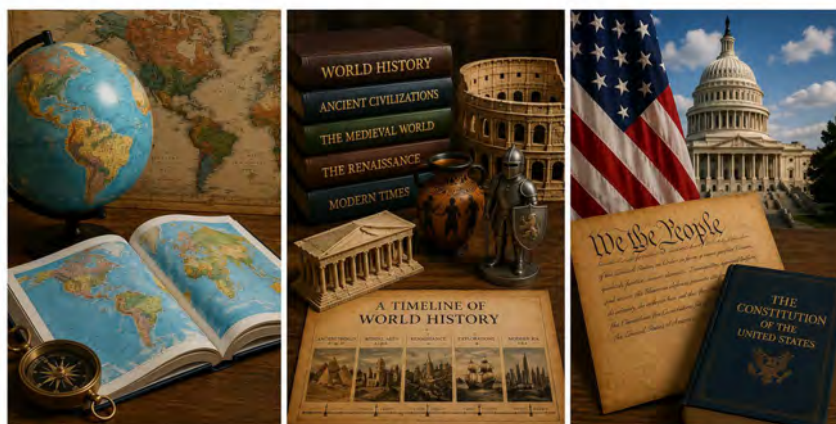
American History II provides a basic overview of American history from reconstruction to the present with emphasis on the democratic process, economics, geography, the impact of technological innovations, social events, and other issues related to each time period. Critical thinking and map skills are stressed, and historical insights are related to current events through the use of periodicals.

GOVERNMENT

The government curriculum consists of studies of various forms of foreign governments, the fundamentals of the United States government, the establishment of political parties, the roles of key figures, taxes, the powers of Congress, the constitution, and amendments. Local and national periodicals provide topics for class discussion and debate, while weekly current event assignments encourage independent research of the topics affecting and influencing our government today. This is a one-semester course.

ECONOMICS

Economics is a one-semester course that covers information in the areas of economic systems, business organizations, supply and demand, the Stock Market, competition, market failures, bankruptcies, microeconomics, and macroeconomics. Periodicals provide topics for class discussion and debate, and students keep a notebook of current event news stories as a weekly assignment. This is a one-semester course.



HEALTH AND SPEECH

SPEECH

The speech curriculum emphasizes the correct diction and use of gesture in expressive speech. Students practice different styles of speech delivery, such as informative, persuasive, and impromptu, and they present their work on a weekly basis. Additional study focuses on famous speeches from recorded history and the Right of Free Speech as presented in the US Constitution, while memorization of the Gettysburg Address aides as a tool to perfect diction and projection. This is a one-semester course.

HEALTH

The health course provides students with accurate information which they can use to develop healthy attitudes and behavior patterns. Students are encouraged to recognize their role in choosing healthy behaviors in order to reduce risks. Topics covered include mental health, family and social health, human growth and development, nutrition, fitness, substance abuse, diseases and disorders, consumer and personal health, safety, and environmental health. This is a one-semester course.

ATHLETICS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of physical education is to motivate students to strive for lifetime personal fitness with an emphasis on the health-related components of physical fitness. The concept of wellness, or striving to reach optimal levels of health, is the cornerstone of this course and is exemplified by one of the course objectives in which students design their own personal fitness program.

ATHLETICS I, II, III & IV

Athletics encourages students to develop the skills necessary to work cooperatively and provides enhancement of natural talent and ability. Students enrolled in individual and team sports are expected to develop health-related fitness and an appreciation for setting personal goals, teamwork, and fair play. Fairhill teams compete in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) league. Varsity sports include the following: Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Tennis, Track, and Volleyball.



ELECTIVES

FILM ANALYSIS

Study in the film analysis course is divided into two semesters. The first semester is a study of some of the most popular film genres, including comedy, drama, musicals, westerns, and suspense/thrillers. Work within each genre includes viewing films produced pre-1970 and post-1970, emphasizing the changes in societal ideologies, film technology, and film tropes. The second semester takes a closer look at some of the basics of film elements, such as lighting, sound, camera angles and depth of field, mise en scene, color and texture, and editing. Students are required to independently view and report on current films throughout the year, using vocabulary terms and knowledge of elements addressed in class.

CREATIVE WRITINGG

Creative Writing helps students develop their individual voices through poetry, short stories, personal narratives, and other creative works. Students explore character development, dialogue, setting, and plot while building confidence in the writing process and strengthening creativity and self-expression.

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING

Intro to Engineering is a STEM elective in which students will gain an understanding of the core concepts of Engineering. The course is project-based, with semester-long exercises in both physical engineering and written project design. Students will learn to write algorithms, use CAD software, design and implement destructive testing and manage research projects and papers. Several disciplines will be showcased, with the requirements, college degrees and professional opportunities of each examined.

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is a Social Studies elective course in which students explore the development and personality of individuals, as well as the social behaviors of groups and cultures. Throughout the year, the course investigates the history of psychology, psychological methods, biology, and abnormal behavior. Students also learn about the development of human beings, theories of personality, and the diagnosis and treatment of various psychological disorders. To stimulate comprehension and understanding, the class participates in labs and video assignments, as well as group activities and projects.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR)

College and Career Readiness (CCR) is a college preparatory course designed to prepare students for their senior year and life after high school. Lessons and activities encourage the exploration of strengths and interests, help students set realistic goals for the future, and investigate college and career choices. Students will learn how to prepare and submit college applications, write college entrance essays, and apply for scholarships and financial aid. Course topics also include navigating a college course, note and test-taking strategies, and organization. While the course focuses mostly on college preparation, it also takes into consideration alternate career and educational opportunities, such as trade and vocational schools, entrepreneurship and military options.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

The second semester of College and Career Readiness is dedicated to Personal Finance. Course topics include behavioral finance, budgeting, checking, savings, managing credit, saving for the future, investing for retirement, insurance and taxes. Guided instruction is designed to help students understand the importance of financial responsibility, and gain knowledge that will empower them to make sound financial decisions.

FINE ARTS

ARTS

ART I

Art I is designed for those interested in developing their skills and knowledge in art. Technique, composition, and craftsmanship are key components of every project, with the elements and principles of design being the basis for all teaching. A primary emphasis in Art I is to develop drawing and design skills. Throughout the year, students are also exposed to art history, art criticism, and photography.

ART II, III & IV

Advanced art is offered to students in grades 10-12 and is designed for those interested in becoming independent in their thinking through the development of their skills and knowledge in art. Students develop skills in art production through experimentation in a variety of new processes, techniques, and media. They are given the opportunity to work two and three dimensionally, with two dimension work focusing on developing technique and design skills, while three dimensional studies emphasize design and construction skills. Students also continue to work in the areas of photography, art history, and art criticism.

PHOTOGRAPHY / JOURNALISM

COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Commercial Photography teaches students technical and creative skills needed to produce, refine, and excel in photography and image production. Using creativity, critical thinking, students learn to use photographic equipment to create quality images that reflect a personal artistic vision. Photography is produced as an independent art form, and is also used as a source of inspiration for other projects.

JOURNALISM / YEARBOOK

The journalism curriculum introduces journalistic concepts designed to produce a variety of skills necessary for newspaper reporting and publishing. Students learn journalism history, theory, ethics, and photo journalism, applying their knowledge and honing interviewing skills through a variety of written news stories. Lessons highlight the mechanics, design, and structure for producing and publishing a student-run publication, where students take the roles of Editor-in-Chief, Photo Editor, and Section Editors.



THEATER

DRAMA I

Theatre is creativity expressed in action. The beginning drama course focuses on the basic knowledge of theatre, historical and practical, while giving limited opportunities to express and act out that knowledge. Emphasis is placed on working as an ensemble and the importance of the work as a whole; however, the individuality of each ensemble member is equally important.

ADVANCED DRAMA II, III, & IV

Advanced drama focuses on acting technique. Students are expected to participate in a one-act play, a full-length play, and an evening of monologues and duets. Continued work on the philosophy of the ensemble as a major acting component is stressed. Lessons include acting techniques, diction, projection, script use, character analysis, plot analysis, and memorization. Students in this course are eligible to become members of the Fairhill Chapter of the International Thespian Society (ITS) and to participate in the Texas Thespian Festival. Prerequisite for the course is Drama I.



FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Students are required to have two foreign language credits. Additional foreign language courses are applied as an elective credit.

SPANISH I

Spanish I introduces students to the sound system and fundamental grammatical structure of the Spanish language. Students develop skills in the areas of comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing while building a strong vocabulary base. By the end of the course, students will have a basic understanding of Spanish grammar, including word formation, verb conjugation in the present tense, idiomatic expressions, and cognates.

SPANISH II

This novice level course builds upon the grammatical structure of the Spanish language learned in Spanish I. Focus is on developing and increasing skill levels in the areas of comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Students learn to describe situations in the present, past, and future tenses and gain an intermediate understanding of grammar, including word formation, verb conjugations, and idiomatic expressions. The course also discusses various cultural aspects of the Spanish speaking world, its history, and its culture.

SPANISH III— HONORS

Upon successful completion of Spanish I and II, a student may choose to enroll in this advanced class that is designed to solidify the basic structural and grammatical components of the language, while adding more complex verb structures and sophisticated communication skills. The course offers continued exploration of the Spanish-speaking world, with more exposure to authentic language use through the media and other outlets, while placing greater emphasis on the study of its geography, history, and the arts.

SPANISH IV— HONORS

Honors Spanish IV continues to broaden students' cultural knowledge of Spanish speaking countries, while also allowing them to study the language in greater detail. Students read for comprehension from a variety of authentic sources and apply higher level skills in order to discuss the readings. Lessons concentrate on expanding the vocabulary with expressions that make speech more natural. Students study and report on the culture, history, and current events of the Spanish-speaking world, using the language skills gained throughout their Spanish courses, and prepare themselves for continued study of the language in college.

SPANISH PLAY

The Spanish program includes a unique opportunity for students to participate in a Spanish Play, performed completely in Spanish. This immersive experience brings the spanish language to life, builds confidence, and strengthens conversational skills through real-world communication and cultural understanding.



TECHNOLOGY

DIGITAL GRAPHICS

In Digital Graphics, students work closely and personally with creativity and innovation as they learn how to use state of the art software to plan, implement, manage, and evaluate projects. Image editing and manipulation, correction, and enhancement are some of the techniques covered. Students learn to navigate and use Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator to achieve their goals as they learn to tap into their creative potential. They learn how to create visual communications, make aesthetic judgments, and learn a variety of tools and techniques used to produce professional work in fields of graphic design, advertising, and illustration. Mastery of tools is accomplished with fun and entertaining projects.

ADVANCED DIGITAL GRAPHICS

Advanced Digital Graphics provides students with additional, more advanced practice using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator software to plan, create, enhance, and manipulate graphic designs. Lessons also provide access to Adobe InDesign software in order for students to learn techniques that prepare their work for publication. Additionally, students learn the basics of graphic animation and introduce users to design elements such as cloth, fur, fluid effects, and camera sequencing.

ROBOTICS

Robotics is an introductory course on robot design and programming. This course introduces science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to students through fun, exciting hands-on learning. Participants gain real-world problem-solving experiences through a guided, yet self-paced robotics program. Students engage in hands-on STEM experiences, which foster confidence and habits of learning. Robotics inspire youth to experiment and grow in their critical thinking, coding and design skills through hands-on STEM learning.

