

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS

1. Prior to the selection of any electives, students must re-enroll in required courses they have failed.
2. Students who enroll in the 9th grade during or after the 2003-2004 school year must take three years of science.
3. All secondary students must enroll in six (6) classes a year and attend classes every day.
4. Fees for classes that require special materials, such as Art, will be assessed.
5. Students in grades 5 – 12 will be assessed a \$25 technology fee beginning 2006-2007.
6. Students may take Honors courses even if they have not chosen to complete the requirements for the Honors Diploma.

SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY

Since planning is essential, schedule changes will not be made once they are approved and entered into the CCSD system. Class changes will not be granted to request a specific advisor. **Due to the State of Nevada Department of Education Guidelines, no student may change a class and receive credit after the third week of the semester.** The administration may, due to enrollment and staff changes, balance course selections by transferring students from one class and/or advisor to another section. Every effort will be made to ensure a smooth transition for students. Requests for schedule changes are considered only for the following specific educational reasons:

- A. competency preparation for the Nevada Proficiency Exam,
- B. graduation requirement fulfillment,
- C. misplacement in an academic area,
- D. successful completion of summer school course work.

PREREQUISITES

Prerequisites (what is required before you attempt to enroll in a course) are listed in the coursed descriptions below to help students and parents make the best educational decisions possible. Students must either meet these prerequisites to enroll in a course or request permission to challenge the course. Both semesters of a prerequisite course must be successfully completed. Core classes must be passed before electives are taken.

CLASS FEES

Class fees are charged for classes such as Art and a technology fee is charged for all 5th-12th grade students . A family's difficulty purchasing all of the desired/necessary items for the student and/or paying necessary fees will not prevent a student's enrollment in any class. If alternatives to immediate payment of fees must be considered, the administrator or respective advisor should be contacted. **Classes will not be changed due to an inability to pay a fee. Payment schedules can be arranged.**

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Mathematics

APPLIED ALGEBRA IA

This is a first-year course of a two-year Algebra sequence. Emphasis will be on mathematical principles such as estimation, data handling, statistics, algebraic formulas, measurement, and geometry in the context of algebraic situations. Upon successful completion, students may enroll in Algebra 1. (Both courses in the Algebra sequence must be successfully completed in order to fulfill the Algebra I requirement.) This course will fulfill one of the mathematics credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Math 8 or Pre-Algebra

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

APPLIED ALGEBRA IB

This is a second course of a two-year Algebra sequence. Materials focus on developing problem-solving skills using algebra and integrating geometry. Upon successful completion, students will enroll in Geometry. (Both courses in the applied Algebra sequence must be successfully completed in order to fulfill the NCAA Algebra 1 requirement.) The course will fulfill one of the mathematics credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1A or Algebra 1 first semester with a "C" or "D"

ALGEBRA I

This one-year course studies patterns and structures within the real number system. Working with formulas, graphing, and formulating strategies for solving complex, real-world problems will be introduced. Students will be encouraged to become adept at solving problems using algebraic techniques. Use of a calculator and computer software as instructional tools is an integral part of this course. It is recommended that each student purchase a scientific calculator.

Grade: 9-12

ALGEBRA I HONORS

This course is for the highly-qualified, motivated student who is committed to a challenging course of study during each year of high school. The development of problem-solving skills, the use of algebraic procedures, and the study of the structure within the real number system form the basis of this course. The use of technology is an integral part of the program.

Prerequisite: Completion of seventh-grade accelerated math or Pre-Algebra with a "C" or better

ALGEBRA II

This second-year course will include the field properties as a basis for better understanding of the real number system. The study of functions will include the following types: polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, absolute value, composite, and inverse. Field properties will be used to find solutions to open sentences. Systems of open sentences of the first and second degree will be studied. Matrices, complex number series, and sequences will be introduced. It is recommended that each student purchase a graphing calculator.

Grade: 10-12

ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY HONORS

This course combines the subject matter of Algebra II and Trigonometry. It is for motivated math students planning to take other high level mathematics courses. It moves at a very accelerated pace. A graphing calculator is highly recommended.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors with "B's" or better

CALCULUS HONORS

This one-year, college-level course is intended for students who have a thorough knowledge of pre-calculus mathematics. Students should have a strong background in advanced algebra, geometry and trigonometry. This course includes a brief review of pre-calculus topics, a study of limits and the differentiation and integration of functions of a single variable. Emphasis will be placed on the application of technology and theory to solve problems. Students completing this course will be prepared and encouraged to participate in the Advanced Placement Calculus AP Exam. This course will fulfill one unit of the mathematics credits required for graduation.

Grade: 12 Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre-Calculus H and teacher recommendation

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

GEOMETRY I

This course is a logical development of the deductive system of reasoning with point sets in a plane. Emphasis is on the development of logic and algebraic applications to geometry. Coordinate and transformation approaches are introduced. Real-world applications and computer-based explorations of 2-D and 3-D figures are explored. Formal proofs are introduced, and deductive arguments expressed orally and in written paragraph form are developed. A ruler, protractor and compass are recommended.

Prerequisite: Grades 9 through 12, successful completion of Algebra I with a "C" or better

GEOMETRY I HONORS

This course is for students taking advanced courses in mathematics. It presents plane geometry as a sustained system of deductive reasoning and extension to related concepts of solid geometry with emphasis placed on basic facts about lines, planes, solids, and spherical figures. Introduction of coordinate geometry, space geometry, and area theory is provided. It stresses deductive reasoning through formal proofs and other mechanisms. A ruler, protractor, scientific calculator and compass are recommended. Course challenges are discouraged.

Prerequisite: Grades 9 and 10, Completion of Algebra I Honors with a "B" or better

INTUITIVE GEOMETRY

This one-year course in geometry is designed to present all of the geometric concepts in an investigative and application-oriented format. A logical, deductive system of reasoning is developed intuitively and informally. Geometric properties and concepts are applied to a variety of applications. This course is designed to provide an alternative to the traditional high school geometry course. A calculator and appropriate computer software are necessary tools for successful completion of this course. This course will fulfill one of the mathematics credits required for graduation.

Grade: 10-12 Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra I with Fundamental Math Concepts.

MATH APPLICATIONS

This one-year course is designed for twelfth grade students needing further assistance in preparing for the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination in Mathematics. This course builds on the concepts of algebra, geometry, and data analysis while solidifying and extending mathematical concepts, problem solving, and procedures. Areas of study will include numbers, number sense, and computation; patterns, functions, and algebra; measurement; spatial relationships and geometry; and data analysis. The use of appropriate technology and hands-on activities are essential to the learning environment. This course fulfills one of the mathematics credits required for graduation.

Grade: 12 Prerequisites: Non-proficient seniors only

MATHEMATICS OF PERSONAL FINANCE

This one-year course is the study of personal finance for senior-level students. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the mathematics of finance to include: money management, risk management, and financial planning related to consumer and family studies, career and technical education, and personal finance. The emphasis will be on refining problem-solving skills using project-based learning activities and academic integration within the context of financial applications. The use of technology, including calculators and computers, is an integral part of this course. This course will fulfill one of the mathematics credits required for high school graduation.

Grade: 10-12 Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II Applied or Higher

PRE-CALCULUS HONORS

This one-year course is designed for motivated and for above-average students with a strong background in advanced algebra, trigonometry, and geometry. This course will include the study of analytical geometry, logic fields, vector spaces, matrices, relations,

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

functions, and methods of proof. Students will study the use of derivatives and integrals. The use of a calculator and appropriate computer software is recommended for the study of this course. It is recommended that each student purchase a graphing calculator.

Grade: 11-12 Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II/Trig H

PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS HONORS

This one-year or one-semester course is intended for students who have completed at least one year of Geometry, one year Algebra I or Applied Algebra, and one year of Algebra II. It will include the study of statistical graphing techniques, measures of center and variance, combinatorics, distributions, and events and their probabilities. The use of a graphing calculator and computer software is an integral part of this class. This course will fulfill one credit of one-half credit of the mathematics credits required for graduation.

Grade: 12 Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II and Geometry

TOPICS IN MODERN MATHEMATICS

This one-year senior level course is the study of advanced mathematical topics and their applications to prepare students for college-level mathematics. Emphasis will be on refining problem solving skills through modeling and project-based learning. The use of technology, including calculators and computers, is an integral part of this course. This course will fulfill one of the mathematics credits required for high school graduation.

Grade: 12 Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II

English

AMERICAN LITERATURE

This course for college-bound students investigates the development of American literature from colonial times to contemporary times. Short stories, drama, and other types of literature are read and examined. Outside reading is required. Writing and literary analysis with emphasis on coherence and unity are required.

Prerequisite: Completion of English I

AMERICAN LITERATURE HONORS

This course continues the emphasis on the study of composition and literature through the study of American authors and literature. The skills of thinking, reading, writing and speaking are further developed through the critical analysis of literature. It further prepares students for junior and senior AP and/or IB exams.

Prerequisite: English 1 Honors or advisor recommendation

ENGLISH I READING/WRITING

This course provides students with necessary skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This includes learning to write complete sentences, paragraphs, compositions, friendly letters, and business letters. This course also includes training in vocational and life skills. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: IEP

ENGLISH I

This one-year course will emphasize the study of language, literature, and composition. The skills of critical thinking, reading, listening, writing, and speaking will be developed. A variety of literature selections will be used for the improvement of reading strategies, literary

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

appreciation, and interpretation. Literature selections will also serve as models to develop writing skills. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: None.

ENGLISH I HONORS

This one-year course will emphasize the study of language, literature, and composition. The skills of critical thinking, reading, listening, writing, and speaking will be developed. A variety of literature selections will be used for the improvement of reading strategies, literary appreciation, and interpretation. Literature This one-year course will emphasize the study of language, literature, and composition. The skills of critical thinking, reading, listening, writing, and speaking will be developed. A variety of literature selections will be used for the improvement of reading strategies, literary appreciation, and interpretation. Literature selections will also serve as models to develop writing skills. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: "B" or above in 8th grade English and advisor recommendation.

ENGLISH II READING/WRITING

This course provides students with necessary skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This includes learning to write complete sentences, paragraphs, compositions, friendly letters, and business letters. This course also includes training in vocational and life skills. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: IEP

ENGLISH II

This one-year course is a continuation of English I emphasizing the study of language, literature, and composition. The skills of critical thinking, reading, listening, writing, and speaking will be developed. A variety of literature selections will be used for the improvement of reading strategies, literacy interpretation, and interpretation. Literature selections will also serve as models to develop writing skills. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: English I

ENGLISH II HONORS

This one-year course is a continuation of English I emphasizing the study of language, literature, and composition. The skills of critical thinking, reading, listening, writing, and speaking will be developed. A variety of literature selections will be used for the improvement of reading strategies, literacy interpretation, and interpretation. Literature selections will also serve as models to develop writing skills. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: "B" or above in English I Honors and advisor recommendation

ENGLISH III READING/WRITING

This course provides students with necessary skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This includes learning to write complete sentences, paragraphs, compositions, friendly letters, and business letters. This course also includes training in vocational and life skills. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: IEP

ENGLISH III

This one-year, junior level course, which correlates directly to the Nevada ELA Standards, develops reading, writing, speaking, listening, and research skills, while enhancing critical thinking. Various literary genres will be studied and used as models and springboards for project composition. Student writing is assessed using rubrics and standards of the NHSPE in Writing. This course fulfills one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: English II.

ENGLISH III HONORS

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

This one-year, junior level course, which correlates directly to the Nevada ELA Standards, develops reading, writing, speaking, listening, and research skills, while enhancing critical thinking. Various literary genres will be studied and used as models and springboards for project composition. Student writing is assessed using rubrics and standards of the NHSPE in Writing. This course fulfills one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: "B" or above in English II Honors and/or advisor recommendation.

ENGLISH IV READING/WRITING

This course provides students with necessary skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This includes learning to write complete sentences, paragraphs, compositions, friendly letters, and business letters. This course also includes training in vocational and life skills. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: IEP

ENGLISH IV

This one-year course is a continuation of English III and will emphasize further development of writing skills. Compositions and project writing will be assessed using rubrics and standards of the Nevada Proficiency Exam in Writing. Skills in critical thinking, reading, listening, and speaking will continue to be emphasized. Various literacy genres will be studied and used as a basis for composition. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: English III

ENGLISH IV HONORS

This one-year course is a continuation of English III and will emphasize further development of writing skills. Compositions and project writing will be assessed using rubrics and standards of the Nevada Proficiency Exam in Writing. Skills in critical thinking, reading, listening, and speaking will continue to be emphasized. Various literacy genres will be studied and used as a basis for composition. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: "B" or above in English III and teacher recommendation

MODERN LITERATURE

This one-year course will emphasize the development of contemporary literature. It will develop critical judgment and understanding of relationships, especially as they reflect complex modern society. Modern literature will emphasize writing both as a means of self-expression and as formal communication. This course will fulfill one of the English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: English II with advisor approval, English II Honors, American Literature with advisor approval, or American Literature Honors.

MODERN LITERATURE HONORS

This one-year course will emphasize the development of contemporary literature. It will develop critical judgment and understanding of relationships, especially as they reflect complex modern society. Modern literature will emphasize writing both as a means of self-expression and as formal communication. This course will fulfill one of the English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: English II Honors or American Literature Honors with advisor approval.

WORLD LITERATURE

This one-year course has a three-fold purpose: to study major world classics, to develop a comprehensive writing style, and to view the world through literature. The literature encompasses a comparative study of significant historical, philosophical, cultural, psychological, ethical, and literary perspectives. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: English III, English III Honors, Modern Literature, or Modern Literature Honors.

WORLD LITERATURE HONORS

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

This one-year course has a three-fold purpose: to study major world classics, to develop a comprehensive writing style, and to view the world through literature. The literature encompasses a comparative study of significant historical, philosophical, cultural, psychological, ethical, and literary perspectives. This course will fulfill one of the four English credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: English III Honors or Modern Literature Honors with advisor approval.

Science

BIOLOGY I

This course deals with the relationships among living organisms and their environment. It covers levels of organization of living organisms namely molecular, cellular, organismal, and ecological. Also, emphasis on scientific skills of experimentation, measurement, and reporting is included.

Prerequisites: None

BIOLOGY I HONORS

This course is strongly recommended for those entering the Honors Program. Emphasis is on synthesis, analysis, and evaluation of information covered in the textbook, class discussions, and collected in the laboratory. This is an intense course that prepares students to enter Biology II AP/IB.

Prerequisites: Advisor approval

CHEMISTRY I

This course presents the basic concepts of chemistry and how they relate to the world around us and everyday situations. Topics covered include atomic theory and structure, elements, compounds, mixtures, periodicity of the elements, bonding, formula writing, equation balancing, energy changes in chemical equations, and the mole concept. Scientific skills of experimentation, measurement, and reporting are emphasized. A good understanding of solving algebraic equations is required.

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology I or Biology I Honors, and Algebra I with "C's" or better

CHEMISTRY I HONORS

This course is a rigorous presentation of the theory and mathematical concepts of chemistry. It covers the same topics as Chemistry I but with greater depth. Students planning to study science, engineering, medicine, etc. in college should take this course. Emphasis is on synthesis, analysis, and evaluation of information covered in the textbook, class discussions, and collected in the laboratory. This is an intense course that prepares students to enter Chemistry II AP/IB or to study college level chemistry.

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology I Honors and Algebra I Honors with a "B" or better

EARTH SCIENCE

This one-year course is designed to integrate the scientific principles related to the earth and its environment. Topics included are geology, astronomy, cosmology, ecology, meteorology, and oceanography. Scientific methodology and the metric system will be integrated throughout the course. Demonstrations and/or lab experiences are to be an integral part of instruction. This course will fulfill one of the two science credits required for high school graduation and will meet college entrance requirements for a laboratory science.

Grade: 10 **Prerequisites: Successful completion of Principles of Science**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

This one-year course is designed for the student who wants to learn about the environment through research and experimentation. It deals with the basic concepts of ecology and their application to today's controversial topics of overpopulation; pollution of the soil, air, and water; and conservation of natural resources. This course will fulfill one of the science credits required for high school graduation and will meet college entrance requirements for a laboratory science.

Prerequisite: Grades 9-11

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

This course applies the concepts of physics to explain phenomena that students have observed in the everyday world. Topics covered will include motion, energy, waves, sound, optics, electricity, magnetism, and modern physics. Much emphasis will be given to hands-on experimentation, measurements, demonstrations, and reporting.

Prerequisite: Grades 10 through 12, completion of Geometry with current enrollment in Algebra IB or higher, and completion Biology I, or Chemistry I with C's or better

PHYSICS I HONORS

This course is an in-depth presentation of the theory and mathematical concepts of physics. Topics studied are the same as in Physics I with more complexity. Students planning to study science, engineering, medicine, etc. in college, should take this course. Emphasis is placed on synthesis, analysis, and evaluation of information covered in the textbook, class discussions, and collected in the laboratory. This course prepares students to enter Physics II AP/IB or to study college-level physics.

Prerequisite: Grade 10 and above, completion of Algebra I Honors with "C's" or better

PRINCIPLES OF SCIENCE

This is a one-year course that will present integrated concepts in earth science, biology, environmental science, chemistry, and physics. Demonstrations and/or lab experiences will be an important part of instruction. The concepts in Principles of Science will be taught by using the various processes involved in scientific inquiry. The course is designed to provide a foundation for further study in science as students explore unifying scientific principles and concepts. This course will satisfy one of the two science credits required for high school graduation and will meet college entrance requirements for a laboratory science.

Grade: 9 **Prerequisites: None**

SCIENCE I

This one-year course is designed to explore the basic elements of science which are fundamental to everyday living. They are intended to present a practical rather than a traditional approach to science. The classes include the areas of physical, life, earth, and applied science. This course fulfills one of the science credits required for graduation.

Grades: 9-12 **Prerequisite: None**

SCIENCE II

This one year course is designed to explore general concepts related to life science. Emphasis will be placed on problem solving, critical thinking and application of the concepts learned. This course fulfills one of the science credits required for graduation.

Grades: 10-12 **Prerequisite: Science I**

SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS

Science Foundations is a high school, one-year lab science course. It provides an integrated, standards-based foundation for high school content-specific courses. It uses a conceptual framework that connects biology, chemistry, earth, and physics through problems and scenarios of interest to students. Students will learn about the nature of science and develop critical thinking skills through inquiry, experimentation, collaboration, and data collection and analysis.

Grades: 10-12 **Prerequisite: Failed Principles of Science or NHSPE Science Proficiency Exam**

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009
FOREIGN LANGUAGE

SPANISH I/SPANISH I HONORS

This one-year course is designed to acquaint students with the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish at an introductory level. The focus is communication in Spanish incorporating understanding of Hispanic cultures, connecting with other disciplines, comparing native language to Spanish, and participating in multicultural communities. The course provides practice in correct usage of basic vocabulary and language structures to enable students to function effectively within realistic settings. This course will fulfill either one Arts/Humanities credit or one of the elective credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: "C" or better in 8th grade English.

SPANISH II HONORS

This second year course is designed to continue the development of proficiency in the Spanish language. It will further the ability to communicate in authentic oral and written context and increase the ease and confidence with which the student uses the language in the community. Connecting with other disciplines and comparing the native language to Spanish will be stressed, expanded and developed. It will promote a better understanding and appreciation of the Hispanic cultures. This course will fulfill either one Arts/Humanities credit or one of the elective credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I ("C" or better)

SPANISH III HONORS

Students will facilitate the development of conversational skills with vocabulary and grammar acquisition. Students will read introductory level short stories and continue to develop paraphrasing skills and reading comprehension within a variety of tenses. Students will further develop communicative skills in the language with continued emphasis in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This course earns weighted credit under the Honors Program.

Grades: 10-12 **Prerequisites:** Advisor recommendation and "B" or better in Spanish II H

SOCIAL STUDIES

U. S. GOVERNMENT

This course is a study of the federal, state, and local governments. Emphasis is placed on understanding the basic principles of the Constitution, civil rights, politics, and federalism. A major objective of this course is to help students develop an awareness of a citizen's rights and responsibilities.

Prerequisite: Grade 12

U. S. GOVERNMENT APPLIED

This course is a study of the different types of government, the way we choose our leaders, our privileges and obligations as citizens, and how our government serves us. It includes the functions and responsibilities of national, state, and local governments. This course will fulfill one of the social studies credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: Grade 12

U. S. GOVERNMENT HONORS

This course is for the motivated student. Students gain a critical perspective on U.S. government and politics through the study of federal, state, and local governments. Current events, various institutions, groups, and ideas of the American political scene

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

will be stressed. Emphasis is on the theories and concepts of American government.

Prerequisite: Grade 12

U.S. HISTORY APPLIED

This course provides for an understanding of the United States constitutional form of government. It includes a chronological exposure to the developments in history of the United States and develops an appreciation for those persons who contributed most significantly to that history. This course will fulfill one of the social studies credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: Grade 11

U.S. HISTORY

This course is a study of United States history from colonial times to the present. It emphasizes American economic, political, social, cultural, religious, technological, and military endeavors. The achievements of men and women from all ethnic and racial backgrounds are covered.

Prerequisite: Grade 11

U.S. HISTORY HONORS

This course is for the motivated student. The scope includes an in-depth study of our nation's history from the colonial period to the present. Students research topics and analyze and interpret readings.

Prerequisite: Grade 11

WORLD HISTORY APPLIED

This course is designed to expand the student's knowledge of the world in which they live. It includes an exposure to countries and people from several regions around the world. Emphasis is placed on providing a background for the understanding of physical features, cultures and customs, and major resources. This course will fulfill one of the social studies credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: Grade 10

WORLD HISTORY

This course is a study of the development of mankind. It traces the evolution of political, social, cultural, religious, technological, and economic institutions from prehistoric to modern times. The great ideas and actions of mankind which have shaped the modern world are explored. This course meets the Arts/Humanities credit requirement for a standard diploma, however it does not meet the Arts/Humanities requirement for some colleges and universities.

Prerequisite: Grade 10

WORLD HISTORY HONORS

This course is for motivated students. They study the evolution of political, social, cultural, religious, technological, and economic institutions. Students analyze and interpret, research selected topics, and develop skills in organized and logical thinking and writing. This course meets the Arts/Humanities credit requirement, however it does not meet the Arts/Humanities requirement for some colleges and universities.

Prerequisite: Grade 10

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

HEALTH EDUCATION (Separate courses for males and females)

This semester course includes instruction in the structure and function of the body systems and how personal choices affect good health and total wellness. It includes instruction in the areas of nutrition, first aid, CPR qualification, stress management, medicines, drug use, alcohol, tobacco and sex education. Lab fee of \$10 per semester for CPR instruction. Upon completion, students will rotate into study skills or Careers.

Prerequisite: None, grade 9 preferred

HEALTH EDUCATION APPLIED (Separate courses for males and females)

This is the same as Health Education described above, but on a slightly lower level.

PERSONAL WELLNESS

This one-year course is designed to promote a positive approach toward one's personal health. The student is provided with experiences in health-related fitness, health-related decision-making skills, self-esteem, and personal regard. This course will fulfill one of the two physical education credits required for graduation.

Grade: 9-10

Prerequisite: None

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I

This one-year physical education course, required in ninth grade, focuses on the physical, mental, social, and emotional development of the individual in cooperative and competitive settings. The student is provided with experience in psychomotor skills, movement, and lifetime health-related fitness, knowledge, skills, and values. This course will fulfill one of the two physical education credits required for graduation. Off-campus facilities may be used.

Grade: 9

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II

This one-year course, required in tenth grade, focuses on the physical, mental, social, and emotional development of students through individual and dual sports. Overall physical fitness will be emphasized throughout the program. This course will fulfill one of the two physical education credits required for graduation.. It is required unless a P. E. waiver is obtained from the office. Off-campus facilities may be used.

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisite Physical Education I

LIFETIME SPORTS

This one-year course is an activity-oriented course designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of lifetime sports. Terminology, physical and mental well being, skill development, and the techniques of officiating will be emphasized. Eleventh and twelfth grade students who have fulfilled their two physical education credit requirements may take this elective course. This course will fulfill one of the elective credits required for graduation. **This class does not meet physical education graduation requirements.**

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: Obtained P.E. I and P.E. II credit

REQUIRED ELECTIVES

CAREER EDUCATION (ONE SEMESTER)

This one-semester course stresses the development of career goals, good work habits, job seeking skills, and employment. This course is the other "half" of the required Health Education class.

Prerequisite: Grades 9 through 12, grade 9 preferred

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

This one-semester course will increase students' computer applications skills such as word processing, spreadsheet, database, presentation, publishing, and electronic digital communications. Programming, HTML and graphics will also be covered. This course includes essential concepts that will benefit students in their career or personal activities. This course will fulfill one-half computer credit and one-half of elective credit for high school graduation.

Prerequisites: Required for students who did not take/pass this course in middle school.

READING FOR PROFICIENCY

This one-year course is designed for students who need additional assistance with their reading skills. Emphasis is placed on developing knowledge, strategies, skills and attitudes that students need to improve reading achievement and engagement. This course does not fulfill one of the English credits required for graduation. This course will fulfill one of the elective credits. ***This elective course is required for those students who have not passed the NHSPE reading proficiency. Required for non-proficient seniors.***

WRITING FOR PROFICIENCY

This **one-semester** course is designed to assist students in mastering writing skills needed to pass the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination in Writing. It also provides students with strategies for writing at school, at work, and throughout life. This elective course does not fulfill the English requirement, but will fulfill an elective requirement. ***This elective course is required for those students who have not passed the NHSPE for Writing. Required for non-proficient seniors***

MATH APPLICATIONS

This one-year course is designed for twelfth grade students needing further assistance in preparing for the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination in mathematics. This course builds on the concepts of algebra, geometry, and data analysis while solidifying and extending mathematical concepts, problem solving and procedures. Areas of study will include numbers, number sense, and computation; patterns, functions, and algebra; measurement; spatial relationships and geometry; and data analysis. The use of appropriate technology and hands-on activities are essential to the learning environment. This course will fulfill one of the mathematics credits required for graduation.

Required for non-proficient or credit deficient seniors

ELECTIVES

ART I

This one-year course is designed to provide an understanding of the elements and principles of art, drawing and painting. Following National Standards in art, students will study art history, criticism, and aesthetics in addition to the production of artwork. **A \$40 lab fee will be required for projects that the students will take home upon course completion.**

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

DRAWING I

This one-year course is designed to provide a basic understanding of the elements and principles of art through the use of various drawing techniques and media. It provides an integration of four art components or disciplines: aesthetics, art criticism, art history, and studio work in drawing. Drawing I sequentially follows one year of Art I. Course goals one through thirteen apply to Drawing I. This course will fulfill either the one arts/humanities credit or one of the elective credits required for graduation. **A \$40 lab fee will be required for projects that the students will take home upon course completion.**

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Art I and teacher recommendation

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

DRAWING II

This one-year course is designed to provide a basic understanding of the elements and principles of art through the use of various drawing techniques and media. It provides an integration of four art components or disciplines: aesthetics, art criticism, art history, and studio work in drawing. Drawing II sequentially follows one year of Drawing I and should provide students with the opportunity to explore drawing beyond basic understandings in a more independent, self-directed manner. Goals one through fifteen apply to Drawing II. This course will fulfill either the one arts/humanities credit or one of the elective credits required for graduation. **A \$40 lab fee will be required for projects that the students will take home upon course completion.**

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Drawing I and teacher recommendation

CIVIL LIBERTIES (ONE SEMESTER)

This one-semester course is a study of the civil liberties of Americans with emphasis and attention to the problems of the younger generation. **Students enrolled in Civil Liberties will be automatically enrolled in Studies in Ethnic Nationalism for the second semester.** The course will fulfill one-half of one elective required for graduation.

CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS

This one-year course is a survey of political, social, and economic issues during the current year. The theme of the course will emphasize the evaluation of current events and their effect on society, including controversial issues. This course will fulfill one of the elective credits required for graduation.

Grade: 11-12

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I

This one-year required course is designed to acquaint students with the proper techniques for personal use of the computer. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of the keyboard and the development of touch keyboarding with speed and accuracy. Students will also learn the basic principles of keyboarding, word processing, multimedia, spreadsheet, and database applications. It is designed specifically for students interested in meeting the computer competency requirement for graduation. Computer Applications I will fulfill either one-half computer credit and one-half elective credit required for high school graduation.

Grade: 9

Prerequisites: None

COMPUTER SCIENCE I

This one-year course is designed to introduce students to the elements and structure of the basic computer programming language. The essential goal of this course is for students to become proficient in the use of the basic computer system and to be able to relate it to programming. This course begins with a simple introduction to the language and proceeds to applications including debugging, random numbers, counters and string values. This course will fulfill the computer requirement or one elective

credit required for high school graduation.

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra I & enrolled in Algebra II or Geometry

CREATIVE WRITING

This one-year course will develop and improve both formal and informal writing skills with emphasis placed upon self-expression, creativity, and clear communication. Students will produce publishable, written material throughout the year and will maintain a portfolio reflecting growth as a writer. The student must possess a love for writing and a genuine concern for developing style. **This course will fulfill the 4th year credit of English or one elective credit required for graduation.**

Prerequisites: "B" average in prior English classes or teacher approval

CRIME & JUSTICE (ONE SEMESTER)

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

This one-semester course is a study of crime and justice giving special attention to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies as they affect the individual. This course will encompass peer mediation. This course will fulfill one-half of one elective credit required for graduation.

Grade: 10-12 **Prerequisite:** Instructor Approval

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

This one-year course is designed to teach students the skills and techniques to produce graphics and videos with computers. The class will be taught using applied practice-"hands-on learning." Student learning projects will serve a practical function in the school by providing teachers, students, administration, and staff with graphics and video service. Students will learn to use computer applications such as In-Design, Illustrator, Photoshop, Flash, Morph, Final Cut, and Director. The class stresses cooperation, teamwork, and initiative. This course will fulfill one of the elective credits required for high school graduation.

Grades: 9 - 12 **Prerequisite:** None

FORENSICS I

This one-year course will provide an opportunity to study speech techniques and to apply these techniques to formal debate and individual speaking situations. The students will be encouraged to apply debate principles and speech techniques at the tournament level. This course also includes experiences in literature and the writing process. Forensics I fulfills either one English credit or one elective credit required for high school graduation. **Some tournament participation is required. Students are responsible for tournament fees.**

Grades: 9-12 **Prerequisites:** Current English teacher recommendation or teacher recommendation

FRESHMAN STUDIES

This one year course is designed for ninth grade students to provide a smooth transition into the high school setting and develop a sense of community and ownership. Emphasis will be placed on developing a long-range educational plan. This course will fulfill one elective credit required for high school graduation.

Grade: 9 **Prerequisites:** None

GEOGRAPHY

The one-year course will examine both the physical and human aspects of geography by exploring the earth's human physical system in both global and regional contexts. The major focus will be on using geography to explore the earth's past through historical events and its present and future through current events. Students will utilize the geographic skills of acquiring, organizing, and analyzing information to both ask and answer geographic questions. Four unique and diverse perspectives will be used as a frame reference: the spatial, the ecological, the historical, and the economic. Students will come to understand concepts, patterns, and the interdependent

relationship that shape our increasingly diverse world. This course will fulfill one of the elective credits required for high school graduation.

Grades: 10-12 **Prerequisites:** None

HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

This one-semester course will expose students to the disciplines which compose the humanities: the arts, philosophy, literature, political institutions, and religion. Students will study examples of these cultural roots of civilization through an interdisciplinary approach. A design crafts unit will provide experience in two and three-dimensional designs as they apply to crafts.

Prerequisite: Grades 9 through 10

JOURNALISM I

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

This one-year course is designed for the study and practice of the basic elements of journalism with major emphasis in the news gathering, writing, layout, financing, and dissemination of news through mass media. Students may be required to participate in the production of a newspaper. **This course will fulfill either the third or fourth English credit or one of the elective credits required for graduation.**

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Current English teacher recommendation

JUNIOR STUDIES

This one year course is designed to aid students in the understanding and explanation of the planning skills involved with future training or education beyond high school. The concerns of a new environment, independent work study habits, and positive test taking experiences are some of the survival skills that will be presented. Discussion of resumes, PSAT, SAT, and ACT testing, job applications, budgeting, finance, community service, career research for vocational or college opportunities, scholarships, and financial aids will be a large part of the class.

Grade: 11

Prerequisites: None

LEADERSHIP: PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATION

The purpose of this one-year course is to train student leaders in the various aspects of leadership. Time will be used in and out of class for performance of tasks associated with their leadership responsibilities. This course will count as one elective credit and may be repeated. **Due to the nature of this course, a minimum of 10-20 hours per week will be spent outside the class time. It is strongly recommended to consider this upon choosing a class schedule.**

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Limited to students for student governing positions

PUBLICATIONS I

This course consists of the theory and practice of yearbook publication and production. This course requires mandatory additional class meeting times including evenings and weekends. This course does not meet English requirements for graduation. It awards an elective credit. This course may be repeated for credit.

Grades: 10-12 Prerequisite: Instructor Approval/writing sample required

SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

SENIOR SEMINAR

These two semester courses are designed for twelfth-grade students to reinforce and expand learning related to school-to-career

transition. Classroom instruction will focus on career preparation activities in a cross-disciplinary design. The classroom will be the organized hub for all student career development related to the institutes. Students will participate in discussions, mock interviews, and job shadowing experiences with representatives from the business community. Senior Seminar is designed to be followed by a semester of Internship related to the selected institute and could include youth apprenticeships, or community service activities. Students will be required to submit a portfolio at the completion of the course. These two semester courses will fulfill one of the elective credits required for graduation.

Grades: 12

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

SOPHMORE STUDIES

This one year course is designed to aid students in the understanding and explanation of the planning skills involved with future training or education beyond high school. The concerns of a new environment, independent work study habits, and positive test taking experiences are some of the survival skills that will be presented. Discussion of resumes, PSAT, SAT, and ACT testing, job

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

applications, budgeting, finance, community service, career research for vocational or college opportunities, scholarships, and financial aids will be a large part of the class.

Grade: 10

Prerequisites: None

STREET LAW

This one-year course is a study of the practical applications of law in the United States. Topics to be covered include criminal and civil law, juvenile justice, citizens' rights and responsibilities, and the structure of the legal system. The class will utilize mock trials, simulations, and case studies. This course will fulfill one of the elective credits for graduation.

Grade: 10 -12

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

STUDENT AIDE

This one-year course is designed to allow students to assist teachers in classroom management. Under the direction of a supervisor, students will gain experience in clerical duties, laboratory assistance, working with faculty members, and following directions. Students are assigned to supervising teachers by a formal application process. Students are limited to one credit. This course will fulfill one of the elective credits required for graduation.

Prerequisite: Advisor approval with required application, 2.5 or better GPA and attendance standard.

STUDENT TUTOR

This one-year course is designed to give students interested in teaching or social services professions an opportunity to help academically weak students. Student tutors may be assigned to core curriculum areas to assist other students. Students applying for the program must have a 2.0 GPA. This course fulfills one elective credit for graduation.

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

STUDIES IN ETHNIC NATIONALISM

This course will explore the historical background of ethnic conflicts and will culminate with the Holocaust and other 20th century events. An interdisciplinary approach will be utilized to study the art, literature, and music produced from diversity among races, religions, and cultures. **Students enrolled in Studies in Ethnic Nationalism will be automatically enrolled in Civil Liberties for the second semester.** This course will fulfill either the one arts/humanities credit or one of the elective credits required for graduation.

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

STUDY SKILLS (ONE SEMESTER)

This one-semester course is designed to give students direct insight to individual learning styles and personal study habits. Topics encompass test taking strategies, note taking skills, time management and exploration of personal interests and aptitudes providing a background for future high school success.

Grades: 9-12

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

This one-year course is designed for more advanced vocalists. It is a select group that will receive further study in vocal technique, improvisation, and performance practice. Concert repertoire will be selected from many genres of music styles such as Jazz, Swing, Gospel, Pop, and Broadway. **Members are encouraged to participate in the annual spring tour (regional, national, or international) and in concerts. Performances and rehearsals outside of school hours are required. Transportation will not be provided to scheduled rehearsal at AVHS. There is a fee for this course: \$100 for new members to cover uniform, choir shirt, and music fees. \$50 for returning members to cover choir shirt and music fees.**

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2008-2009

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Audition and/or director's consent

WORD PROCESSING I

This one-year course is designed to accommodate those students who have completed keyboarding/computer foundations and desire to extend their skills at an introductory vocational level. An intensive review and refinement of basic keyboarding techniques is presented to the students to bring skills up to an acceptable level of competency for those who plan to enter the office of secretarial world of business. Quality and efficiency in document production are emphasized. This course will fulfill one of the elective units required for graduation. ***This class may also qualify for credit at the College of Southern Nevada.***

Grades: 10-12

WORK EXPERIENCE

This one-semester course provides on-the-job experience to prepare students for entry level positions in their field of interest and/or interest them in the world of work. Students must receive pay documented with pay stubs and will receive high school credit for successful completion of A MINIMUM OF 270 HOURS OF WORK PER SEMESTER. To receive credit, students must have pay stubs on file and also pass their other classes. This course will fulfill one-half of the elective credits required for high school graduation and may be repeated for up to a total of two elective credits.

Prerequisite: 10th grade and qualify for a work permit