

WILLOWS ACADEMY

Course Guide 2024-2025



MISSION STATEMENT

Willows Academy challenges young women to transform society for the good. In partnership with parents, we facilitate the development of their character, intellect, and love of God. Guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, we focus on providing a rigorous liberal arts curriculum, personalized mentoring, and vibrant student life.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

MIDDLE SCHOOL	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
English	Literature 6	Literature 7	English 8*
Language Arts/ World Languages	Language Arts 6*	Language Arts 7*	French 1
			Spanish 1
			Language Arts 8*
Math	Math Foundations 6	PreAlgebra 7	Bridge to Algebra Honors Algebra I
	Algebra Foundations 6	Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry 8
Science	Science & Art	Life Sciences	Introductory Physical Sciences
History	Geography	American History I	American History II
Theology	Theology 6: Commandments	Theology 7: Sacraments	Theology 8: Confirmation and Christian Prayer
Physical Education	PE 6	PE 7	PE 8
Fine Arts	Instrumental ensemble elective		
	Music 6	Music 7: Handbells	Music 8
	Science & Art	Art 7	Art 8
	Choir 6 (required)	Choir elective for 7 th and 8 th grade (optional)	
Notes	*Latin Roots program is facilitated in Language Arts and English classes		

Middle School Graduation Requirements

Department	Courses	Department	Courses
English	3	Science	3
Mathematics	3	Physical Education	3
Theology	3	Fine Arts: Visual Arts	3
History	3	Fine Arts: General Music	3
Language Arts/ World Language	3		

Additional Requirements

Constitution Tests: Students are required by the State of Illinois to pass tests on the Constitution of the United States and on the Constitution of Illinois prior to the completion of 8th grade.

Service: 10 hours of service per year are required.

Summer Enrichment: Three units of summer enrichment are required for graduation. One unit is earned each summer by successfully completing that year's summer enrichment assignments. Specific assignments are given prior to the end of the school year.

After her fifth failing semester grade (in any academic subject or combination of subjects), a Middle School student's academic progress will be reviewed by the Administration to determine whether she will be eligible to enroll for the next semester. Willows reserves the right to dismiss a Middle School student with five failing semester grades either at the end of the semester or at the end of that academic year.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

High School	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
English	Honors Intro to Literary Studies & Writing	Honors World Literature & Writing	Honors American Literature & Writing	Honors British Literature & Writing
			Accelerated American Literature & Writing	AP English Literature & Composition
World Languages	Honors Spanish I or II	Honors Spanish II or III	Honors Spanish III or IV	Honors Spanish IV or AP Spanish IV
	Honors French I or II	Honors French II or III	Honors French III or IV	Honors French IV or AP French IV
	Introductory Latin elective			
Math	Honors Algebra I 9	Honors Geometry 10	Honors Algebra II 11	Honors PreCalc 12
	Honors Geometry 9	Honors Algebra II 10	Honors PreCalc 11	AP Calculus AB/BC
	Honors Algebra II 9	Honors PreCalc 10	AP Calculus AB	AP Statistics
	AP Computer Science Principles (can count as senior math credit)			
Science	Honors Biology	Honors Chemistry	Honors Physics	Honors Anatomy & Physiology
				AP Chemistry
History & Social Science	Honors Global Civilizations	Honors Contemporary Issues & Intro to Economics	Honors American Studies	Honors European History
			AP U.S. History	AP European History
				AP Psychology Elective
Theology & Philosophy	Honors Faith and Revelation	Honors Blessed Trinity & the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Sacraments	Honors Moral Theology	Honors Theology 12: Mulieris Fortis
				Honors Philosophy Elective: Justice, Law and Freedom
Physical Education	PE 9	HS PE/ SportFit Elective		
Fine Arts Electives	Art I	Art II	Honors Art III	Honors Art IV
			Advanced Art	
			Digital Photography	
	High School Choir			
	Chamber Choir Accelerated			
	Handbells			
	Instrumental Ensemble			
	Design Lab			
College Prep	HS Skills Elective		Junior Seminar	Senior Seminar

High School Graduation Requirements

Department	Courses
English	4
Foreign Language	through the 4th level of the same language
Mathematics	4
History	4
Science	4
Theology/Philosophy	4
Physical Education	1
Electives (Art, Music, Tech)	1 elective required each semester

*Classes must be taken at Willows in order to receive credit. The Administration must approve, in advance, of special circumstances, e.g. study abroad.

*The Administration may choose to allow a High School student who has earned a failing semester grade in a course to recover credit up to three times (a maximum of 1.5 credits) at an approved institution.

After her fourth failing semester grade (in any subject or combination of subjects), a High School Student's academic progress will be reviewed by the Administration to determine whether she will be eligible to enroll for the next semester. Willows reserves the right to dismiss a student with four failing semester grades either at the end of the semester or at the end of that academic year.

Additional Requirements

Constitution Tests: In order to graduate, students are required by the State of Illinois (IL) to pass tests on the Constitution of the U.S.

Economics: Topics required by the State of IL are covered in math & history curricula.

Civics: Topics required by the State of IL are covered in English & history curricula.

Computer Literacy: Topics required by the State of IL are covered in English, history and science curricula.

Health: Students must complete the required work in science and P.E. classes to meet the IL state requirement for graduation.

Service: Ten hours of service per year are required.

Summer Enrichment: Four units of summer enrichment are required for graduation.

One unit is earned each summer by successfully completing that year's summer enrichment assignment. Specific assignments are given prior to the end of the school year.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY DEPARTMENT

Course descriptions include a list of texts used in each course, the level at which the course is offered (i.e. honors, accelerated, AP), the course weight, and the grade multiplier for weighted GPAs (weighted GPAs are on transcripts only).

Weight:

Weight is used to determine a student's grade point average (GPA). Courses that meet five days a week are at the standard weight of 1.0; courses that do not meet daily may have a weight of 0.75, 0.25, or 0.125.

Grade Multiplier:

The grade multiplier is used to generate a "weighted GPA"; it is the number used to multiply each semester grade. The purpose of the grade multiplier is to give students a numerical advantage for grades earned in higher-level courses or more challenging learning experiences. The grade multiplier is only used to determine the weighted GPA found on a student's transcript. The following multiplier is used:

Honors courses: 1.025

Accelerated courses: 1.05

AP courses: 1.10

Transcript:

A transcript is an official record of the classes, grades, credits and weighted GPA that a student earned at Willows Academy.

ENGLISH

The English department at Willows Academy guides students toward the harmonious development of both contemplative and critical thinking, not only in reading and speaking but also in creative, analytical, and persuasive writing.

Literature. The curriculum exposes students to a comprehensive collection of literature with multiple layers of meaning that captures universal, timeless struggles of the human heart in various forms, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, essays, historical documents, and speeches. During the course of their studies students 1) refine reading and comprehension skills; 2) analyze literature for style, technique and themes; 3) respond creatively to literature through such modes as dramatic interpretation and poetic expression; 4) connect literature to their own lives and to contemporary society; and 5) recognize the importance of those pieces of literature throughout the ages.

Classical texts. Major works of the Western intellectual tradition inspire our Middle and High School students to seek the true, the good, and the beautiful with determination in order to pursue right order in their own hearts and in relationships, as well as in society and civilization itself. Our classical texts enkindle students' desires not only to achieve more, but, more importantly, to become more, more fully human—to clarify convictions and to grow in virtue. While sparking students' passion for reading, our English program inspires awe in worlds beyond their own as discussions draw them to discover new avenues of self-giving. Socratic seminars, debates, class presentations and essays challenge students to think independently and rationally about issues at hand.

Writing. With specific goals to be reached by the end of each year, our students learn to write effectively in many modes. The integration of the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) program teaches students to write with a clear structure and a compelling style. By first honing foundational skills in grammar and organization as well as rhetorical, persuasive and literary techniques, the English curriculum progressively strengthens students' analytical writing skills so that they are writing at college level before graduating.

Language Arts 6

6th Grade

The focus of this course is on writing, speaking, listening, language conventions, (grammar/ usage/ mechanics/ spelling), and vocabulary. Writing includes expository,

narrative, and argumentative assignments in essay, story, report, email, and letter formats. Speaking includes speeches, demonstrations, readings, portrayals/script readings, and oral reports. Listening includes active listening exercises and the practice of appropriate commenting and questioning. Throughout the year, this class reviews past points and introduces new ones of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Writing assignments challenge students to employ words they learn from their *Vocabulary from Classical Roots* workbook.

Textbooks:

Teaching Writing: Structure & Style, Second Edition. Institute for Excellence in Writing, 2015.

Grammar for Writing, Grade 6. Sadlier. 2009

Workbook: Vocabulary from Classical Roots. Grade 6, Fifer and Flowers. EPS, 2003.

Weight:

1.0

Literature 6

6th Grade

During this literature study, students read short stories, novels, myths, poetry, and plays that deepen their appreciation for the bonds of family and friendship while inspiring them to grow in virtues such as courage, humility and hope. Through class activities, students develop reading strategies, expand their appreciation of literature, and strengthen their skills in literary analysis and critical thinking. In conjunction with reading, students broaden their vocabulary by engaging in word study and enhance their speaking skills by giving presentations.

Textbooks:

Prentice Hall Literature (Copper). Pearson Prentice Hall, 1996.

The Hobbit by J.R.R.Tolkien. Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. Macmillan, 2007.

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt. Macmillan, 2007.

Reading Detective A1. The Critical Thinking Co. 2013.

Weight:

1.0

Language Arts 7

7th Grade

This course focuses on writing, vocabulary, and language conventions which include grammar, mechanics, usage, and spelling. Composition includes expository, narrative, and argumentative assignments in essay, story, and report formats. This course incorporates strategies from the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) program to refine students' writing skills. Additionally, students practice and review

grammar concepts on a daily basis. Vocabulary instruction focuses on Greek and Latin stems through the use of Vocabulary from Classical Roots.

Textbooks:

Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Book B, EPS, 2005.

Grammar for Writing, Grade 7, Sadlier, 2009.

Weight:

1.0

Literature 7

7th Grade

This course includes the reading and analyzing of literary pieces written by classical and award-winning contemporary authors. Course teaching strives to educate not only the mind, but also the heart. While class activities aim at solidifying the skills of analyzing, discussing, and evaluating essential to the study of literature throughout middle school and high school, it also helps students to seek and desire truth, goodness, and beauty.

The study of various literary pieces exposes students to various themes and characters that challenge them to recognize what matters in life, to realize how choices reflect a person's character, to discern what is worthy among competing goods, to discriminate between valuable and harmful goals, and to infer the deeper meaning of experiences. Through discussions and other class activities, students grow not only in their understanding of literature, but also, and more importantly, in the virtues of prudence, compassion, and service. By the end of the year, students become more reflective readers with a greater sense of purpose.

Textbooks:

Prentice Hall Literature (Bronze). Prentice-Hall, 1996.

The Horse and His Boy by C.S. Lewis

Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

Weight:

1.0

Literature 8 and Language Arts 8

8th Grade

These courses focus on the study of literature and language arts. Language Arts is an alternative option for students who would benefit from additional focus on English writing and grammar prior to their high school study of world languages. Students who did not attend all of middle school at Willows may be required to use this course to catch up with strategies from the Institute of Excellence for Writing (IEW) program.

In literature, all 8th grade students explore the elements of multiple literary genres and become more sophisticated writers through their composition of narrative, argumentative, and expository pieces. Students expand their vocabulary through their study of Greek and Latin roots and learn how to analyze complex sentence structures with sentence diagramming. Through their exposure to literature that nurtures, enriches, and educates their minds and imaginations, students learn how to choose the good, to make judgements that are based on reality instead of perceptions, and to think beyond themselves. This course incorporates strategies from the Institute of Excellence for Writing (IEW) program in order to refine students' writing skills. This course is intended to give students a firm foundation for high school.

Textbooks:

Prentice Hall Literature (Silver). Prentice Hall, 1996.

Vocabulary for Achievement. Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Bantam Books, 2004.

William Shakespeare, ed. & translated by Julie A. Schumacher. *Julius Caesar*. Perfection Learning Corporation, 2004.

Weight:

1.0

Honors Introduction to Literary Studies and Writing **9th Grade**

Introduction to Literary Studies exposes the student to various types of literature, specifically drama, short story, poetry, novel, and epic poetry. As students come to understand diverse perspectives with greater compassion, they come to recognize the immense power emotions can have over reason. The classics read in the course challenge them to distinguish the side that elicits empathy from the side that stands by principle, to identify the roots of and consequences of conflicts, and to perceive possible paths of reconciliation. Students improve their critical thinking through crafting interpretative and expository essays, poetry, persuasive essays, and personal narratives. The course also provides opportunities for students to develop their formal speaking abilities. Through written work, discussions, and projects, students analyze and illustrate how virtues impact both theme and character development in a range of literary genres.

Textbooks:

Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. Penguin Classics, 2002.

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Trans. Robert Fitzgerald. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Grand Central Publishing, 1988.

Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*. Folger Shakespeare Library. 1996.

Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes. Gold Level, Prentice Hall Literature, 1995.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors World Literature and Writing**10th Grade**

World Literature expands the students' world and wisdom as they trace the chronological development of literature in the Western and Eastern Hemispheres, spanning from ancient times to the twenty-first century. They consider the reshaping of values as poets of each era reveal their understanding of human dignity through characters' pursuit of glory, whether personal, patriotic, or divine. Students learn to decipher subtext and engage in active text interpretation. The course includes a review of essential grammatical principles, essay writing, and vocabulary improvement drills. Students further explore the art of writing persuasive, comparative, narrative, and research papers. Through reading about and analyzing universal themes illustrated in a variety of cultures and time periods, students learn to apply the virtues and concepts of the hero's journey to their own lives.

Textbooks:

Alighieri, Dante. *The Divine Comedy: The Inferno*. Penguin, 1999.

The Language of Literature: World Literature. McDougal Littell, 2007.

Orczy, Baroness Emmuska. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Signet, 2000.

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. Signet, 1996.

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. Folgers Shakespeare Library, 1996.

Virgil. *The Aeneid*. Bantam Classics, 1981.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors American Literature and Writing**11th Grade**

In Honors American Literature, students study literary criticism and rhetoric while tracing the development of American literature from the colonial period through the twenty-first century. Drawing on works of fiction, poetry, and autobiographical accounts, students examine the cultural and historical roots of American Literature. Scaffolded writing assignments and Socratic seminars ask students to articulate and develop their claims with textual evidence and to analyze the rhetorical choices that authors make. Frequent grammar and mechanics instruction challenges students to refine their writing skills and to vary their sentence structure. By evaluating characters' ability to choose the good, students develop their

understanding of what it means to exercise true freedom and to respect the dignity of each human being.

Textbooks:

The American Experience. Prentice Hall Literature, 2007.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Scribner, 2004.

The Practical Writer. Heinle, 2002.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. Penguin, 1999.

Twain, Mark. *Huckleberry Finn*. Dover Thrift, 1994.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Accelerated American Literature and Writing

11th Grade

In Accelerated American Literature, students study literary criticism and rhetoric while tracing the development of American literature from the colonial period through the twenty-first century. Drawing on works of fiction, poetry, and autobiographical accounts, students examine the cultural and historical roots of American Literature. Scaffolded writing assignments and Socratic seminars ask students to articulate and develop their claims with textual evidence and to analyze the rhetorical choices that authors make. Frequent grammar and mechanics instruction challenges students to refine their writing skills and to vary their sentence structure. By evaluating characters' ability to choose the good, students develop their understanding of what it means to exercise true freedom and to respect the dignity of each human being. The course offers a review of essential grammatical principles and essay writing skills that prepare students to take the AP English Language and Composition exam, if they so choose.

Textbooks:

The American Experience. Prentice Hall Literature, 2007.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Scribner, 2004.

The Practical Writer. Heinle, 2002.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. Penguin, 1999.

Twain, Mark. *Huckleberry Finn*. Dover Thrift, 1994.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.05

Honors British Literature and Writing

12th Grade

In Honors British Literature, students explore the transformative power of the written word as they trace the development of British Literature from the Greek and Christian influences upon Renaissance drama and poetry to the polyphonic interplay of voices in contemporary verse, fiction, and film. Students develop an understanding of what distinguishes the British literary tradition, and they have opportunities to draw cross-Atlantic connections within the broader Anglo-American literary culture. The works students read help them to grow in self-knowledge, to increase their awareness of the transcendent, and to deepen their sense of responsibility. They study pivotal moments in the development of characters like Hamlet, Sydney Carton, Frankenstein, and Orual who work through their blind spots—often due to curiosity, ambition, or envy; students learn to assess the justice of their decisions and to trace the worthiness of their aims which often shift throughout the text. Students receive direct instruction in writing, grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary. Writing assignments include analytical essays, personal narratives, poetry imitations, and other creative pieces. Writing workshops provide frequent opportunities for students to improve the clarity and precision of their work. During this course, seniors write timed essays that demand solid logic and nuanced reasoning, strong evidence, and insightful analyses with precise and sophisticated fluency.

Textbooks:

Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*. Dover, 1999.

Lewis, C.S. *Till We Have Faces*. First Mariner Books, 2012.

Prentice Hall Literature: The British Tradition. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2012.

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Folger Shakespeare Library, 2012.

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. Oxford, 2009.

Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Prestwick Press, 2005.

Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse*. Mariner Books, 1981.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

AP English Literature and Composition

12th Grade

In AP English Literature and Composition, students explore the transformative power of the written word as they read and analyze key works of British Literature. Students research British poets and deliver presentations on literary eras from the Renaissance to Contemporary times in order to discover how historical events, scientific advances and even artistic trends influence the vision and techniques of writers. The students read works that help them to grow in self-knowledge, to

increase their awareness of the transcendent, and to deepen their sense of responsibility. They study pivotal moments in the development of characters like Hamlet, Sydney Carton, Frankenstein, and Orual who work through their blind spots—often due to curiosity, ambition, or envy; students learn to assess the justice of their decisions and to trace the worthiness of their aims which often shift throughout the text.

This year-long college level course prepares students for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam. Writing assignments include tight analytical argumentative essays, journal responses, and poetry imitations. Direct instruction in grammar and vocabulary is complemented by teacher feedback and writing workshops that target improving logical reasoning, support, analysis and style, including purposeful syntax and the integration of new vocabulary. Students should expect to read approximately 30 pages of literature a night to prepare for class. Students are expected to register and sit for the AP Exam in May 2023.

Textbooks:

Prentice Hall Literature: The British Tradition. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2012.

Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities.*

Lewis, C.S. *Till We Have Faces.* First Mariner Books, 2012.

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet.* Folger, 2012.

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein.* Oxford UP, 2009.

Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest.* Preswick Press, 2005.

Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse.* Mariner Books, 1981.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

FINE ARTS & PE

The Fine Arts Department provides students the opportunity to actively create art and music according to their interest level. We offer performance, technique, and academic classes that enable students to develop skills ranging from lifelong enjoyment to the pursuit of professional careers in the field. We believe that by developing a deeper and broader aesthetic awareness and understanding in students, we help them to appreciate beauty, think creatively and develop a transferable work-ethic to other subjects. We help students recognise their strengths and talents. Students will develop these God-given talents and use them in the service of others at both Willows and in the general community.

Physical Education is a part of the total educational system of Willows that will provide experiences for our students through physical activity. The Physical Education curriculum provides students the opportunity to learn about and develop sport skills, cooperation, and teamwork, as well as understand and appreciate overall fitness and recreational games. The Physical Education program teaches students how to work cooperatively with others to achieve group goals in competitive and non competitive situations.

MUSIC

Music 6

6th Grade

Music 6 is an introduction to musicianship and music history. Students will develop a deep understanding of foundational music theory concepts. During the second semester students will study music history and learn about the lives of many composers starting from the Baroque Period to the Classical Period. The students will listen and analyze music. Classes will include lectures and formal study as well as research of musical styles and history.

Weight:

0.25

Music 7

7th Grade

Music 7 provides an introduction to playing handbells. Musicianship concepts, such as rhythm and handbell terminology are integrated and applied to handbell playing. A mixture of self-discipline, attention to detail and joyful collaboration are key. Students will learn to play in an ensemble and how to listen and perform as a group.

The students will perform in the Christmas and Spring Concert (performances at concerts are mandatory to pass the class).

Weight:

0.25

Music 8

8th Grade

Music 8 is a continuation of the Music History Unit from Music 6 and is therefore a required course. Students will learn about more recent composers from the Romantic Period to the Modern. Opera and Musical Theater will be introduced. Students will learn basic concepts of Drama. They will focus on the technical aspects and vocabulary of the theater. Students will work on acting, improvisation, theatrical games, as well as writing and performing a monologue. Half of the year the students will perfect their handbell skills and gain confidence in their performance abilities. A mixture of self-discipline, attention to detail and joyful collaboration are key. The bell choirs perform at Willows Christmas or Spring Concerts (performances at concerts are mandatory to pass the class).

Weight:

0.25

Middle School Concert Choir

6th-8th Grades

The Middle School Concert Choir is required for 6th graders and available as an elective for 7th and 8th graders. Emphasis is on good vocal production, ensemble singing, performance, and joyful team collaboration. Aural skills and sight-singing are also part of this course. This choir performs at Willows Christmas and Spring Concerts (performances at concerts are mandatory to pass the class).

Textbook:

Individual octavos provided by Willows Academy

Weight:

0.25

Instrumental Ensemble

6th-12th Grades

Instrumental Ensemble is open to any experienced instrumentalist who is simultaneously enrolled in private instruction. The members of the class will be assigned pieces to play in small chamber groups or with the larger ensemble class. Collaboration between diverse skill levels gives participants the opportunity for mutual respect and encouragement. Instrumental Ensemble allows participants to share their talents with their peers and a wider audience. They will perform for school events and outside of Willows. (performance at Christmas and Spring Concerts are mandatory to pass the class).

REQUIREMENTS: Instrumental ensemble students must attend class during the Bonus Period (3:04-3:46pm) on Mondays as well as another small group rehearsal scheduled during lunch or a study hall during the week. Ensemble members must be simultaneously enrolled in private instruction outside of Willows.

Textbook:

Sheet music provided by Willows Academy

Weight:

0.25

High School Choir

9th-12th Grades

The High School Choir is open to all high school students. Students perform music from a wide variety of styles and different musical eras. Emphasis is on good vocal production, ensemble singing and performance and joyful team collaboration. Active participation, sight singing and memorization of the songs are required. This choir performs at Willows Christmas and Spring Concerts (performances at concerts are mandatory to pass the class) and share their talents with the Willows community.

Textbook:

Individual octavos provided by Willows Academy

The University Sight-Singer. Masterworks Press

Weight:

0.25

Chamber Choir (accelerated)

9th-12th Grades

Willows Academy Chamber Choir is open to high school students by audition only. This small choir sings a cappella music from a variety of eras and maintains a very active performance schedule at Willows and in the community. This course will be weighted as an accelerated class. Performance tours in the United States and Europe are scheduled every three years. The Chamber Choir is a time-honored Willows tradition that requires commitment. Participation in the Chamber Choir and close musical collaboration will foster long-lasting friendships. The choir will strive for perfection by applying our God-given talents to the work and share these gifts through service of society.

REQUIREMENTS: Chamber Choir students must be enrolled in High School Choir and must attend Chamber Choir during the Bonus Period (3:04-3:46pm) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Textbook:

Octavos provided by Willows Academy

Weight:

0.25

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.05

High School Handbell Choirs

9th – 12th Grades

High School Handbell Choirs perform complex rhythms and advanced music. Music reading skills, rhythm and knowledge of musical terminology are developed as part of this course. A mixture of self-discipline, attention to detail and joyful collaboration are key. New participants are welcome and existing members integrate them with patience and respect to facilitate their success. The bell choirs perform at Willows Christmas and Spring Concerts (performances at concerts are mandatory to pass the class).

Textbook:

Octavos provided by Willows Academy

Weight:

0.25

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. 6

6th Grade

This daily course provides students with an introduction to basic skills in team sports. An introduction to personal fitness will also be provided. Emphasis is placed on hand eye coordination and following directions.

Weight:

0.25

P.E. 7

7th Grade

In seventh grade P.E., the students will start to expand on the skills learned in sixth grade. Students will be encouraged to work as a team and to participate with others. There will also be conditioning days throughout the year.

Weight:

0.25

P.E. 8

8th Grade

In eighth grade P.E., the students will work on the fundamentals of each sport covered, as well as engage in conditioning and fitness days. Students at this level are expected to be personally responsible for teamwork and competition.

Weight:

0.25

P.E. 9

9th Grade

In ninth grade P.E., students will be expected to develop higher level skills especially the fundamentals skills associated with team sports. This course includes CPR training.

Weight:

0.25

High School P.E. / Sport Fitness

10th-12th Grade

This course is designed to promote physical fitness and regular activity. The emphasis is on team sports and the skills associated with each individual sport. The class is graded on knowledge of skills, effort, and mastery of skills. Students are required to take at least one year of High School Physical Education.

Weight:

0.25

VISUAL ART

Science+Art 6

6th Grade

See the Science section for the full course description and weight for Science+Art 6.

Art 7

7th Grade

This course will focus on risk taking in creative engagement, noting the high value of originality. Students explore geometry knowledge and vanishing perspective as well as appreciate other ways to create depth. Students will understand the vocabulary of geometry, the tools of geometry, and develop an awareness of spatial sense. A focus is given to hand eye coordination through the fiber arts consisting of knitting, machine sewing, and hand sewing.

Weight:

0.25

Art 8

8th Grade

Students in Art 8 will create art that exhibits refinement, control, technical ability and personal style utilizing a variety of art media and processes. Students refine skills and techniques, grow in use of art vocabulary, and problem solving. Student motivation and questioning is a goal. Students are encouraged to explore the uncertainty in art.

Weight:

0.25

Art I

9th Grade

Art I is designed for students experiencing art for the first time at the high school level. Students will create original art by exploring a variety of materials and developing skills. The course will encompass principles and elements of art. Students will be exposed to a variety of studio art projects, art appreciation, art history, and aesthetics. A focus is given to self portraiture, drawing techniques/skills, and color theory with emphasis on painting. This instruction enables students to attain a higher understanding of the world, as well as, increased levels of critical thinking.

Weight:

0.25

Art II

10th Grade

Students will be presented a variety of experiences that will foster self-expression and communication through the visual arts. Students will experiment with different techniques to give a visual vocabulary and sensitivity to subject matter. Students will be exposed to a variety of studio art projects, art appreciation, art history, and aesthetics. A focus is given to color theory, co-curricular projects, and ink drawing

Weight:

0.25

Honors Art III

11th Grade

The emphasis in Art III is on a more technical plane. Students will create projects with emphasis on teamwork and community-building. Fostering learning that shares, dares, inquires, respects, and creates new growth within the community. A focus will be placed on collaborative drawing projects, observational drawing, and watercolor painting.

Weight:

0.25

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Art IV

12th Grade

The emphasis in Art IV is on independence, original creativity, and emotional expression. Students will create projects with major emphasis on individual skills and techniques. This will provide the chance for full involvement and self-motivation by the student in the area/areas she is most interested in exploring. The main focus in Art IV is personal identity and original creativity. By students learning to be creators with integrity about themselves and their own identities, they will be better able to understand, empathize, and respect the efforts of those other than themselves. All areas will be explored with emphasis placed on self-driven projects, printmaking, artist journaling, and oil painting. Permission from the instructor is required to enroll in this course.

Weight:

0.25

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Design Lab Elective

9th-12th Grade

Design lab is for students who have an interest in fashion at all levels. Students will experiment with designing, patterning, and creating garments. Within this class we will also cover sustainability, ethics in fashion, and the role it plays in our everyday life. This will give students the ability to learn a new practical skill while being creative.

Weight:

0.25

Advanced Art

11th-12th Grade

Advanced Art is geared toward the student that will pursue a career in the arts. Students will further their exploration of art through independent self-driven projects as well as in-class projects. A focus will be given to written and verbal critiques, short essays, artist statements, and resumes. Through the process of critiquing art, students will increase their vocabulary, writing ability, and language skills. Students are required to attend National Portfolio Day (Fall) to present their portfolio of artwork to prospective colleges. Students are also required to take a summer course in their field of study. Advanced Art is run as a semester based class. Advanced Art is offered as a two semester course for Junior students, and a first semester course for Senior students. Permission from the instructor is required to enroll in this course. This course will be weighted as an Accelerated class.

Weight:

0.50

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.05

Digital Photography 1**11th h-12th Grade**

Digital Photography is a semester course that focuses on understanding the basic operations and functions of a digital SLR- single lens reflex camera. Students will develop and expand their skills in producing artistic photographs using digital DSLR cameras and equipment. Students learn to take artistic digital photos following rules of composition, light, exposure, elements of art and principles of design. Students will learn how to manage and creatively alter digital images as well as critically analyze the use of visual media as a means of communication in our society today. They will be provided a greater level of autonomy, expected to pursue their own interests and develop an individual voice. Digital Photo is offered as a semester course for Juniors and/or Seniors.

Weight:

0.25

HISTORY

The Willows Academy History Department challenges students to become critical thinkers and readers, and provides a foundation for understanding the issues of the rapidly changing 21st century. Our curriculum seeks to develop an appreciation of the world's cultural diversity and the commonality of human aspirations, and to cultivate an understanding of American history and a sense of civic responsibility. In all courses, attention is given to helping students improve their skills of critical reading, analytical thinking, and effective writing.

World Geography & Ancient Civilizations

6th Grade

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of geography and acquaints them with the continents and countries of the world. Students learn to interpret maps and graphs and to reflect on the way that the physical environment shapes human existence throughout the world. Students delve into their personal family history to learn about their own place in the world; they then study a number of key ancient civilizations (such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome) as well as the current situation of different regions to deepen their understanding of how the past influences life today. During the year-end research project, students learn about daily life in other countries and then thoughtfully reflect on and present their acquired knowledge.

Textbook:

World History: Ancient Civilizations. McDougal Littell, 2006.

Nystrom World Atlas, Fifth Edition, 2015.

Weight:

1.0

American History to 1865

7th Grade

This course covers selected topics in early American History from the Age of Exploration and the colonial period through the Civil War. Though the course topics will proceed in a chronological manner, the emphasis is on trends and concepts. The aim of the course is to help students differentiate between significant historical facts and details, to acquaint students with ongoing themes in U.S. History, and to help them develop their own analytical and interpretive thoughts. Emphasis is placed on the founding principles of the United States and the early debates that persist to the present day. Students will also study the United States Constitution to fulfill the requirement for graduation.

Textbook:

Creating America: A History of the United States. McDougal Littell, 2007.

Weight:

1.0

American History from 1865 to the present**8th Grade**

This course is a continuation of American History to 1865 and surveys the period after the Civil War to the Modern Era. Students will cover selected topics from Reconstruction and Immigration through the events in the new millennium. Though the course topics will proceed in a chronological manner, the emphasis is on trends and concepts. The aim of the course is to acquaint students with ongoing themes in U.S. History, to help them develop their own analytical and interpretive thoughts, and to further develop students' ability to articulate these thoughts both verbally and in written form. As a result, emphasis is placed on classroom discussions and writing projects. Students will also study the Illinois Constitution to fulfill the requirement for graduation.

Textbook:

Creating America: A History of the United States. McDougal Littell, 2007.

Weight:

1.0

Honors Global Civilizations**9th Grade**

This class is broad in nature and will cover basic and specific history from the onset of time. Students will study the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome as well as selected civilizations of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, emphasizing the historical context of current global conflicts and issues. In addition, we will be exploring the geography, religions, ideas and inventions, political systems, and economies of all of these regions. This course will also examine all of these aspects as a way to understand the story of each of these regions. Students will focus on a variety of skills including reading comprehension, essay organization and argument development, all of which are required in the study of history throughout high school. Students begin to build the skills to enable and empower them to enroll in Advanced Placement courses later in their high school career.

Textbook:

World History: The Early Ages. McGraw Hill, 2001.

Additional supplementary material provided by the teacher.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Contemporary Issues & Introduction to Economics 10th Grade

This course serves as an introduction to significant events in the 19th through 21st centuries. A principal aim of the course is for students to develop a better understanding of how societies responded to the impact of modernization and industrialization since the 19th century. It begins examining industrialization, imperialism and the development of communism and fascism in the 19th/20th centuries. Students will discuss contemporary problems that originated in the 19th/20th centuries that demand creative and thoughtful solutions. Analytical skills, synthesis of conflicting viewpoints, conducting research, and writing historical essays are all emphasized in this course. This course will also include an exploration of fundamental economic concepts, such as supply, demand, and elasticity, with the aim of understanding the interaction of economic systems. The background in economics will serve as a useful tool as we continue to study contemporary social, political, and economic issues around the world.

Textbook:

World History: The Modern Era. Mc-Graw Hill, 2001.

Additional supplementary material provided by the teacher.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors American Studies

11th Grade

American Studies takes an in-depth look at United States history and culture from the colonial period through the 20th century. Though the course material will proceed in a chronological manner, the emphasis is on understanding and evaluating the dynamic quality of American political identity, social identity, and cultural identity. The aim of the course is to develop historical analysis and evaluation skills through a study of primary sources, secondary sources, music and film. Emphasis is placed on classroom discussions, historical argumentation, and writing.

Textbook:

United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination. Amsco School Publications, 2015.

Additional course readings and materials will be provided by the instructor.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

AP U. S. History

11th Grade

Advanced Placement United States History is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course. It is a two-semester survey of American history from the age of exploration and discovery to the present. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote a considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, and interpretation of original documents. At the end of the course, students are required to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by taking the advanced placement exam. In addition, a unit on the U.S. Constitution is presented in order to assist our students in becoming better and more informed citizens prepared to more intelligently participate in the political process. Students must pass the U.S. and IL Constitution tests as a graduation requirement.

Textbook:

The American Pageant. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.

United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination. Amsco School Publications, 2015.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

Honors European History

12th Grade

Honors European History is designed to prepare students for a freshman college course in a high school setting. It is a year-long survey of modern European history from the Renaissance to the Cold War with an emphasis on critical thinking skills, historical argumentation, essay organization, and interpretation of various primary source documents. Students will explore the evolution of political powers, social structures, religious policies, economic systems, and diplomacy that shaped Europe from the 15th -20th centuries. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed.

Textbook:

The Western Experience, Volume II. McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Western Civilization Volume II: Renaissance to the Present. McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

AP European History**12th Grade**

AP European History is a challenging course that is designed to be the equivalent of a freshman college course in a high school setting. This course will cover the period 1450-present, surveying major developments in society, politics, ideas, culture, economics, and technology. Your mastery of content is important, but you will also develop the skills of: 1) study and research, 2) critical reading of primary and secondary sources, 3) constructing and evaluating historical interpretations, 4) empathizing with the past, and 5) using historical knowledge as a guide to present understanding and action. Students will complete a writing workshop that will prepare them for the AP style essays: Short Answer Question, Long Essay Question and Document Based Question. Any advanced placement class requires hard work, mature writing skills, intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to personal growth. All students are expected to dedicate themselves to the goals of AP European History and to take the AP exam at the end of the year.

Textbook:

The Western Heritage since 1300, Twelfth Edition/ AP Edition. Pearson, 2020.

Western Civilization Volume II: Renaissance to the Present. McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

AP Psychology**12th Grade**

AP Psychology is an introductory college-level psychology course. Students cultivate their understanding of the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes through inquiry-based investigations as they explore concepts like the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology. The three skills taught are conceptual understanding, data analysis and scientific investigation of psychological research.

Textbook:

Myers' Psychology for AP or equivalent

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

MATHEMATICS

“Mathematics is the language in which God has written the universe.” –Galileo

Willows Academy’s math department offers a rigorous curriculum to develop young women’s analytical thinking skills. The three course sequences, namely, Honors I, Honors II, and Accelerated, are flexible to accommodate each student’s individual abilities while challenging them to achieve their highest potential. Students develop the ability to analyze a problem, propose a solution, and communicate the process using math concepts and academic language, both verbally and in writing. Coursework is designed to stimulate curiosity and exploration. Students cultivate self-sufficiency and self-esteem as they persevere through challenging problems. They utilize modern tools and technology to answer questions.

The Mathematics Department employs diverse pedagogical methods, including repetition, timed testing, pair work, manipulation tools, and math games. Teachers utilize classroom computers for exploration and demonstration, further integrating technology into instruction. Students’ math skills are fostered through a growth mindset by encouraging reading, allowing mistakes, and providing many reviews. Adapting these numeracy teaching strategies provides students at every level with a strong foundation in math and analytical skills necessary for ongoing success.

Math Placement

Placements for each ensuing year are based upon the combination of course grades, standardized math test scores, math placement tests, teacher recommendations, and department policies. For a student to move into a different course sequence and/or for a student to enter or remain in AP courses, she must meet all criteria, expectations, and policies set by Willows math department. Students may use summer school courses to advance into a different course sequence if all criteria are met and with prior approval before enrollment. Summer school courses do not count towards the 3-year middle school or 4-year high school course requirement. Through the Advanced Placement program, students may earn college credits in calculus, statistics, and computer science.

Middle School Math Sequence

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Math Foundations	Pre-Algebra	Bridge to Algebra
		Honors Algebra I
Algebra Foundations	Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry

High School Math Sequence

Track	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
Honors I	Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II	Honors Precalculus
				AP Statistics
Honors II	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II	Honors Precalculus	AP Calculus AB/BC
				AP Statistics
Accelerated	Honors Algebra II	Honors Precalculus	AP Calculus AB	AP Statistics
		AP Computer Science Principles (can count as senior math credit)		

Math Foundations

6th Grade

Algebra Foundations

6th Grade

These courses focus on identifying patterns and analyzing and visualizing the information in word problems. It ensures that students develop the essential math concepts and critical thinking skills to understand Algebra. They will master decimal operations and basic integer operations; continue working with fractions, percents, and basic geometry calculations; and be introduced to equations, inequalities, probability, and graphing techniques on a coordinate plane. The material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work.

Textbook:

Mathematics Course 2. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Weight:

1.0

Pre-Algebra (Math 7)**7th Grade**

In Pre-Algebra, students transition to the more abstract concepts of algebra. Through class discussion, modeling, and exploration, students study the properties of numbers, integers, equations, inequalities, absolute values, graphing, data analysis and statistics, geometry, irrational numbers, exponents, radicals, ratios, proportions, percents, probability, and polynomials. Students use algorithms and equations to model and solve open-ended problems and formulas to calculate geometric figures' surface area and volume. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work.

Textbook:

Pre-Algebra. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Weight:

1.0

Bridge to Algebra (Math 8)**8th Grade**

Building on the foundation of previous math courses in the sequence, 8th-grade Bridge to Algebra will solidify and further explore pre-algebra concepts such as equations, expressions, inequalities, integers, decimals, fractions, and proportions. Students will develop an understanding of their use in real-world problems and learn to communicate mathematical understandings with each other to solve problems. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work.

Textbook:

Pre-Algebra. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Weight:

1.0

Honors Algebra I**7th-8th-9th Grades**

Students study standard Algebra 1 fundamentals, including linear equations, inequalities, polynomials, rational expressions, and radicals. They will develop the ability to solve problems algebraically, numerically, and graphically. The TI-84 graphing calculator is used to explore and analyze functions. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work.

Textbook:

Beginning and Intermediate Algebra. Martin-Gay, 2020.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Geometry**8th-9th-10th Grades**

In this course, students will strengthen their algebraic skills and improve their understanding of geometric terminology and deductive reasoning. This course presents foundational geometric terms and concepts beginning with points, lines, and planes. As a formal, deductive study of the concepts of Euclidean geometry and coordinate geometry in two and three dimensions, this course also emphasizes logical reasoning and formal proofs. Projects and explorations help students to understand that geometry is a representation of the world around us. The course builds a foundation for future study in art, architecture, mathematics, science, and other fields that require a robust understanding of shape and position. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work. Placement of 8th graders into Algebra I is made by the Mathematics Department.

Textbook:

Geometry. Glencoe, McGraw Hill, 2004.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Algebra II with Trigonometry**9th-10th- 11th Grades**

In this course, students learn about algebraic expressions and forms, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students gain proficiency in polynomial operations, sequences and series, logarithms, trigonometry, graphs of functions, inequalities, and other special functions, both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real-world situations. Students are introduced to sequences, series, matrices, probability, and statistics. They will develop the ability to solve problems algebraically, numerically, and graphically. The TI-84 graphing calculator is used frequently to explore and analyze functions. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work.

Textbook:

Algebra and Trigonometry, Structure, and Method. McDougal Littell, 2000.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Pre-Calculus**10th–11th– 12th Grades**

Students will strengthen and synthesize their algebra, geometry, and trigonometry skills to be well-prepared to succeed in Calculus. Major topics include trigonometry, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions, polar equations, parametrically defined functions, complex numbers, conics, sequences, and series. The TI-84 graphing calculator is used frequently for exploration and analysis. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work.

Textbook:*Precalculus*. Sullivan and Sullivan, 2006.**Weight:**

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

AP Computer Science Principles**10th- 11th- 12th Grades**

Computer Science Principles introduces the foundations of modern computing. The course covers a broad range of foundational topics such as programming, algorithms, the Internet, big data, digital privacy and security, and the societal impacts of computing. This course is not a tour of current events and technologies. Rather, it seeks to provide students with a “future-proof” foundation in computing principles so that they are adequately prepared with both the knowledge and skills to live and meaningfully participate in our increasingly digital society, economy, and culture. The course requires no prior computing knowledge and will require significant expository writing. Students should have completed Geometry and have current math teacher approval. Computer Science can fulfill one credit towards the math graduation requirement (4 credits) or count as an elective course for a 5th math credit. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work. All students will take the AP exam in May.

Textbook:

Blown to Bits: Your Life Liberty and Happiness After the Digital Explosion (free online)

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

AP Calculus AB

11th-12th Grades

Students receive a background in differential and integral calculus with applications. Major topics include limits, continuity, basic differentiation, implicit differentiation, related rates, optimization, differentials, Riemann sums, indefinite and definite integrals, separable differential equations, area, and volume. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work. All students will take the AP exam in May.

Textbook:

Calculus. Larson, Hostetler, & Edwards, 1998.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

AP Calculus BC elective

12th Grade

After having completed AP Calculus AB, students receive a review of differential and integral calculus with applications. Major topics include advanced limits, integration by parts, the calculus of parametric, polar and vector-valued equations, and infinite series. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work. All students will take the AP exam in May.

Textbook:

Calculus. Larson, Hostetler, & Edwards, 1998.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

AP Statistics

11- 12th Grade

AP Statistics is an introductory college-level statistics course that introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using technology, problem-solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions. The introduction of sampling distributions provides a logical structure for confidence intervals and significance tests. Students use a TI-83/84 graphing calculator and online applets to investigate statistical concepts. The use of

statistical software is demonstrated, and examples of the output from statistical software are provided. This course requires a considerable amount of reading and writing. Statistics is not a typical math course that focuses on formulas and equations. Instead, it is a course in analyzing, thinking, and writing clearly. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work. All students will take the AP exam in May.

Textbook:

The Practice of Statistics. Bedford, Freeman & Worth High School Publishers, 2020.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

SCIENCE

Through scientific inquiry, with an emphasis on hands-on laboratory activities, all students learn to discover the beauty and truth imbued in the natural world. Students are motivated to use their scientific literacy for the common good as responsible citizens. Every Willows student takes a science course each year, since science is an important part of a rigorous liberal arts education. The curriculum includes biology, chemistry and physics at both middle school and high school levels. Fitted to their developmental stages, students practice both collaborative and independent focused work, equipping them for deep scientific endeavors and careers in any STEM field of their choosing.

Science+Art

6th Grade

Science and art are both human attempts to comprehend and then explain the world around us, motivated by curiosity and wonder. When done successfully and in tandem, they can cause us to see the world in a different light. Artists and scientists tend to approach problems with a similar open-mindedness and inquisitiveness – they both do not fear the unknown, preferring leaps to incremental steps. They make natural partners. At their core, science and art are both about observation and interpretation. Scientists and artists both have to be creative: they both have to develop original ideas and push frontiers. Science and art are similar in that they are expressions of what it is to be human in this world. Both are driven by curiosity, discovery, and the aspiration for knowledge of the world or oneself.

Science+Art is a new interdisciplinary course for our 6th grade scientists that integrates science and art. Science topics include: the rock cycle, plate tectonics, geologic time, natural disasters, energy and ecology, weather, our solar system, stars and galaxies, and an introduction to matter. Art topics include: vocabulary of art, cultural/world significance of art, and the elements of art (color, line, shape, form, value, texture, and space) and principles of design (contrast, rhythm, proportion, balance, unity, emphasis, movement, and variety).

Textbook:

Earth Science. Prentice Hall, 2009.

Weight:

1.0

Life Sciences

7th Grade

Life Sciences studies living things, their relationships to one another, and the processes that allow them to function. The big idea connecting all units for the 7th graders is that of structure fitting function in living things. This survey course will start with the smallest living unit, the cell, and then characterize all organisms of the major kingdoms. By second semester, his knowledge will enable the students to identify and compare the life processes in various members of the animal kingdom, both invertebrates and vertebrates. An introduction to major organ systems in the human body places the human person at the pinnacle of God's creation. Throughout the course students will engage in laboratory activities, especially dissections, in order to develop the observation, data-taking and data-interpretation skills needed for doing science. Throughout the course students will develop best practices for caring for the environment, always keeping the human person as the center of ecological concerns. Field trips usually include the Chicago Botanical Gardens.

Textbook:

Life Science. Prentice Hall, 2009.

Weight:

1.0

Physical Science

8th Grade

The physical science course introduces students to the basic concepts of chemistry and physics and encourages them to ask questions about how the world works. Topics include the composition and states of matter, the structure of atoms, chemical bonding, forces, work and energy, sound, and light. Students are provided with hands-on learning and develop analytical and problem-solving skills through laboratory experiments and engineering challenges. Discussion and reading passages guide students to draw connections between science and everyday life. Carefully performing their own experiments, students record and analyze their own data using appropriate graphic methods.

Textbook:

Physical Science. Prentice Hall, 2009.

Weight:

1.0

Honors Biology

9th Grade

Honors Biology is designed to spark an interest in science by exploring essential topics related to Life! Laboratory work is a key component of the course, allowing students to develop skills used by scientists. Throughout the course - via analysis of data (from labs and beyond), class discussions, and lecture - students examine

characteristics shared by all organisms: interdependence, relationship between structure and function at the micro and macro levels, similarities, diversity within and across various Taxa, and evidence of evolution. An essential aspect of this course is to affirm and protect the dignity of the human person at all stages of life, from fertilization to natural death. We place the human person at the center of ecological and biological concerns, discussing bioethical issues which equips students to think critically about ethical choices that impact the human person at any and all stages of development. Honors Biology course highlights include microscopy, forensic electrophoresis, pond field study, and several dissections (heart, kidneys, and fetal pig).

Textbook:

Biology: Exploring Life. Prentice Hall, 2007.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Chemistry

10th Grade

Chemistry is the study of the structure and properties of matter and how matter changes. Topics covered include atomic structure, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, the states of matter, and chemical equilibrium. Students learn how to use both conceptual and mathematical modeling of natural chemical phenomena, as well as laboratory based inquiries, in order to understand and communicate chemical principles. Students are also introduced to current science news, applying scientific thinking in the classroom, in the lab, and in everyday life, especially highlighting ethical concerns for the human person and creation as applied to chemistry in the community. This course prepares students as responsible citizens and careful consumers. Upon completion of the Honors Chemistry course students are readied for success in further AP or college level science courses and STEM majors or careers.

Textbook:

Modern Chemistry. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2006.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025 for honors, 1.05 for accelerated

Honors Physics

11th Grade

Physics studies relationships between matter and energy. By designing and executing observational and testing experiments, students form conceptual and mathematical models for mechanical systems and how these concepts apply to everyday life situations. Students are required to demonstrate enduring understanding and problem solving skills daily. Through the full-year survey course in Mechanics, students gain a profound understanding of the physical world and a solid foundation for further study in any STEM field.

Textbook:

Physics. Holt, Reinhart and Winston, 2006.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

AP Chemistry

12th Grade

Advanced Placement Chemistry is a laboratory-based course that is designed to be equivalent to a full-year general chemistry lab-based course taken during the first year of college. This course focuses on: states and structure of matter, chemical thermodynamics, physical behavior of gasses, chemical equilibrium and kinetics, and the qualitative and quantitative nature of chemical reactions. Laboratory work emphasizes increased competency in solving chemical calculations and problems, as well as the ability to troubleshoot laboratory methods and analyze and propose explanations for unexpected results. Upon completion of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of chemistry fundamentals, be comfortable using technology to analyze and present laboratory findings, and be prepared to take the Advanced Placement Chemistry exam. This is a foundation course for those interested in life science, pre-medicine, engineering, and applied science.

Textbook:

Chemistry: The Central Science. Brown, LeMay and Bursten. Prentice Hall. 2015, 13th Edition

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

Honors Anatomy & Physiology

12th Grade

As a senior level, non-AP course, this class seeks to provide a broad knowledge of the beauty and complexity of the human body and increase the student's knowledge and

understanding of how the body seeks homeostasis to keep us alive. The course surveys the human body from the molecular to the systems level. Laboratory activities are balanced between microscopic and macroscopic anatomical examination of fresh and preserved organs and organisms and physiological experimentation on their own bodies. Woven through the course, discussions on the ethics of healthcare and medical advancements take place with the goal of affirming and protecting the dignity of the human person from fertilization to natural death. Projects may include presentation of a skin pathology, nutritional controversy research, pharmacological characterization of a well-known drug, shadowing of a health professional, and presentation of a final project. A series of health professionals assist as guest speakers to bring the lessons to life, answer career-based questions, and spark interest in health related fields. Upon completion of the course, students have a good understanding of the biological foundations of their own bodies and personal health, as well as knowledge and skills to help them succeed in any introductory health related college course.

Textbook:

Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology, Marieb and Pearson, Cummings, 8th Ed. (2005)

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

TECHNOLOGY

At Willows, we believe technology is a tool to be directed towards the true good of humanity. Our program seeks to nurture human capacities in a digital world and develop technological competencies. We want our graduates to be person-centered, principled users, seekers and spreaders of truth, and empowered creators who engage the challenges of life.

Willows technology philosophy is lived out in our classrooms as well as through our partnerships with parents, advising, seminar talks, student life, and our school policies.

Willows technology curriculum is addressed in technology and skills classes and integrated into academic courses. Our goal is to refine and expand our technology course offerings, while more clearly articulating features of the curriculum that integrate technology.

Computer Literacy is covered in an interdisciplinary manner through core courses: research writing in History 10, database use in Chemistry 10 and Physics 11; writing intensively during English 11 and English 12.

AP Computer Science

10-12th Grades

Open to 11th and 12th graders; Open to 10th graders with recommendation from the current Math teacher. This course has a prerequisite of Algebra II.

AP Exam is not required.

*This course can be taken as an elective or count as a student's 4th math credit.

Textbook:

Blown to Bits: Your Life Liberty and Happiness After the Digital Explosion (free online)

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1

THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY

We guide your daughter in three core messages:

1. Embracing her identity as a daughter and friend of God.
2. Pursuing a progressively deeper understanding of the Faith and its complementarity with reason.
3. Growing in authentic freedom and responsibility through living out and spreading our Faith in love and service to others.

The Theology Department offers a full seven year curriculum in Theology. The program is designed to provide a comprehensive study of the Roman Catholic faith, sacramental life, and morals. Through this the students develop a progressively deeper understanding of the reasonableness of these teachings, as befitting an academic level equivalent to their other studies. In addition to coursework, students have the opportunity to develop their life of piety, frequent the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance, and receive spiritual direction. The Department also offers a curriculum in Philosophy.

Theology 6: The Commandments

6th Grade

This course focuses on the Commandments of God, the Commandments of the Catholic Church, and an in-depth study of the Holy Mass. Students participate in liturgically oriented activities aimed at promoting growth in a life of prayer, and they also learn basic prayers and Catholic devotions. Class discussions and activities focus on learning and understanding the faith in order to live it and pass it on to others. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of frequent reception of the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist.

Textbook:

Following Christ: Faith and Life series, Book 6. Ignatius Press, 2008

Weight:

1.0

Theology 7: The Sacraments

7th Grade

Students study God's plan of Salvation, the Sacred Scriptures, the Person of Jesus Christ, and the seven Sacraments. Students learn how grace and the Sacraments bring us closer to Christ and help us flourish as daughters of God. Using a variety of

sources, students learn how different saints have lived a life of grace in imitation of Christ. Virtues, including our core values of joy, integrity, excellence, and generosity, are woven into the curriculum to help students develop a strong character in order to transform society for the good.

Textbooks:

The Holy Bible, Ignatius Press

The Life of Grace, Faith and Life Series, Book 7, Ignatius Press, 2005

Giesler, Michael E. *Junia: The Fictional Life and Death of an Early Christian*.

Weight:

1.0

Theology 8: Confirmation and the Church

8th Grade

Semester I: Confirmation

Students develop a comprehensive understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation, how it is related to the Sacrament of Baptism, and its continual effect on a Christian's life of faith. Through their study of the Trinitarian relationships, they come to know the person of the Holy Spirit. Students learn about the Rite of Confirmation, the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, and the saints.

Semester II: Our Role in the Church

Students examine the history of the Catholic Church as well as one's life in the Mystical Body of Christ: namely, a life of virtue, prayer, and vocation. Students develop a deeper understanding of the Church and how they can live out their Catholic faith.

Textbooks:

The Holy Bible, Ignatius Press

Catechism of the Catholic Church, USCCB, 2000

Our Life in the Church, Faith and Life Series, Book 8, Ignatius Press, 2005

Weight:

1.0

Honors Theology 9: Faith and Revelation

9th Grade

Part 1: Creation and the Old Covenant

Students examine God's saving action in history through a careful reading and analysis of Sacred Scripture. The students first look at Natural Theology and the five philosophical proofs for the existence of God. They each memorize and recite a Psalm while learning about the covenants God made with our Jewish forefathers. The class looks closely at the Biblical figures of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, as well as at the great merciful love of God. They read a biography of Dr. Jerome Lejeune, who discovered the origin of Trisomy 21, in order to delve deeper into the dignity with

which God created each person and to observe the virtues Dr. Lejeune lives as a doctor, professor, researcher, husband, and father. Students study and reflect on how he and they themselves live out St. Josemaria's teachings on sanctifying work.

Part 2: ReCreation through the New Covenant

Students study how Jesus Christ fulfills the Old Testament Covenant promises and prophecies, shedding his blood as mediator of the universal and eternal New Covenant in which marriage participates. By comparing St. John's Prologue with the Creation accounts in Genesis, they recognize the redemptive climax of Christ's mission: to make us children of God. In groups, students create films on women in the Old and New Testaments to show how they exemplify the cardinal virtues and how the lives of those who knew Christ were changed by him. Upon reading the Gospel of St. Matthew and the Letter to Hebrews, the class examines arguments for Christ's divinity, looking closely at His Resurrection, and studies the foundation of His Church. The course concludes by uncovering Mary's role as the Ark of the Covenant. Throughout the entire year, the class endeavors to get to know and love Jesus Christ, to have a personal relationship with Him. Weekly chapel periods facilitate this, as well as their reading of a biography of Montserrat Graces, a girl who died at eighteen and is currently in the process of canonization.

Textbooks:

The Didache Bible. Ignatius Bible Edition, 2015.

Cejas, Jose Miguel. *Like Any Other: A Girl Named Montse*. Scepter, 1998.

Faith and Revelation. Didache Semester Series. MTF, 2010.

Hahn, Scott. *Hail Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God*. Image, 2001.

Lejeune-Gaynard, Clara. *Life is a Blessing: A Biography of Jerome Lejeune*. The National Catholic Bioethics Center, 2010.

Understanding the Scriptures. Didache Semester Series. MTF, 2010.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Theology 10: The Blessed Trinity, the Sacraments, and Mary **10th Grade**

Part 1: The Blessed Trinity

Students study of the Unity of God, as well as of each of the Three Divine Persons: the Father as creator, provident in our relationship with him as his daughters; the Son Incarnate, Jesus Christ, in his divine and human natures and historical presence; the Holy Spirit and his presence in the soul in grace and the Church as it is willed by our

Lord Jesus Christ. This is accomplished through a careful study of the Gospel of St John, St Paul's Letter to the Romans, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Part 2: The Sacraments and Mary, the Mother of God

Students study the seven sacraments as they were revealed to mankind, foreshadowed in the Old Testament and completed in the New Testament. Students study the Book of Revelation to deepen their understanding of the Holy Mass as the Culmination of the Christian Life. The course concludes with a study of Mary the Mother of God.

Textbooks:

The Holy Bible (RSV)

Catechism of the Catholic Church, USCCB, 2000.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Theology 11: Moral Theology

11th Grade

Part 1: What is man?

This class provides a thorough study of moral theology. Students begin with a look at metaphysics so that they are better able to understand philosophical concepts about man and his final end, and then relate them to theological principles. The first semester continues with a careful study of freedom, grace, conscience, law, natural law and virtue.

Part 2: The Moral Law

The second half of the course will carefully consider the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes so that students know well their moral obligations and how to uphold them. As a whole, this course endeavors to provide a framework for a moral life and give the students the confidence and terminology to be able to articulate their beliefs.

Textbooks:

The Holy Bible (RSV)

Catechism of the Catholic Church, USCCB, 2000

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Theology 12: Mulieris Fortis

12th Grade

This course is designed as a college seminar course with a heavy emphasis on reading, reflection, and class discussion. The year begins with the study of the ten Christian Anthropology topics. Students are required to read a short passage each night and be ready for discussion the following day. Readings include excerpts from philosophy, theology and literature. Topics covered include man is rational, man is corporeal and spiritual, man is social , and man is a worker.

Weight:

0.025

The Capstone Project

12th Grade

The Capstone Project is a writing and presentation project. This multifaceted assignment is a crowning project that will demonstrate students' learning, intellectual skills and discipline as they acquire in-depth knowledge of a current cultural phenomenon in light of the human experience and moral truth. While the Capstone is something students begin working on in the early fall, the majority of the writing will take place in February, followed by the individual presentations and corresponding discussions in April and May.

Textbook:

Selected readings to be distributed by the instructor at the start of the year.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Philosophy: Justice, Law and Freedom

9th-12th Grades

What is justice? What injustices exist in our community, our country, our world and how might we resolve them? Is law necessary for a flourishing society? What are the characteristics of good law? Is true freedom possible in today's 'cancel culture'? Students examine these and other questions from a philosophical standpoint, that is, reason reflecting upon reality. Students study works of Plato, Josef Pieper, Viktor Frankl, and others and films such as *True Grit* and *The Winslow Boy* to discuss the problems we face, looking to what is true and what is good. This course is designed as an elective course for grades 9-12. No prior study of philosophy is required. Students requesting to take Philosophy for a Theology credit must meet with the Head of School.

Elective Weight:

0.25

Independent Study Weight:

1.0

Independent Study Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

WORLD LANGUAGES

The World Languages Department offers modern romance languages. (French and Spanish). As students become proficient in second language skills, they acquire grammar, pronunciation, reading and writing skills, and an awareness of cultural nuances that will allow them to successfully communicate in a globally connected world. Students will develop an understanding of and appreciation for different cultures while examining their own social and cultural milieux with a fresh perspective. The study of a world language is a progressive experience and implies progressive acquisition of linguistic skills. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are emphasized.

Introductory Latin is an elective for any high school student. The approach to this course is treating Latin more like a modern language, reading and writing in Latin right from the start. This course is not meant for students who have already taken extensive Latin background courses.

World Language Course Selection Criteria for Heritage Speakers

The Willows World Language program is designed to offer students a rigorous curriculum in a foreign language, either French or Spanish. Heritage learners are students who have been exposed to French or Spanish in their homes or communities from a young age. As a consequence of that early exposure, they can understand and/or speak the language and have a personal connection to it.

Definition of a Heritage Speaker: “a student who is raised in a home where a non-English language is spoken, who speaks or merely understands the heritage language and who is to some degree bilingual in English and the heritage language” (Valdés, 2000)

Heritage language speakers usually possess a level of foreign language competence that far exceeds the level of typical students learning a foreign language for the first time.

- Heritage speakers who have some oral proficiency and have internalized basic grammatical structures have mastered the focus of the Level I and II language courses.
- Heritage language speakers who have had formal schooling in their heritage language have usually mastered the advanced vocabulary and grammar taught in the Level III courses.
- Heritage speakers can usually benefit from the Advanced Placement curriculum focused on language and culture.

Therefore, Spanish Heritage Speakers taking a language for the first time at Willows should register for Honors French I, and French Heritage speakers taking a language for the first time at Willows should register for Honors Spanish I.

Heritage speakers may change language programs at the level that would best meet her instructional needs. At the end of their second year of their non-heritage language, heritage speakers will have an opportunity to take an assessment in their heritage language to determine what level would be most effective to change language programs.

The ultimate decision for language course selection is under the discretion and approval of the Administration and the World Language Department Head.

Honors French I

8th–9th Grade

French I is a communicative introduction to the French language and the diversity of Francophone culture. Audio CDs complement a variety of interactive activities and cultural notes provided by the textbook. The activities help build competency in each of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students acquire functional vocabulary and grammar. They are exposed to regular and irregular verbs in the present and past tense. Frequent quizzes and chapter tests provide ongoing assessment of student progress.

Textbook:

Discovering French. Nouveau I McDougal Littell

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Spanish I

8th–9th Grade

Spanish I is a communicative beginning level course which introduces Spanish language and the cultural diversity of the Spanish speaking world. Students begin to develop proficiency through extensive interaction in the target language. Each unit of the textbook includes a variety of interactive activities and cultural notes. The activities help build competency in each of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students acquire functional vocabulary and grammar. They are exposed to the present and past tense, to stem changing verbs, reflexive verbs, and the use of *gustar*.

Textbook:

TBD

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors French II

9th – 10th Grade

In French II students continue to review and build upon the basic knowledge gained in French I and to reinforce the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is placed on perfecting pronunciation, mastering basic grammatical structures and increased communicative proficiency. Functional vocabulary is expanded. Students are exposed to the past, future, and conditional tenses, and to reflexive verbs, and will be expected to apply these to their writing and speaking. As in French I, frequent quizzes and chapter tests provide ongoing assessment of progress.

Textbook:

Discovering French Nouveau II McDougal Littell

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors French III

10th-11th Grade

French III introduces all of the major tenses as well as new vocabulary, grammatical structures and expressions. Authentic readings are discussed and written about or dramatized, and students become familiar with some of the most important moments in French history, art, music and literature. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing continue to be stressed, complemented by an extensive listening

component that accompanies the textbook. Students expand their vocabulary range and work to include more sophisticated terms, advanced language expressions, verb tenses and grammatical concepts such as the subjunctive mood. Students will research and present different cultural aspects of Francophone culture.

Textbook:

Discovering French Nouveau III McDougal Littell. 2007
French-English Dictionary recommended.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors French IV

11th-12th Grade

Honors French IV is intended as an advanced course in French language and culture. The goal in this class is to increase proficiency in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing using Francophone literature, film excerpts, podcasts, and video clips as a springboard for practice and cultural enrichment. All verb tenses are reviewed, and more complex grammatical structures (sequences of tenses) are expected to be used by students in oral and written discourse at this level. French is used for all class activities, including multiple oral presentations.

Textbook:

T'es branché ? 4, Carnegie Learning, 2014
French/ English (college level) dictionary is recommended.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

AP French IV

12th Grade

The AP French Language and Culture course takes a holistic approach to language proficiency and recognizes the complex interrelatedness of comprehension and comprehensibility, vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies and cultural awareness. Students learn language structures in context and use them to convey meaning. Students who enroll should already have an intermediate knowledge of the French language and Francophone culture, and should have attained proficiency in using the language. This course will help prepare students to demonstrate their level of French proficiency across three communicative modes (interpersonal [interactive communication], Interpretive [receptive communication], and presentational [productive communication]). The goal in this class is to increase

proficiency and accuracy in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing using Francophone literature, film excerpts, podcasts, and video clips as a springboard for practice and cultural enrichment. This course will also engage students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. Class is conducted in French; students are expected to speak French at all times. Ample practice time specific to the AP examination will be provided.

Textbook:

Authentic resources, in accordance with CollegeBoard

Tes branché ? 4, Carnegie Learning, 2014

Thèmes: AP French Language and Culture, Vista Higher Learning, 2016

AP French. Pearson, 2012.

APprenons 2nd Edition Wayside Publishing 2015

French/ English (college level) dictionary is recommended.

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Spanish I

8th- 9th Grade

Spanish I is a communicative beginning level course which introduces Spanish language and the cultural diversity of the Spanish speaking world. Students begin to develop proficiency through extensive interaction in the target language. Each unit of the textbook includes a variety of interactive activities and cultural notes. The activities help build competency in each of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students acquire functional vocabulary and grammar. They are exposed to the present and past tense, to stem changing verbs, reflexive verbs, and the use of *gustar*.

Textbook:

TBD

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Spanish II

9th – 10th Grade

Spanish II builds upon knowledge gained in Spanish I. This course continues to reinforce the skills learned in Spanish I: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is placed on perfecting pronunciation, mastery of the basic grammatical structures, and increased communicative proficiency. Functional vocabulary is

expanded. Students are exposed to the past, present perfect, future and conditional tenses as well as the imperative and subjunctive moods. They are expected to apply them to their writing and speaking.

Textbook:

TBD

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Spanish III

10th - 11th Grade

Spanish III is a continuation and elaboration of the knowledge and skills gained in Spanish I and II, as well as an introduction to new vocabulary, grammatical structures and expressions. Emphasis is placed on increased opportunities to use the language through speaking, writing, reading and listening. Students will expand their vocabulary range to include more advanced terminology, expressions, verb tenses and grammatical concepts such as the subjunctive mood. Students will learn about different cultural aspects of Spain and Latin-American countries.

Textbook:

TBD

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

Honors Spanish IV

11th - 12th Grade

Spanish IV is intended as an advanced course in Spanish language and culture. Students will learn to communicate in and understand advanced Spanish through literary texts, oral presentations and grammatical exercises. Students are expected to learn and contextualize a more sophisticated vocabulary. All verb tenses are reviewed, and more complex grammatical structures (sequence of tenses) are applied by students in oral and written discourse at this level.

Textbook:

TBD

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.025

AP Spanish IV

12th Grade

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course takes a holistic approach to language proficiency and recognizes the complex interrelatedness of comprehension and comprehensibility, vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies and cultural awareness. Students learn language structures in context and use them to convey meaning. Students who enroll should already have an intermediate knowledge of the language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world and should have attained fluency. This course will help prepare students to demonstrate their level of Spanish proficiency across three communicative modes (interpersonal [interactive communication], Interpretive [receptive communication], and presentational [productive communication]). The goal in this class is to increase proficiency and accuracy in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, using literature, film excerpts, podcasts and video clips in Spanish as a springboard for practice and cultural enrichment. The course will also engage students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. Class is conducted in Spanish; students are expected to speak Spanish at all times. Ample practice specific to the AP Spanish Language examination will be given.

Textbook:

Various authentic resources, in accordance with College Board
AP Spanish Preparing for the Language and Culture Examination, Fourth Edition. Pearson
Prentice Hall 2014
Additional text TBD

Weight:

1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only):

1.1