

STELLER SECONDARY SCHOOL

2018 - 19 1st SEMESTER COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BOB

PERIOD 1

LANGUAGE ARTS SPECIAL TOPICS

Grade Level: 7 - 8
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 English Elective

This class is designed to cover the basics of studying the material found in Language Arts. The end goal is to teach skills and tools so that students can research, learn, and complete work in the Language Arts independently. We will look at the different methods of note taking, study the different genres of literature, and cover the most common assessment activities within Language Arts. The semester will culminate with a month-long project that incorporates all of their practice, plus focus on goal setting and time management.

PERIOD 3

AMERICAN PLAYS AND PLAYWRIGHTS

Grade Level: 9 - 12
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 American Literature / English Elective

We will be exploring mainly modern American plays and their authors throughout the quarter. We will learn what makes plays a unique piece of literature, read through plays, discuss aspects of the works, place them in historical/stylistic perspective, and have fun with them.

PERIOD 4

ESSAY COMPOSITION

Grade Level: 7 - 8
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 Writing

Essay Composition is Steller's introductory writing course. We will focus on the building blocks of writing: plagiarism, sentence structure, grammar and mechanics, paragraph construction, as well as Narrative and Descriptive essays. We will be using a number of different activities to help writers of all levels advance their skills. An emphasis on writing as a process will be used throughout the course.

PERIOD 5

MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 World Literature / English Elective

The Dark Ages denotes a time of strife, destruction, and lack of advancement. This misnomer has been cast away with the current understanding that society was constantly changing and that there were high achievements in math, science, art, and literature. We will be focusing on the last item throughout this course by delving into the major literary forms of the time through discussing their purpose, reading selections, and assessing the merits of their ideas, as well as their aesthetic appeal, in a modern world.

PERIOD 6

DRAMATIC LITERATURE

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 English Elective

This class is an introduction to reading and analyzing plays. We will look at the unique aspects of the play as a genre as well as the nature of reading something (usually) meant to be watched. We will bounce around the U.S. and the world reading plays and looking at the historical literary time period that produced them.

BECKY

PERIOD 1 & 4 ALASKA STUDIES

Grade Level: 9 - 12
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 AK Studies Social Studies

Native peoples, geography, historic influences, economic concerns, fishing and hunting rights, outdoor experiences, and the future of Anchorage will be included in the wide array of topics in Alaska Studies. Students will develop projects, research, seminar, construct maps, and create plans for the future.

PERIOD 2

ADVANCED COMPOSITION

Grade Level: 11 - 12
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 English Composition

Advanced composition is a college-preparatory writing class that will focus on analysis, interpretation, research, documentation and assessment of sources, persuasion, and synthesis. The idea is to use a variety of sources and to make this as entertaining as possible. Projects and interactive assignments will form the basis of some of the writing, while others will be developed from reading.

PERIOD 3 & 6

DRAMA

Grade Level: 7 - 8
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 Middle School Language Arts Elective

Drama students will engage in theater production activities in acting, improvisation, set design, costumes, dramatic literature, voice and props. Come to class prepared to play.

DANIELLE

PERIOD 4

INTERMEDIATE COMPOSITION

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 Intermediate Composition

Students will practice writing for different purposes with a focus on reviewing and improving the expository and persuasive essay and personal essay. Students will also become familiar with citing sources using a standard method of documentation. Understanding writing as a process will be a major focus; students will gain a working knowledge of the steps in this process, from pre-writing to final drafts. Special emphasis will be placed on revision as well as building grammar and vocabulary skills.

PERIOD 5 & 6

8TH GRADE SEMINAR

Grade Level: 8

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 Language Arts Seminar and .50 Social Studies Seminar

This class is Steller's introduction to Socratic Seminar. The course's reading will cover historical literature, some fiction and philosophy. All of the reading will be done in class. Homework consists of writing responses to what we read in class. Students will learn and practice essay writing in addition to developing their group discussion and critical thinking skills. Acquiring new vocabulary from the readings will also be emphasized.

****Juniors and seniors interested in seminar coaching should talk to Danielle before registration.****

ROSA

PERIOD 1 & 2

SPANISH I

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 World Language / Elective - .50 Per Semester

¡Bienvenidos a todos! A fun introduction to the Spanish language and Spanish/Latin culture. You will have lots of fun learning to speak about yourself, your needs and what you like to do in a new language. Communication will be our emphasis.

PERIOD 3

HEALTH & WELLNESS/LIFE SKILLS

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 Physical Education / Elective

This class will be focused on the basic skills everyone needs! We will be practicing yoga and meditation, learning some basic cooking skills and nutrition, improving our understanding of banking, taxes, and loans, doing some community service, and more! This course will serve as an overview to knowledge about healthy living.

PERIOD 4

SPANISH III

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Pre-requisite: Spanish II or approval from teacher

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 Elective - Upon completion of 2nd semester, students receive .50 Social Studies Elective Credit

Continuaremos hablar, leer y escribir el español. Mucha participación oral con presentaciones orales, música, composiciones y una novela. We will be studying grammar through reading of a short novel, short stories and current events.

PERIOD 5

SPANISH IV+

Grade Level: 10 - 12

Pre-requisite: Spanish III or approval from teacher

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 Elective

Leeremos cuentos hispanos y los eventos actuales. Estudiaremos la gramática avanzada. Todos van a dar presentaciones orales. This semester we will focus on developing interpretive and interpersonal language skills.

NEW TEACHER

PERIOD 3 & 6

SPANISH II

Grade Level: 8 - 12

Pre-requisite: Spanish I or approval from teacher

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 World Language / Elective - .50 Per Semester

¡Bienvenido a tu segundo año de español! Vamos a hablar y leer mucho. También, vamos a estudiar el pasado. This year we will talk about family, friends and vacations. We will read a short novel and perform skits and oral presentations.

LEIGH ANNE

PERIOD 1

MOCK TRIAL

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 Speech, .50 English Elective, or .50 Social Studies Elective

Are you interested in the legal system? Thinking of becoming a lawyer? Or do you just like a good debate? This class will explore the court system and trial procedure. During this class, students will work with a law firm to prepare cases, prep witnesses, and participate in trials. They will also stand in as witnesses and jury members during other cases. All students must participate as lawyers and witnesses! Students will be expected to read case files, which can be long.

PERIOD 2 & 6

WORLD HISTORY

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 (.50 per semester) World History

This course will focus on the world's history. The class will be organized thematically, with topics that include early hunter and gatherers, ancient civilizations, exploration, war and conflict, expansion, and the modern era. Geography, humanities, religions, government, economy, society, science, and technology are some of the themes/perspectives by which these areas of the world will be explored. Students will explore these topics through a variety of methods and material, including primary documents, simulations, and projects.

PERIOD 4

SOCIAL ACTIVISM & JUSTICE SEMINAR

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 Social Studies Elective or .50 World Literature

This class is will be taught using the Socratic Seminar method and will focus on social movements and activism that worked or are working to solve issues of social justice. Topics include how movements are started and sustained; specific social movements, such as the feminist movement and civil rights movement; and a look at current movements, such as the student gun control movement. Teaching methods will rely on the Socratic method of coaching in small groups, writing about the written work, and holding seminar discussions as a whole class. ALL students will be expected to participate in small group and whole class discussions.

PERIOD 5

CROSS TRAINING

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 Physical Education

This course is designed to introduce students to cross-training. Cross-training utilizes a variety of activities which involve varying muscles, intensity and impact on different days. Students will participate in at least two different aerobic activities and at least one strength training and/or muscular endurance activity weekly which utilizes body core stability. Students will acquire knowledge needed to develop a lifetime fitness plan, as well as an appreciation of how it feels to be physically fit. Mondays will be spent doing circuit training and Wednesday and Fridays we will be focused on various activities; such as running, biking, ultimate frisbee, gym hockey and others due to student interest and weather.

KEN

PERIOD 1 - 3

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Grade Level: 11 - 12

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: .50 United States History Per Semester

This year-long study of US History will begin with the French and Indian War and bring us to the present. While the potential class content is huge, we'll look at topics that are of particular interest to the class and spend more time on them where appropriate. Course work will include group work, cooperative group work, some lecture, and various other activities. Tests will be essay and some map work.

PERIOD 2

MEDIA LITERACY

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 Social Studies Elective

The semester will focus on the social issues surrounding the consumption of mass media today. We are constantly being bombarded with information of various types from all kinds of mass media including, social networks, email, text messages, cable, satellite, radio, television, and print media. Knowing the methods behind the messages is critical to becoming an informed and active citizen in a democracy. The skills learned in this class will help students gain a better understanding of these media influences and how to deal effectively with all types of media. Course work will include group work, cooperative group work, some lecture, and various other activities.

PERIOD 5

PSYCHOLOGY

Grade Level: 7 - 8

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 Middle School Social Studies Elective

We'll be looking at the mind and how it works in this class. In particular, we'll look at what psychology can teach us about how we can maximize our potential for learning, performance, and building better relationships with others. Students will participate in experiments and grading will be based on essay tests, participation, and a final project.

PERIOD 6

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FIELD STUDIES

Grade Level: 11 - 12

Course Length: Semester

Credit Count: .50 Government

Students will spend the quarter working on a local political campaign of their choice doing whatever the campaign manager or volunteer coordinator or both need to have done in support of their candidate. Students are expected to log at least 40 hours on their respective campaigns and may volunteer beyond the end of the quarter to work up to the election.

The second half of the semester will focus on constitutional issues and the basic structure of the federal government. Course work will include group work, cooperative group work, some lecture, and various other activities. Tests will be essay and some map work.

SVETLANA

PERIOD 2, 3, 4

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Grade Level: 7 - 8
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 Social Studies

The scope of the course will include physical, economic, environmental and cultural geography. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the impact that geography has on the social, cultural and economic life of a region. Students will give examples that demonstrate how people are connected to each other and the environment, use maps and globes to demonstrate specific and increasingly complex geographic knowledge, and identify physical characteristics of places and use this knowledge to define regions, their relationships among regions and their patterns of changes.

PERIOD 5

HEALTH

Grade Level: 8
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 Middle School Health

This course offers effective health instruction methods that are active and promote personal responsibility, lifelong learning, critical thinking, cooperation, and use interdisciplinary approaches. The major topic areas include personal health, nutrition, physical development, social development, substance abuse and use. Further studies will include human sexuality. Parents/community are invited to view the materials. These areas are interrelated and lead to total positive functioning of the individual in his/her environment. Health education aids the individual in making informed choices. Students will practice reflective, active observation and examination of their choices and the affect on personal, family and social well-being.

PHILIP

PERIOD 2, 4, 5

DRAWING & DESIGN

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: .50 Elective

Class Fee: \$25

Supplies: Students will also need to provide materials as instructed after the first day of class.

Introductory course to drawing materials (pastels, crayon, paint and mixed media, pencil, pen and ink, charcoal), drawing techniques such as contour, gesture, perspective, shading and design concepts. Studio course emphasizing the principles of composition, color theory, value and tonal studies. May be taken 4 times.

PERIOD 3 & 6

BIOLOGY

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 Life Science - .50 per semester

This course is designed to study life starting from the microscopic and moving into the macroscopic world. The class will emphasize using the scientific method for research, and content areas will include, but not be limited to: chemistry of life, cell structure, genetics, evolution, animal behavior, botany, and ecology.

MIKE

PERIOD 1

Microbiology

Grade Level: 11 - 12

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 Life Science - .50 per semester

This is a two semester class but you may choose to take one or both semster.

Semester 1 covers the principles of microbiology with emphasis on microorganisms and human disease. Topics include an overview of microbiology and aspects of medical microbiology, bacterial structure as it relates to staining and antibiotic susceptibility, as well as identification and control of pathogens and disease transmission. Historical aspects of diseases and their impacts, differences in ethical considerations over time, as well as the beginnings of epidemiology as a science will also be covered.

PERIOD 1, 2, 4

INTEGRATED SCIENCE - BIOLOGICAL & CHEMICAL SCIENCE

Grade Level: 7 - 8

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 Physical Science - .50 per semester

Qtr. 1 - Biological Science provides an introduction to biology and the life sciences. In this class we define the cell as the basic unit of life as we explore single cell microorganisms, and work our way through both the plant and animal kingdoms. As conditions permit projects will include hatching duck eggs and raising plants so we can see the changes that occur with growth and development.

Qtr. 2 - Chemical Science traces the development of chemistry through the early alchemists (transforming coins into gold) through the Bohr atom. We will study the periodic table, and come to understand its relationship to both the structure of the elements and their chemical properties. The relationship between life on earth and chemistry will be discussed, along with the role that chemistry might play in meeting our future energy needs in a sustainable manner.

PERIOD 5 & 6

CHEMISTRY

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 Physical Science .50 Per Semester

This class provides an introduction into the principals of chemistry. Topics covered include the physical nature of matter, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, types of chemical reactions, as well as the chemical and physical properties of gases, liquids, and solids. Grading will be based on tests, quizzes, as well as the laboratory component of the course.

BRIAN

PERIOD 1

PHYSICS

Grade Level: 10 - 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 Physical Science .50 Per Semester

Physics is a language that quantitatively describes everything; it is the truth. Do you need any other reason to take this class?! In Semester 1, we will learn how to combine real world experiments with mathematics to describe the world in terms of forces, energy, and movement. Our lab is equipped with software and hardware typical of many college labs in chemistry and physics so this class will give you meaningful experience collecting and analyzing real data. Who should take this class? College-bound students, curious individuals, philosophers, all medical practitioners, trades workers, athletes, feminists, sports therapists, engineers, inventors, financial professionals, mathematicians, pilots, hunters, physical laborers, drivers, etc...

PERIOD 2, 5, 6

INTEGRATED SCIENCE - PHYSICAL

Grade Level: 7 - 8

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 Physical Science .50 Per Semester

You need to know this stuff! Physical Science will help you understand the world through the lens of science and help you communicate your results scientifically. The course uses an interactive notebook model which allows you to build strong organizational and study skills as you create your own textbook based on the course's topics. Semester 1 covers the science that rules your everyday life, called Newton's Laws. Also, you will learn what 'energy' really is and how it works for and against us. In case understanding your world isn't enough, we will also improve our knowledge of scientific measurements, research-based methods, and understanding scientific writing.

PERIOD 3

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or talk to Brian

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 Physical Science .50 Per Semester

Do you want to build a mouse trap car that will stop on a dime? Can you design a rubber band plane that will out fly them all? Can you keep time with a chemical reaction? Join me for a class that will blend the application of physics and engineering with creativity and innovation. We will have a Science Olympiad type challenge for each unit of study that will bring the associated science and calculations to life. Success in this class will include improving your ability to use math and science in real life challenges, studying and practicing the application of quantitative science, and applying quality research to design. There will be an opportunity to compete in statewide Science Olympiad Challenges through the formation of a team or in other individual competitions.

MARLA

PERIOD 1

PRE-ALGEBRA

Grade Level: 7 - 8
Course Length: Year
Credit Count: 1 Middle School Math

This course is designed to prepare students for success in an algebra course. The emphasis will be on continued development of pattern recognition, computational skills, elementary algebra topics, geometric relationships, problems solving and the use of technology.

PERIOD 2

MATH 7

Grade Level: 7
Course Length: Year
Credit Count: 1 Middle School Math

Students will practice and improve their number sense, measure sense, and estimation skills. They will review and extend their arithmetic, calculator, and thinking skills by working with fractions, decimals, percents, large and small numbers, and negative numbers, variables, expressions, equations, graphing, and other algebra topics.

PERIOD 3

PEER-TAUGHT BY ALASTAR SLATER: COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Grade Level: 8 - 12
Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 Elective Credit

Computer Programming 101 will introduce students to the world of computer programming, and will teach students how to problem solve and write software to solve problems in a loose functional style in the programming language Python. Students will learn the basic concepts that are found in most programming languages nowadays, from if-statements, variables, functions, looping, as well as methods of increasing readability of their programs. Additionally, students will learn of some of the basic concepts to functional programming, such as recursion. This class is geared towards beginners to programming, so no prior knowledge is necessary.

PERIOD 4

STATISTICS

Grade Level: 11 - 12

Course Length: Year

Prerequisite: C or better in both Algebra II and Pre-Calculus

Credit Count: 1 High School Math

This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics. Statistics is a High School Electives Course that includes the topics - measures of central tendency, standard deviation, combinations and permutations, probability, sampling, and various distributions. Emphasis is on applications of statistical concepts.

PERIOD 5 & 6

ALGEBRA II

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Year

Prerequisite: C or better in both Algebra I and Geometry

Credit Count: 1 High School Math

This course includes problem solving, data analysis, the use of technology (i.e., graphing calculator, computer), basic operations with polynomials, solving equations and inequalities, sequences and series, relations and functions, systems of equations in two and three variables, understanding and operations with matrices, irrational and complex numbers through the solution of quadratic functions and polynomial functions of higher than first degree, use and evaluation of the Euler number, and an introduction to logarithms.

JASON

PERIOD 1 & 2

ALGEBRA 1

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 High School Math (satisfies graduation requirement)

The course reviews and extends problem solving, data analysis, the use of technology (i.e., scientific calculator, graphing calculator, computer), the theory, use and understanding of the fundamental operations on real numbers, expressing quantitative statements in the language of algebra, solving equations and inequalities, polynomials, the use of rational expressions in equations, coordinate graphing, irrational numbers, solution of quadratic equations and related applications.

Middle School Students: To receive high school credit for this course student must earn a grade of C or better.

PERIOD 3 & 5

GEOMETRY

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Year

Credit Count: 1 High School Math

This course is designed to prepare students for success in an algebra course. The emphasis will be on continued development of pattern recognition, computational skills, elementary algebra topics, geometric relationships, problems solving and the use of technology.

PERIOD 4

CALCULUS

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: Year

Prerequisite: C or better in both Algebra II and Pre-Calculus

Credit Count: 1 High School Math

This course is introductory college level material. The student is expected to meet this college level workload to be successful. This course includes the study of functions and graphs, derivatives and their application, analytic geometry, limits and continuity and includes the use of current technology.

TROY

PERIOD 1, 4, 6

RECREATIONAL GAMES

Grade Level: 7 - 12
Course Length: Semester
Credit Count: .50 Physical Education

The purpose of this course is to offer a variety of activities to the student who enjoys the fun of games. The games will be recreational in nature. These activities may include: dodgeball, ultimate frisbee, floor hockey and kickball. This course will also provide opportunities to improve physical fitness, acquire knowledge of fitness concepts, practice positive personal and social skills and gain an understanding of how a wellness lifestyle affects one's health, fitness and physical performance.

PERIOD 2

PRE-ALGEBRA

Grade Level: 7 - 8
Course Length: Year
Credit Count: 1 Middle School Math

This course is designed to prepare students for success in an algebra course. The emphasis will be on continued development of pattern recognition, computational skills, elementary algebra topics, geometric relationships, problems solving and the use of technology.

PERIOD 5

Pre-Calculus

Grade Level: 11 - 12
Course Length: Year
Prerequisite: C or better in both Algebra II and Geometry
Credit Count: 1 High School Math

This course covers logarithmic and exponential functions, analytic geometry, introduction to limits and the derivative, sequences and series, circular and trigonometric functions, graphs, laws, identities, inverses and their applications, vectors and complex numbers. The emphasis of this course is on the concepts that build toward understanding calculus. It follows an applications approach and uses graphing calculators and other appropriate technology.

