



NORCROSS HIGH SCHOOL

2021-2022 Course Descriptions

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Language Arts

9th Grade Literature and Composition (Required - 2 Semesters - Requires state End of Course assessment)

This year-long, one credit course focuses on the acquisition of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. Through extensive reading of literary and informational texts, students develop an understanding of how to cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis, reflection, and research. In conjunction with reading skills, the study of composition includes a focus on argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative writing as well as research skills. Speaking and listening skills are acquired through participation in collaborative discussions as well as formal and informal presentations. Language and vocabulary study are integrated within the context of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

10th Grade Literature and Composition (Required - 2 Semesters)

This course includes a balance of composition, applied grammar, and both literary and informational texts, with a focus on world literature and documents from world and American history. Students will analyze and respond to increasingly complex texts appropriate for 10th graders. Developing vocabulary, speaking, listening, researching, and test-taking skills are integral parts of the course curriculum.

AP English Language and Composition (For identified 10th Grade Students on track for IB Language Arts YR1 and YR2)

In this course, students read complex texts with understanding and write engaging prose that emphasizes content, purpose, and audience. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.

11th Grade American Literature and Composition (Required - 2 Semesters - Requires state End of Course assessment) (AP English Language and Composition with American Literature may satisfy this requirement with permission)

This course includes a balance of composition, applied grammar, and both literary and informational texts, with a focus on American historical documents and literature. Developing vocabulary, speaking, listening, researching, and test-taking skills are integral parts of the course curriculum.

12th Grade British Literature and Composition (Required - 2 Semesters - *AP English Language and Composition or AP English Literature and Composition may satisfy this requirement with permission*)

This course includes a balance of composition, applied grammar, and literary and informational texts, with a focus on American and British authors and historical documents, and a comparative analysis of them. Developing vocabulary, speaking, listening, researching, and test-taking skills are integral parts of the course curriculum.



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Critical Literacy (12th Grade Students- *May count for 12th Grade British Literature and Composition with permission*)

This course focuses on domestic and global literature by and about BIPOC writers. Using a critical literacy lens, students will explore universal 21st century themes to include identity and culture, modern social conflict, injustice and resolution, and diverse, multicultural perspectives. A special emphasis will be placed upon students' development and expression of 21st century competencies to include critical thinking, collaboration, creative productivity, student voice, and anti-discriminatory mindsets. Students will examine multi-genre literature by comparing/contrasting, analyzing, critiquing, and challenging literary traditions. Additionally, students will engage in research work as they question the dimensions and tensions between literature and society. Students will refine skills of written and oral communication as they interrogate, not only writers' expressions of literary conventions in their work, but also the socio-cultural contexts and spheres of influence that situate the writing students explore.

AP English Language and Composition (12th Grade Students- *May count for 12th Grade British Literature and Composition with permission*)

In this course, students read complex texts with understanding and write engaging prose that emphasizes content, purpose, and audience. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.

AP English Literature and Composition (12th Grade Students - *May count for 12th Grade British Literature and Composition with permission*)

This survey course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.

IB Literature HL Year 1 and Year 2 (English)

IB Literature introduces students to the analysis of literary texts. The course is organized into areas of exploration and central concepts and focuses on the study of literary works. This adds up to a comprehensive exploration of literature from a variety of cultures, literary forms and periods. Students learn to appreciate the artistry of literature, and develop the ability to reflect critically on their reading, presenting literary analysis powerfully through both oral and written communication.

Yearbook (Prerequisite - Recommendation from Yearbook Advisor)

This course provides students who are interested in journalism with an opportunity to explore and to experience the process involved in the creation of a large publication, including preplanning, designing layouts, copyrighting, proofreading, organizing visuals, and managing finances, all of which involve creativity. This course involves the production and sale of the yearbook.

Library Science (Prerequisite - Recommendation of Media Specialist)

Students are introduced to the classification, location, and use of media center resources and the use and care of instructional equipment. Issues of legality, including copyright and the appropriate use of online resources, are studied. Library science and information literacy skills are taught through media activities. This course is an academic elective.

Questions about Language Arts Courses? Email Sarah.Rust@gcpsk12.org



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Mathematics

Algebra I

This is the first in a sequence of mathematics courses designed to allow students to complete Pre-calculus in their high school program and enter college at the Calculus level. It includes linear, quadratic, and exponential expressions; functions and their graphs; simple equations; sample statistics; and curve fitting.

Algebra I Strategies - Elective

The purpose of this elective is to provide additional support to students who have difficulty meeting math AKS on grade level. This course is taken concurrently with Algebra I, giving extra time and using a variety of strategies to help students build a stronger foundation for success in their current and future mathematics courses.

Geometry (*Requires state End of Course assessment. Prerequisite - Algebra I*)

This is the second in a sequence of mathematics courses designed to prepare students to enter college at the calculus level. It includes transformations in the coordinate plane, similarity, congruence and proof; right triangles and right triangular trigonometry; properties of circles; and statistical inference.

Geometry Strategies (Elective)

The purpose of this elective is to provide additional support to students who have difficulty meeting math AKS on grade level. This course is taken concurrently with Geometry, giving extra time and using a variety of strategies to help students build a stronger foundation for success in their current and future mathematics courses.

Accelerated Geometry (*Requires state End of Course assessment. Prerequisite - Accel. Algebra I*)

This is the second in a sequence of mathematics courses designed to prepare students to take AP Calculus or IB Math courses in their high school program. The course incorporates 1½ years of content in the standard math sequence. It includes exponential, logarithmic, and higher degree polynomial functions; rational and radical relationships; mathematical modeling; and population means, standard deviations, and normal distributions.

Algebra II (*Prerequisite – Geometry*)

This is the third in a sequence of mathematics courses designed to prepare students to enter college at the calculus level. It includes exponential and logarithmic functions, polynomial functions of higher degree, rational and radical relationships, mathematical modeling, and normal distributions.

Pre-calculus (*Prerequisite - Algebra II*)

This is the fourth in a sequence of mathematics courses designed to prepare students to enter college at the calculus level. It includes trigonometric and inverse trigonometric functions; basic trigonometric identities and the laws of sines and cosines; sequences and series; vectors; conics; matrices; the central limit theorem; and confidence intervals.

Accelerated Pre-calculus (*Prerequisite - Accel. Geometry or Algebra II*)

This is the third in a sequence designed to prepare students to take AP Calculus AB or BC. It includes circular



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trigonometric and inverse trigonometric functions; basic trigonometric identities and the laws of sines and cosines; sequences and series; polar and parametric equations; vectors; conics; matrices; the central limit theorem; and confidence intervals.

Advanced Mathematical Decision Making (*Prerequisite - Algebra II*)

This course will give students further experiences with statistical information and summaries, methods of designing and conducting statistical studies, an opportunity to analyze various voting processes, modeling of data, basic financial decisions, and use of network models for making informed decisions.

Calculus (*Prerequisite – Pre-calculus*)

Topics include functions, limits and continuity, derivatives, applications of derivatives, integrals, and applications of the integral. Additional process skills include problem-solving, estimating, analyzing, and reasoning.

AP Statistics (*Prerequisite - Pre-calculus*)

This course includes in-depth experience in statistical concepts and methods, including data collection and exploration, experimental and theoretical probability, probability distributions, and descriptive and inferential statistics. Projects involve planning a study, anticipating patterns, producing models, and confirming models. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the Advanced Placement exam.

AP Calculus AB (*Prerequisite - Accel. Pre-calculus*)

Topics include limits, derivatives and integrals of algebraic and transcendental functions, continuity, applications of derivatives to related rates, maxima and minima, curve sketching, integration formulas, applications of the definite integral, and methods of integration. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.

AP Calculus BC (*Prerequisite - Accel. Pre-calculus*)

Topics include limits, derivatives and integrals of algebraic and transcendental functions, continuity, applications of derivatives to related rates, maxima and minima, curve sketching, integration formulas, applications of the definite integral, methods of integration, graphing, and integrating in polar coordinates, infinite sequences and series, power series, vectors, and differential equations. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the Advanced Placement exam.

IB Mathematics Year 1 and Year 2

IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches recognizes the need for analytical expertise in a world where innovation is increasingly dependent on a deep understanding of mathematics. The focus is on developing important mathematical concepts in a comprehensible, coherent and rigorous way, achieved by a carefully balanced approach. Students are encouraged to apply their mathematical knowledge to solve abstract problems as well as those set in a variety of meaningful contexts with a strong emphasis on the ability to construct, communicate and justify correct mathematical arguments.

Questions about Math Courses? Email Elizabeth.Frisbee@gcpsk12.org



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Science

Biology (Required – 2 Semesters)

Concepts for this course include the interdependence of organisms; the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems; the classification of organisms; and biological evolution. Students will investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the process of inquiry.

Biology/Chemistry BLOCK

Bio/Chem is an accelerated course for Honors/Gifted students to satisfy the Biology and Chemistry requirement during the freshman year. Since this course is an accelerated course, students will complete the full 1.0 credit for Chemistry during the Fall semester and the full 1.0 credit for Biology during the Spring semester. Students who successfully complete this course will be expected to choose between AP Biology or AP Chemistry their sophomore year. Potential candidates for this course would be students that aspire to take more than 2 AP sciences during high school.

Chemistry (Required – 2 Semesters)

This two-semester course addresses the structure of atoms, the structure and properties of matter, and the conservation and interaction of energy and matter. Students will investigate chemistry concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

Physics (Required – 2 Semesters - AP Physics 1 also satisfies this requirement)

This course is a rigorous approach to an in-depth study of matter in motion. Emphasis is placed on mechanics, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, and modern physics.

Earth Systems (Elective - 2 Semesters)

This course is an in-depth study of geology. Topics studied include Earth's place in the universe, forces affecting land form structures, geologic time table, biochemical cycles, changes in Earth's crust, and Georgia's geologic resources.

Oceanography (Elective - 2 Semesters)

This course is an in-depth study of oceanography. Topics studied include marine organisms and environments, historical oceanography; plate tectonics; properties of water; ocean circulation; marine sediments; interactions between air, land, and sea; and resources and pollution.

Anatomy and Physiology (Elective - 2 Semesters)

Anatomy and Physiology is a rigorous, in-depth study of the structure and function of the human body. This course is based on a systems approach with an emphasis on tissues, metabolic processes, homeostasis, and clinical applications.

Forensic Science (Elective - 2 Semesters)

Forensic Science is the study of the application of science to the law. This integrated science course is designed to explore the scientific and technological aspects of criminal investigations. Topics will include the study of DNA, glass, blood, fingerprinting, chemical residues, and evidence collection as it relates to forensic issues. Applications to court cases, literature, psychology, and criminology also will be examined.



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AP Physics I (Elective - Will count for Physics Graduation Requirement)

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based course equivalent to an introductory college course (1st semester). Students develop an understanding of the foundational physics principles. Through an inquiry-based approach, students develop content knowledge and critical-thinking skills, including kinematics, Newton's laws, simple harmonic motion, and circular motion. The objectives for this course follow the College Board Framework, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement Physics 1 exam.

AP Biology (Elective - 2 Semesters)

Successful completion of biology required; College-level biology coursework; advanced labs; analyze & explain the "whys" of biological science. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.

AP Chemistry (Elective - 2 Semesters)

Successful completion of biology and chemistry required; Advanced lab activities that integrate mathematical problem solving with chemical concepts. This is a college-level chemistry course. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.

AP Environmental Science (Elective - 2 Semesters)

Successful completion of biology and chemistry required; college level course work that covers ecology, energy resources & conservation, pollution, & bio-technology. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.

IB Physics HL Year 1 and Year 2

IB Physics is a rigorous mathematical approach to an in-depth study of matter in motion. Emphasis is placed on mechanics, thermodynamics, electronics, electricity, magnetism, nuclear, and modern physics. Students will be prepared to take the IB Physics exam upon completion of this course. Prerequisites: Trigonometry.

IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL

IB Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS) is an interdisciplinary course, firmly grounded in both a scientific exploration of environmental systems in their structure and function, and in the exploration of cultural, economic, ethical, political and social interactions of societies with the environment. The course requires a systems approach to environmental understanding and promotes holistic thinking about environmental issues. The aims of the DP environmental systems and societies course are to enable students to understand and analyze environmental systems and issues at a variety of scales, appreciate the dynamic interconnectedness between environmental systems and societies, and create innovative solutions to environmental issues by engaging actively in local and global contexts.

IB Biology SL

IB Biology is a course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the important underlying biological themes through a focus on acquiring a body of factual knowledge. Students will become knowledgeable about the ideas and concepts fundamental to biology and will be challenged to think about how biology and emerging biological technologies exist within a global context.

Questions about Science Courses? Email Chrissy.Krejci@gcpsk12.org



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Social Studies

World History (Required – 2 Semesters – *AP World History also satisfies this requirement*)

This course provides a comprehensive, chronological survey of the significant conditions, challenges and accomplishments that have influenced the progress of humankind. Beginning with prehistory, students examine topics associated with the growth of early civilization, classical contributions of Greece and Rome, regional civilizations, and the rise of medieval Europe. Other topics of study include emergence of the modern world, age of revolution, growth of industry and nationalism, world wars in the 20th century, and development of the contemporary world.

AP World History (2 Semesters - *Will count for the World History Graduation Requirement*)

Focusing primarily on the past thousand years of the global experience, this course builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technological foundations that, along with geography, set the human stage prior to the year 1000. Specific time periods form the organizing principle for dealing with change and continuity from that point to the present. Historical themes provide further organization to the course, along with the consistent attention to contacts among societies that form the core of world history as a field of study. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.

American Government & Civics (Required - 1 Semester - *AP American Government also satisfies this requirement*)

Political Systems is a required course designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens by examining the American political structure and process. Topics of study include the origin and growth of representative democracy, the development of the U.S. Constitution founded on the concept of federalism, landmark legal decisions and their impact on constitutional government, the adaptive nature of the political process as influenced by political parties, special-interest groups and media coverage, as well as a comparison of our political system with other forms of government throughout the world.

Economics (Required - 1 Semester - Requires state End of Course assessment - *AP Macroeconomics or AP Microeconomics also satisfy this requirement*)

Economics offers students the opportunity to study the issues of scarcity and choices related to the use of limited resources. Students learn how to apply the tools of economic analysis to personal, community, national, and international issues. Economic preparedness enables students to make choices relying on past historical and geographical knowledge to actively and successfully engage in our complex society.

AP Macroeconomics (1 Semester - *Will count for Economics Graduation Requirement*)

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.



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AP American Government (1 Semester - *Will count for Political Systems Graduation Requirement*)

The purpose of this Advanced Placement program is to provide an overview of government, politics, and political behavior at the local, state, and national levels. Topics include an examination of the structure, functions, and inter-relationships of various levels of government; political socialization; elections and the party system; and the role of the individual in American government. Students will be exposed to specific information about government and how government affects their daily lives. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the optional Advanced Placement exam.

U.S. History (Required – 2 Semesters - Requires state End of Course assessment- *AP U.S. History also satisfies this requirement*)

This course provides a comprehensive, chronological survey of the history of the United States. Students examine topics beginning with the period of exploration and colonization, and then continue through independence and revolution, constitutional debate between the Federalist and Republicans, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy, sectionalism and civil war, reconstruction and industrialization, immigration and urbanization, imperialism and the progressive era, World War I and the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War. The course concludes with a study of the emergence of modern America.

AP U.S. History (2 Semesters - *Will count for the U.S. History Graduation Requirement*)

The Advanced Placement program in U.S. History provides students with factual knowledge and analytical skills in the interpretation of the history of the United States from the 1600s through the 1990s. Political, economic, and social issues are stressed through the following topics: The Colonial Period; the American Revolution; the Jacksonian Period; Civil War and Reconstruction; Populism and Progressivism, the New Deal; and International Affairs and Domestic Changes in the Post-1945 Period. The objectives for this course follow the College Board syllabus, preparing students for the Advanced Placement exam.

IB History of the Americas HL Year 1 and Year 2

IB History is focused on both regional and world history based on a comparative, multi-perspective approach to history and focused around key historical concepts such as change, causation and significance. It involves the study of various types of history, encouraging students to think historically and to develop historical skills. The course requires students to study and compare examples from different regions of the world, helping to foster international mindedness.

Ethnic Studies (Elective - 1 Semester)

This course is designed to introduce high school students to an introduction to foundational concepts and frameworks of Ethnic Studies and to the experiences of ethnic communities that are not often studied in depth in core social studies courses. Students will learn that Ethnic Studies emphasizes a multitude of experiences and perspectives in history. Instruction will focus on discussing various social and political movements led by various ethnic and racial groups to achieve change. Students will analyze how various movements may have influenced their own lives and identities. In addition, this course examines the major contributions diverse groups of people have made to our global community. Groups studied will include but are not limited to African American/Black, East Asian, Hispanic/Latinx, Middle Eastern, Native American/indigenous, and South Asian. Through an examination of race, ethnicity, nationality, and culture, students will be equipped with a critical lens to see the world and their place in it. Through the Ethnic Studies course, students are guided to use



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the skills of social sciences and supported to discover and use their own power for the benefit of not only themselves, but also that of their community and society at large.

IB Psychology SL

IB Psychology is the systematic study of behavior and mental processes. Students can expect to develop an understanding of how psychological knowledge is generated, developed, and applied. This will allow them to have a greater understanding of themselves and appreciate the diversity of human behavior. Students are able to develop an understanding of the influences on human behavior and mental processes. The ethical concerns raised by the methodology and application of psychological research are also key considerations of the course.

IB Theory of Knowledge

IB Theory of Knowledge is a course about critical thinking and inquiring into the process of knowing. It provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge, to make connections between areas of knowledge and to become aware of their own perspectives and those of the various groups whose knowledge they share. The aim of the course is to encourage students to formulate answers to the question “how do you know?” in a variety of contexts, and to see the value of that question.

AP Psychology (Elective – 2 Semesters)

Advanced Placement Psychology introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology.

Psychology (Elective - 1 Semester)

This class introduces students to basic psychological concepts and principles as well as the rules, laws, and theories of psychology. Psychology introduces students to ways to understand their own behavior and the behavior of others. Course topics include: Sensation and perception, development, learning, memory, consciousness, stress, health, personality, disorders, and social psychology.

Sociology (Elective - 1 Semester)

Sociology is the scientific study of social structure. Sociology seeks to understand how social forces affect people and their life chances. Studying Sociology will give students a new perspective on their society, the roles they play in society, and the major issues we have to confront in today’s world. This course helps students understand and appreciate people as independent agents in cooperative activities with others.

Peer Leadership (Elective – Must Have Recommendation of Counselor)

This class provides students a framework for understanding the problem-solving process, taking opportunities to participate in meaningful activities that affect our society in positive ways (civic participation), using conflict resolution skills, learning effective communication skills, adhering to ethical codes of practice, and exercising tolerance and advocacy of others’ rights. This is an academic elective.

Questions about Social Studies Courses? Email Nicholas.Drescher@gcpsk12.org



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World Languages

Students may pursue a World Language Pathway in French, Spanish, and Spanish for Native Speakers. A World Language Pathway includes three or more credits in one world language, and shows a progression and growth of knowledge and skills in the area. Students who take French or Spanish will develop cultural and linguistic proficiency in that language and culture through focus on communication, cultures, connections with other disciplines, insight into linguistic and cultural comparisons, and knowledge and participation in multilingual communities at home and around the world. As students study the language and culture from the novice level through the intermediate and advanced levels, they will refine their communicative and cultural abilities, converse in diverse situations, engage with authentic texts, and develop a deeper understanding of the world in which the target language is spoken.

French

Prerequisite – Completion of the Previous Language Level or Teacher Recommendation.

Students study the French language and culture from the novice level in French I through the intermediate levels, culminating in French IV or IB French.

Spanish

Prerequisite – Completion of the Previous Language Level or Teacher Recommendation.

Students study the Spanish language and culture from the novice level in Spanish I through the intermediate levels, culminating in Spanish IV, AP Spanish Language and Culture or IB Spanish.

Spanish for Native Speakers

This course provides native speakers of Spanish with the opportunity to maintain oral competency in the Spanish language and to acquire a more sophisticated level of competency in Spanish reading and writing. Students refine their writing proficiency, engage with authentic texts, and gain a deeper understanding of both their native culture and the cultures of other Spanish-speaking countries.

There are three levels for Spanish for Native Speakers courses:

Spanish for Native Speakers I

This course is designed for Heritage Learners that were born in the U.S. or arrived at a young age and grew up speaking a mix of Spanish and English at home

Spanish for Native Speakers II

This course is designed for students that have grown up primarily speaking Spanish at home and/or were educated in a Spanish speaking country. It is also the second course in the sequence for Heritage Learners after they complete Spanish for Native Speakers I.

Spanish for Native Speakers III

This course is the second course in the sequence for students who begin with SNS II



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IB Language B YR 1 & YR 2 (Spanish/French)

IB language acquisition courses are designed for students with some previous experience of the target language. Students further develop their ability to communicate through the study of language, themes and texts. The objectives of this course are to develop international-mindedness through the study of languages, cultures, and ideas and issues of global significance and to enable students to communicate in the language they have studied in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes.

Questions about World Language Courses? Email Robyn.Eder@qcpsk12.org

Health and Physical Education

Graduation requirements require students to earn credit in Health and Personal Fitness. A variety of physical education electives are also available.

****Students must complete Health and Personal Fitness before taking any PE electives.**

Health - 1 Semester

This course is a graduation requirement designed to offer a practical approach to health topics that concern adolescents. The course covers knowledge and skills necessary for personal health and well-being and the prevention and treatment of injury. Additional information covered includes disease prevention, relationships, Internet safety, consumer health, the life cycle, and preventing abuse of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, as well as state-mandated CPR/AED instruction.

This course includes the one-week Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP) seminar. Each student will receive a certificate to show course completion. Keep the certificate, as it will be needed it when you apply for your driver's license. This certificate is not required when you apply for your learner's permit.

Personal Fitness - 1 Semester

This course is a graduation requirement and a prerequisite to all elective physical education courses. The course provides students with the basic knowledge and understanding that physical fitness, exercise, and diet are essential in developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students will learn self-assessment techniques, goalsetting, and how to evaluate progress through an exercise regimen. There is no waiver for this course as a graduation requirement for a Regular Education Diploma. By completing three units of JROTC, a student can receive credit for the unit of required Health/PE. Contact your counselor for details.



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Physical Education Electives

Body Sculpting (GIRLS ONLY)

This course focus on overall personal fitness using free weights, machine weights, and body weight to tone and strengthen the body. A combination of aerobic exercise, anaerobic exercise, and conditioning using a variety of activities will be used to tone the body, with an emphasis on good nutrition and regular exercise. Students will learn how to develop their own training program, evaluate their fitness levels, and set short- and long-term goals for their own personal fitness. Students will learn the basics of fitness anatomy and physiology.

Lifetime Sports (GIRLS ONLY)

In this course, students will learn official rules and play sports like basketball, volleyball, handball, softball, badminton, and ultimate frisbee.

Weight Training (Prerequisite for Adv. Weight Training) & Advanced Weight Training (BOYS ONLY)

This series of courses is designed for those individuals who want to get bigger, faster, and stronger. These courses are designed to challenge the student to build muscle mass and strength while working at high levels of conditioning. Students will learn specific lifting and spotting techniques with free weights. They will learn anatomy and physiology, basic biomechanics, safety protocols, goal-setting, and a range of conditioning techniques related to different sports and activities. Students also will learn program development.

General PE (Soccer – BOYS ONLY)

This course will teach the skills and rules of soccer while encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle.

Team Sports (BOYS ONLY)

This course will focus on team-related activities such as softball, basketball, soccer, and volleyball. If you like being on a team, this is your area.

Intro to Recreational Games (BOYS and GIRLS)

This course exposes students to lifelong games such as cornhole, table tennis, and speedminton.

Questions about Health/PE Courses? Email Corey.A.Richardson@gcpsk12.org



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Fine Arts

Students may pursue a Fine Arts Pathway in any one of four areas: Theatre Arts, Music, Visual Arts, and Journalism. A Fine Arts Pathway includes three or more full credits in one of the four designated areas— either general within the area or with a specialized focus— and shows a progression and growth of knowledge and skills in the area.

Theater Arts

Students study theatre history, acting, and the technical skills involved in production, and learn to analyze and evaluate live theatre and explore the relationship between theatre and other art forms. Courses in this area include Theater Fundamentals, Acting, Technical Theater, Musical Theater, Advanced Drama and IB Theater.

Theatre Fundamentals

This beginning-level course will focus on theatre history, acting, & technical skills involved in production.

Musical Theatre

In this course, students will perform a monologue, rehearse songs, learn basic stage movements, and practice dance techniques.

Technical Theatre I (Stagecraft)

In this course, students will learn techniques of technical theatre needed to engineer and complete the requirements for a production.

AUDITION or TEACHER RECOMMENDATION are required for the following courses:

Tech Theatre II (Sewing)

In this course, students work collaboratively on the technical capacity of a theatrical production such as set design and costumes.

Advanced Drama

In this course, students will explore scene analysis, critical reviewing, & beginning directing. Learn to identify dramatic theories & styles.

Questions about Theater Arts Courses? Email Gina.Parrish@gcpsk12.org

Choral Music

Choral music courses emphasize the development of vocal techniques and performance skills using a variety of choral literature. Students develop music-reading skills and vocal technique development is emphasized, including breath control, diction, and vocal production. Courses offered include Beginning Mixed Chorus, Intermediate Women's Chorus, Advanced Women's Chorus, and Mastery Chorus.

*****Other than Beginning Mixed Chorus, an Audition or a Teacher Recommendation is required.**

Questions about Chorus Courses? Email Maria.Phillips@gcpsk12.org



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Orchestra

Students develop skills in fundamental strings instrument techniques. Music theory skills include notation of pitch and rhythm, scales, and intervals. A variety of literature for the string ensemble is studied and performed. Students refine music-reading skills as well as performance skills, including more advanced bow techniques. Students acquire knowledge in music theory and history as they relate to orchestral literature. Courses offered include Beginning Orchestra, Intermediate Orchestra, Intermediate Ensemble, Advanced Orchestra, and Mastery Orchestra.

*****Other than Beginning Orchestra, an Audition or a Teacher Recommendation is required.**

Questions about Orchestra Courses? Email Benjamin.A.Rezaeinia@gcpsk12.org

Band

Students acquire performance and music reading skills. As courses progress, students continue to develop appropriate tone quality, intonation, balance, precision, phrasing, and technique. Students are expected to consistently demonstrate sight-reading skills and respond appropriately to expression markings in the musical score.

*****Students must be currently taking Band in order to be enrolled in Band for the next school year. Previous experience is required.**

Beginning Piano I

Students develop skills in fundamental piano techniques. Music theory skills include notation of pitch and rhythm, scales, and intervals. A variety of literature for the piano is studied and performed. Performance and sight-reading skills will be developed and enhanced through various keyboard techniques.

IB Music SL

In the music course students develop their knowledge and potential as musicians, both personally and collaboratively. This course focuses on the composition, performance and critical analysis of music, and exposes students to forms, styles and functions of music from a wide range of historical and socio-cultural contexts. Students create, participate in, and reflect upon music from their own background and those of others. They develop practical and communicative skills which provide them with the opportunity to engage in music for further study, and well as for lifetime enjoyment.

Music Technology

Students learn computer basics and MIDI sequencing applications. Students explore MIDI sequencing software and notation software. Students create original multitrack sequences, original musical compositions, and background music for a specific setting, such as movies, television, or computer games. Sound recording and manipulation are other key components of the course.

Questions about Band or Music Technology Courses? Email Lee.Newman@gcpsk12.org or Maria.Phillips@gcpsk12.org



NORCROSS HIGH SCHOOL

2021-2022 Course Descriptions

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts Comp I/Two-Dimensional art course explores concepts of image and makes use of techniques in drawing, printmaking, lettering, painting, and collage. The Visual Arts Comp II/Three-Dimensional course explores concepts and techniques of construction, assemblage, and media manipulations. Historical and contemporary developments in art are explored. **The Visual Arts Comp I and II courses are prerequisites to all other Visual Arts courses.** After completing Visual Arts Comp I and II, students can concentrate in or explore the different Visual Arts disciplines, including Sculpture, Photography, Pottery/Ceramics, Drawing and Painting, and Jewelry Making. Students also can progress to taking AP and IB-level courses in Drawing (AP), Studio Art 2-D (AP), Studio Art 3-D (AP) and IB Art.

****Visual Art I/II**

Beginning level class; experience with two & three-dimensional artwork; Learn basic skills of design using drawing, painting, clay, & sculpture.

Ceramics/Pottery

This course focuses on designing and creating hand-built clay pottery forms, wheel pottery, and different firing and glazing techniques.

Draw/Paint

This course focuses on techniques including pencil, colored pencil, pastels, mixed media, watercolor, and acrylic.

Photo Design

Darkroom & Digital Photography; Camera required

Jewelry

This course focuses on creating silver jewelry earrings, pendants, bracelets, rings, pins & more.

Sculpture

This course will focus on 3D forms created with mediums such as clay, plaster, wood, stone, wire, and paper mache.

IB Visual Arts Year 1 and Year 2

IB Visual Arts course encourages students to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations and boundaries. Students develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art-makers. In addition to exploring and comparing visual arts from different perspectives and in different contexts, students are expected to engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media. The course is designed for students who want to go on to further study of visual arts in higher education.

Questions about Visual Art Courses? Email Laura.Hwang@gcpsk12.org



NORCROSS HIGH SCHOOL

2021-2022 Course Descriptions

Army Junior ROTC

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is a four-year progressive program which is open to all students in grades 9–12. Students who complete three years of JROTC fulfill the Health and Physical Education requirement for graduation.

The Army Junior ROTC program promotes success through learning and self-management. Students will develop leadership skills, learn to incorporate principles of mental and physical wellness into behaviors and decisions, and be able to characterize the role of the military and other national service organizations in building a constitutional republic. The curriculum supports the school's mission and mandates by integrating technology, linking content to state standards, integrating reading and writing, and providing character and financial education while reinforcing the competencies taught in other academic subjects in which students are enrolled.

Questions about JROTC Courses? Email Frank.Cook@qcpsk12.org or Dorian.Ballard@qcpsk12.org

Career and Technical Education

The Georgia Department of Education has developed Career Pathways that will allow students to concentrate their studies in an area of Technical Education to prepare for a seamless transition from high school to postsecondary training in college or technical school. Some Pathways may lead to industry certification.

Financial Literacy

Step into this course specifically designed for high school students to understand the importance of the financial world, including planning and managing money wisely. Areas of study taught through application in personal finance include sources of income, budgeting, banking, consumer credit, credit laws and rights, personal bankruptcy, insurance, spending, taxes, investment strategies, savings accounts, mutual funds and the stock market, buying a vehicle, and living independently. Through project-based learning activities and tasks, students will apply mathematical concepts in realistic scenarios and will actively engage by applying the mathematics necessary to make informed decisions related to personal finance. Financial Literacy places great emphasis on problem solving, reasoning, representing, connecting and communicating financial data. Various forms of technologies and internet research will be highlighted to expose students to the resources available when managing personal financial goals.

Arts, AV Technology and Communications

Video Broadcast Journalism I – IV

These courses prepares students for employment or entry into a postsecondary education program in the audio and video technology career field. Topics covered may include, but are not limited to, terminology, safety, basic equipment, script writing, production teams, production and programming, lighting, recording and editing, studio production, and professional ethics.



NORCROSS HIGH SCHOOL

2021-2022 Course Descriptions

Intro to Graphic Design

This course provides students with real-world graphic design assignments that will give students a basic understanding of Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. You will learn about printing, page layout, typography, and designing for the web.

Business, Management, and Administration

Intro to Business & Technology

Student will learn about managing your finances as you prepare for life after high school. Also, you will learn about marketing, entrepreneurship, accounting and banking. Improve your typing skills as you become proficient in Microsoft Suite (Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel).

Information Technology

Intro to Digital Technology

How is your life impacted by the digital world in which you live? Adapt to these emerging technologies by learning about computer hardware and software, maintenance and design, networking, web pages, and programming using a variety of applications.

Digital Design

Are you involved in social media? Learn about digital media applications by using Adobe Photoshop, Audacity and Moviemaker. Showcase your new skills in the elements of text, graphics, animation, sound, and video in your personal social media accounts.

Web Design

Are you interested in designing web pages for fun or for a profit? All companies today must have a web presence to be successful. Create professional-looking web pages using HTML, JavaScript, CSS, and Adobe Creative Cloud: Dreamweaver, Illustrator and Animate. Forget about presentation software; impress your teacher, professor, or employer with your web design skills.

AP Computer Science

Counts as 4th year Science or 4th year Math! This college-level course introduces students to computer science through programming. Fundamental topics in this course include the design of solutions to problems, the use of data structures to organize large sets of data, the development and implementation of algorithms to process data and discover new information, the analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing systems. The course emphasizes object-oriented programming and design using the Java programming language.



NORCROSS HIGH SCHOOL

2021-2022 Course Descriptions

Marketing

Marketing Principles

Marketing Principles is the foundational course for all pathways in Marketing Education. Marketing Principles addresses all the ways in which marketing satisfies consumer and business needs and wants for products and services. Students develop an understanding of the functions of marketing and how these functional areas affect all businesses. They learn basic marketing concepts and the role of marketing in our economy. Students also develop skills in applying economic concepts to marketing, distribution and logistics, marketing information management, finance in marketing, product/service planning, pricing mixes, promotional strategies, and personal selling.

Marketing and Entrepreneurship (Application Only – Requires successful completion of Marketing Principles)

Entrepreneurship, an imperative component of a strong economy, is designed for individuals who are creative thinkers and risk takers. Therefore, students in this entrepreneurship course focus on recognizing a business opportunity, launching a viable, real business based on the recognized opportunity, and operating and maintaining that business. This course begins by moving students from the typical "what can be" educational focus to a "what is" focus. Marketing Research allows students to apply the functional areas business, finance, marketing, and management to their planned small business. During this course, students will be expected to pitch their start-up business to their target market and operate it successfully in Norcross High School. Students will also apply their Marketing knowledge in a lab setting as they run the school based enterprise. This course may be taken as a part of a student's Marketing Management Pathway or Small Business Development Pathway.

Work-Based Learning

(Application Required)

Students will be released early from school for 1, 2, or 3 periods. Must have a stable job and work at least 10 hours-20 hours per week depending on number of periods enrolled in WBL. See Mrs. McCrary in the Marketing Lab for more information.

Questions about Career and Technical Education Courses? Email Lesleye.A.Williams@gcpsk12.org



NORCROSS HIGH SCHOOL

2021-2022 Course Descriptions

Additional Career and Technical Education Options

Maxwell High School of Technology

Offers a number of cutting-edge programs— from auto services and early childhood education to fire science and healthcare. The school’s state-of-the-art technology, equipment, and facilities go beyond what is available in a traditional high school. Students from all GCPS high schools may enroll in these programs to explore industries in depth and gain real-world experience before entering college or joining the workforce. Maxwell holds open house events prior to class registration. Students may register through local school registration. GCPS provides transportation to and from local high schools. Maxwell continues to develop new programs and options for students. For instance, the Maxwell staff coordinates learning opportunities with faculty from the nearby Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology, another Gwinnett school. Depending on the field of study, students may be able to earn college credit or advanced placement. Program instructors have experience in their fields and some programs are industry-certified. All Maxwell students participate in the Rising Professionals program, studying conflict resolution, business etiquette, business ethics, job application completion, résumé writing, and interviewing. Maxwell students also take part in regional, state, and national competitions through student organizations to learn leadership skills, teamwork, and character development.

Grayson High School Technical Education Program

The Technical Education Program at Grayson High School offers innovative instructional programs— from engineering and photography to sports medicine and veterinary science— in a state-of-the-art facility, located on the Grayson campus. Students from all GCPS high schools may enroll in these programs to explore industries in depth and gain real-world experience before entering college or joining the workforce. Program instructors have experience in their fields and some programs are industry-certified. Many of the programs offer internships and apprenticeships. Students may be able to earn college credit or advanced placement through articulation agreements with postsecondary technical colleges and universities.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

The IB Diploma Programme has been implemented at Norcross High School since 1998. It provides Norcross students with the opportunity to participate in the rigorous courses and unique learning experiences provided by the IBO. Full diploma students engage in all six IB courses during their junior and senior years. Also, diploma students take the Theory of Knowledge course, the Extended Essay, and the 150 CAS hour requirement (consisting of creativity, action, and service). At the end of the program, students will sit for all exams in the six subjects and will complete internal assessments as well. For students who choose not to earn the IB Diploma, it is possible to complete IB courses in areas of their greatest interests and ability. Rising Juniors interested in committing to the IB program at NHS should contact NHS IB Coordinator, Dan Byrne.

Questions about the International Baccalaureate Programme? Email Dan.Byrne@qcpsk12.org