

# ***ICON High School Course Catalog***

## ***CORE Courses Required for Graduation***

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **English I**

English I is a year-long course that offers a comprehensive learning experience to enhance communication skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course guides students through the research process, allowing them to gain valuable experience in conducting literary research, and strengthen language structure and grammar for various writing tasks. Additionally, students will analyze the craft and structure employed by authors in both fiction and nonfiction texts including diverse poetry, short stories, and the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Through this, students will deepen their understanding of literary techniques, and focus on characterization, plot, and theme. Students will engage in listening activities with media and technology that will boost language proficiency. Through comprehension strategies, textual evidence support, research guidance, and literary analysis, students will expand their vocabulary and improve effective communication. This course fosters critical thinking and cultivates proficient English expression.

#### **English II**

English II is a year-long course where students are introduced to the skills, practices, and routines of argumentative writing to examine argument models, plan for their writing, gather evidence, and defend their position. Novels include: *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and *Lord of the Flies* where students will focus on the development of themes and symbols. Students will learn about, and actively engage in, the narrative writing process focusing on ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. They will improve their critical thinking skills by activating prior knowledge, making connections, questioning, monitoring, predicting, inferring, visualizing, and summarizing with a focus on literary and informational texts.

#### **English III**

English III is a yearlong course that surveys American Literature and literary culture from its inception through the twentieth century. Major works include *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and *Huckleberry Finn*. Short stories and plays, essays, poetry, and speeches are explored, and students practice writing in these formats. The goal of ELA is to build the skills of literacy and communication, and this is accomplished in four areas: citizenship - reading and writing to understand multiple perspectives and build empathy; inspiring and leading others - reading mentor texts and practicing the three modes of writing; collaboration - teamwork with peers and the sharing of ideas; and digital responsibility - considering credibility of sources and cross-referencing multiple sources on a given theme or topic.

#### **English IV**

English IV is a yearlong course that focuses on selected works of European literature from the twelfth century through the twenty-first century. Works include Dante's "The Inferno," Shakespeare's "Hamlet," and Bronte's "Jane Eyre." Students will approach this literature chronologically, so they can see the influences on and evolution of the ideas and forms. Writing, research, and speaking assignments will continue to focus on formulating and expressing ideas and arguments about the readings.

### **Communications**

Essentials of Communication is a semester-long course. The materials cover fundamentals of the communication process important for successful interaction in a variety of social and professional settings. Students will use the course to gain and apply knowledge about communication theories, characteristics of language and language use, interpersonal relationships, group dynamics, and public speaking. Students will be equipped to use communication to hone other life skills including: exchanging information, fulfilling social obligations, developing relationships, and understanding and meeting the needs of others.

### **Senior Project and Research**

As a semester course, Senior Project is a compilation of researching, writing a technical paper, incorporating technology to create a final presentation. This course meets the Idaho state requirement.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Algebra I**

Algebra I is a 2-semester, high school math course designed to explore algebraic skills such as evaluating, creating, solving and graphing linear, quadratic, and polynomial functions. Students will explore these concepts by problem solving and critical thinking, along with using technology to help them gain a deeper understanding of mathematics.

### **Geometry**

Geometry is a two-semester, high school math course focused Geometric Relationships and Concepts that students will explore through a variety of methods, including modeling on a coordinate plane, setting up and writing geometric proofs, using technology to see transformations, and building their critical thinking and problem solving skills.

### **Consumer Math**

Consumer Math is a two-semester, high school math course. This course focuses on a variety of skills as they pertain to "real life" scenarios. The course gives students practical advice on how to handle situations that involve math and being a consumer in the world. Topics include loans, basic taxes, interest and payroll, retirement planning, depreciation trends, and basic statistics. Students who complete this course will have a better understanding of some of the math related to various components of everyday life outside of high school.

# **SCIENCE**

## **Physical Science**

Physical Science is a year-long course covering basic concepts found in chemistry and physics. This course emphasizes using careful observations, analyzing problems and integrating science knowledge to solve real world problems and appreciating the impact of scientific discovery in everyday life.

## **Biology**

Lessons focus on looking at the hierarchical organization of interacting systems, homeostasis, the role of cellular division (mitosis) and differentiation in producing complex organisms, photosynthesis and cellular respiration and the transferring of energy and cycling of carbon, the flow of energy through trophic levels, biotic and abiotic factors, the role of DNA and chromosomes in determining the structure of proteins as well as coding the instructions for traits passed from parent to offspring, evidence for the causes of genetic variation, probability to explain variation and distribution of expressed traits in a population, natural selection and how it lead to adaptation of populations, how changes in the environment may result in the evolution or extinction of species, ecosystems, carrying capacity, and managing natural resources based on direct and indirect influences of human activities on biodiversity and ecosystem health.

## **Environmental Science**

Environmental science is a year-long course dedicated to understanding the interactions between earth's natural systems and the demands placed on them by the human population. This course examines the scientific principles behind natural phenomena and resource cycles, explores how we utilize these systems and our impact, and potential solutions for the resulting consequences of resource mismanagement and exploitation.

# **SOCIAL STUDIES**

## **U.S. History A**

U.S. History A is a semester-long course that dynamically explores the people, places, and events that shaped early United States history. This course stretches from the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas to Reconstruction, leading students through a careful examination of the defining moments that shaped the nation of today. Students begin by exploring the interaction between Native American groups and European exploration of the New World and examining the foundations of colonial society. As they study the early history of the United States, students will learn critical-thinking skills by examining the constitutional foundations of the U.S. government. Recurring themes such as the Triangular Trade, territorial expansion, and the significance of slavery will be examined in the context of how these issues contributed to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

## **U.S. History B**

U.S. History B is a semester-long course that examines the major events and turning points of U.S. history from the Industrial Revolution through the modern age. The course leads students toward a clearer understanding of the patterns, processes, and people that have shaped U.S. history. As students progress through each era of modern U.S. history, they will study the impact of dynamic leadership and economic and political change on the rise of the United States to global prominence, the influence of social and political movements on societal change, and the importance of modern cultural and political developments. Recurring themes lead students to draw connections between the past and the present, between cultures, and between multiple perspectives.

## **Economics**

This semester-long course invites students to broaden their understanding of how economic concepts apply to their everyday lives—including microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and the characteristics of mixed-market economies, the role of government in a free-enterprise system and the global economy. Throughout the course, students apply critical-thinking skills while making practical economic choices. Students also master literacy skills through rigorous reading and writing activities.

## **Government**

Government is a year-long course that focuses on international, comparative, and American governments. This class explores the various styles of government, political philosophers, and the history of governments. Students will learn about the influences of social, economic and cultural change on government. This course includes an in-depth study of American government, including the structure and functions of each branch, public policy, interest groups, and elections. (Successful completion of the Civics Unit fulfills the Idaho State requirement for passing the citizenship test).

## **Personal Financial Literacy**

This course teaches students how to make wise financial decisions. Students will learn how to make short-term and long-term financial decisions in the areas of banking, investments, credit, college education, taxes, budgeting, and insurance. Students can utilize their knowledge from this course to their financial situations throughout life. This course content compliments the knowledge gained from Economics and Mathematics.

# **HUMANITIES**

## **Art History I—Pre-History to Romanticism**

Art History: Prehistory to Romanticism is an elective designed to enable you the student to develop knowledge of the history and theory of art and the relationship between artist, artwork, and society. As a student, you will learn about periods, styles, and works of art beginning with the earliest examples of prehistoric art and working through Romanticism.

### **Art History II—Modern to Contemporary**

Art History: Modern to Contemporary is an elective designed to enable you the student to develop knowledge of the history and theory of art and the relationship between artist, artwork, and society. As a student, you will learn about periods, styles, and works of art beginning with the earliest examples of photography and ending with contemporary art, including art from cultures and countries around the world. PREREQUISITE: Art History: Pre-History to Romanticism.

### **Music Appreciation**

Music Appreciation is a semester-long course where students learn about music from the Middle Ages up to the popular music of today. Also discussed will be the history, the composers, the music, and the culture from each musical period-- including Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century classical and popular music. Students do projects about their favorite music, their musical heritage, analyzing pieces of music, writing music, and listening to music. It is a great way to begin a life-long appreciation for the music that is everywhere in the world.

### **Spanish I**

This is a year-long course broken into two semesters. Spanish is an entry level foreign language course where students will gain a basic understanding of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish and cultural competency. Each semester is broken into 5 units that include vocabulary, grammar and dialogue taught in the context of different Spanish speaking countries. For example, students will discover the culture of Argentina through its geography, culture and activities while learning how to form questions in Spanish. They will also explore the geography and culture of Honduras while continuing to learn parts of speech and basic weather terms in Spanish. Students will complete lessons, quizzes, projects and one exam for each unit.

## **HEALTH**

### **High School Health**

High School Health is a Health Science course that introduces students to what good health is, why good health is important, and what students should do to achieve good health. Not only will students learn about being healthy now, but how to lead a healthy lifestyle that they can carry with them into the future.

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### ***ELECTIVE Courses***

***All Electives are semester-length courses.***

**From ICON Classrooms to Strong Idaho Communities: Fostering Responsible Citizenship and Workplace Success Required Elective Course (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade) (project-based course)**

This hands-on project-based course is designed to empower Idaho students with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to become responsible and engaged members of their communities, as well as successful contributors to the workforce. By bridging the gap between ICON classrooms and the broader Idaho community, this course aims to foster a sense of civic responsibility and equip students with the essential competencies for workplace excellence. Throughout the course, students will explore the interconnectedness between classroom learning and their personal journey as they explore their career options, their communities and the role that they play within those communities, their future financial selves, and their role in advocating for themselves and for others. Courses offered by grade level are:

Exploring My Future in 9th Grade  
Exploring My Community in 10th Grade  
Exploring My Finances in 11th Grade  
Exploring My Voice in 12th Grade

### **Career Management – Required Elective Course (9<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Career Management is a semester-long course exploring the expectations and possibilities for when students move into the workforce. The purpose of work, expectations of employees, and values to look for in an employer are also studied. Things such as cold calls, cover letters, resumes, wages, and thinking skills will be discussed. It is a great class for exploring student interests and talents as students prepare to start thinking of future careers.

### **Digital Literacy – Required Elective Course (9<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Digital Literacy is a semester-long course where students will learn the basics of keyboarding as well as explore a range of technology applications such as documents, presentations, spreadsheets as well as other practical digital skills and digital safety to help prepare them for the jobs of today.

### **Personal and Family Living (Required Elective Course (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

In this semester-long high school elective course, students will explore the knowledge and skills needed to help prepare them for the transition from high school to adult living. General topics include: Independent Living, Building Healthy Families, Interpersonal Relationships, Safety and First Aid, and Career Planning. Students will build skills in the areas of Decision-Making and Personal Responsibility, Conflict Resolution, Budgeting and Financial Responsibility, Health and Nutrition, Managing Stress, Personal Relationships, and Setting College and Career Goals.

### **Physical Education**

Physical Education is a semester-long elective designed for high school students. The course focuses on performance of individual and team sports, with explanations of proper technique, rules of the game, and preparation. Team sports introduced include soccer, basketball, football, baseball, and volleyball. An introduction to fitness, strength, endurance, and nutrition is also included. Students will have the opportunity to perform each sport on their own time, while keeping a log of activity. The goal is incorporation of activity into their daily lives and the gain of lifelong healthy fitness habits.

### **Civil War History**

Civil War History examines the strife of a nation ripped in two. Students start with an examination of American history and causes of the war and the failed compromises and various perspectives that led to secession. Students will trace significant military events, examine primary sources, and analyze the outcomes and long term impacts of Reconstruction.

### **Vietnam Era History**

Vietnam Era History establishes the background of American involvement in Vietnam. The course begins with an examination of Vietnamese history and traces the impact of the Cold War on the region. Students will examine political maneuverings, military strategies, colonialism, and the long-term implications and outcomes of the war.

### **World History**

This is a year-long course broken down into two semesters. World History provides an examination of human history from the beginning of time to the modern day. Students will study major turning points in human existence including the transition to settled societies, classical civilizations and empires, major religions, global interaction and conflict, colonization, industrialization, revolution, the turmoil of the twentieth century and close with considerations of modern problems that can be addressed by examining history.

### **Work Study**

Students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade who are working a minimum of 15 hours a week at a job outside the home are eligible to receive 1 elective credit through a semester length Project-Based Work Study course. Students will submit monthly reflection assignments with supervisor's and parent's (if under 18) signatures describing work hours schedule and a description of real-world application of business and career skills. Students may earn a maximum of 2 elective credits through Project-Based Work Study. MUST BE APPROVED THROUGH THE SCHOOL.