



Altus Institute
The Charter School of San Diego

COURSE CATALOG

2009-2010



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Official School Correspondence

All correspondence for the school
and its staff should be mailed to:
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ABOUT THE SCHOOL

In 1994 The Charter School of San Diego (CSSD) became San Diego Unified School District's first charter school and the 28th in the State of California.

CSSD is a public school designed for 7-12 grade students who seek an option to the traditional approach to education. Students receive a personalized and rigorous academic experience from a highly qualified staff in a safe and supportive environment. CSSD functions as an intervention for students at risk of not graduating. CSSD students may choose to stay at CSSD to complete the requirements for their high school diploma, the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE), or the General Education Diploma (GED), or return to their resident school.

CSSD's Mission—*Why We Exist*

- To implement personalized educational programs to facilitate student achievement.
- To provide a prototype for changing the way teachers teach and students learn in the future.

CSSD's Vision—*What We Strive To Be*

- An education option that offers a personalized instructional program that demonstrates positive outcomes for each student.
- A prototype for education reform that creates instructional, service, organizational, and governance role models.
- A collaboration of efforts that improves the quality of life for students, their families, our employees, and the San Diego community-at-large.

CSSD's Values—*How We Do Our Work*

- Kids come first.
- Education is personalized, individualized and high quality.
- Highly professional individuals are accountable for their work, and are independent, self-motivated, high-energy people who speak for themselves.
- We create a positive, challenging environment that is centered on teaching and learning.
- People-centered teams focus on supporting quality teaching and learning.
- Manage the school with proven business principles focusing on continuous improvement.
- Performance is measured on a variety of indicators that include productivity, credit ratio, auditability, quality, performance, and commitment to the vision of CSSD.

ENGLISH

English 7-1, 7-2 (A1501a, A1501b)

Grade: 7

This two-semester course includes the study of literature in major genres: short story, drama, nonfiction, poetry, fable, myth, legend and the novel. Activities emphasize writing, oral communication, spelling, vocabulary, grammar and usage. A variety of writing styles and essay types are emphasized.

English 8-1 and 8-2 (A1520a, A1520b)

Grade: 8

This two-semester course includes the study of literature in major genres: short story, drama, nonfiction, poetry, fable, myth, legend and the novel. Activities emphasize writing, oral communication, spelling, vocabulary, grammar and usage. A variety of writing styles and essay types are emphasized.

English 1, 2 (A1540, A1541)

Grade: 9

This two-semester course includes the study of literature in major genres: short story, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and the novel. Activities emphasize reading, writing, oral communication, and standard English grammar and usage. A variety of writing styles and essay types are emphasized. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

English 3, 4 (A1570, A1571)

Grade: 10

This two-semester course includes the study

of literature in major genres: short story, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and the novel. Activities emphasize reading, writing, oral communication, and standard English grammar and usage. A variety of writing styles and essay types are emphasized. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

American Literature 1, 2 (A1583, A1584)

Grade: 11

This two-semester course emphasizes skills and strategies for independent reading, analyzing, and writing about works of American literature, with a focus on how that literature reflects social, political, and moral issues in the U.S. Reading, writing, oral communication, and language study are emphasized in this course. The goal is to encourage students to communicate effectively in various forms. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Contemporary Voices in Literature 1, 2 (A1612, A1613)

Grade: 11, 12

This two-semester course meets the English requirements for grades 11 or 12, or it can be taken as an elective. Students explore issues by American and world writers who are writing today. These writers come from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Students write for various purposes and audiences. The course integrates all aspects of literacy: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

English Literature 1, 2 (1641, 1642)

Grade: 9-12

In this two-semester course students will explore classic works of literature developed in the British Isles over the last 1,000 years. Students develop the ability to use varying approaches to writing and the develop the ability to use new vocabulary terms within this writing. Activities emphasize reading, writing, and standard English grammar and usage. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

World Literature 1, 2 (A1705, A1706)

Grade: 11, 12

In this two-semester course students will explore genres through exposure to works by writers from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Students explore how the development of technology has impacted language usage. Students write for various purposes and audiences and exhibit their ability to integrate all aspects of literacy: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Journalism 1, 2 (A1960, A1961)

Grade: 9-12

This two-semester elective course introduces students to the basic techniques of journalistic writing. Students will explore the concept of freedom of press and its implications for contemporary American culture. This course will prepare students for involvement with both local and school-related publications. Students will learn to meet deadlines, conduct interviews, perform evaluations, and familiar-

ize themselves with editing procedures. In addition, students will learn to utilize a variety of informational sources, critique the unique aspects of a newspaper, and apply grammar, punctuation and vocabulary appropriately. In addition to these activities, students will maintain an individual portfolio which will contain major course assignments along with reflections regarding course activities. This portfolio will be representative of the course goals and objectives.

Writer's Workshop 1, 2 (A1745N, A1746N)

Grade: 9-12

This two-semester elective course provides instruction in the process of writing for different purposes and audiences. Students will demonstrate competency in the process of composition, while becoming familiar with various styles of writing. Students will gain practice editing and revising their own original works, while developing critical thinking skills and improving their use of the English language. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

CAHSEE Support ELA (Grammar in Use – Part 1)

Grade: 10-12

This one-semester course is specifically designed for 10th-12th grade students that have not passed the English Language Arts section of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

This course is designed to improve reading and writing skills and provide students with standardized test prep strategies to apply to the ELA section of the CAHSEE.



MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra 1, 2 (7th grade) (A4001a, A4001b)

Grade: 7

This course is required of all 7th grade students. This course lays the foundation for Algebra 1 and focuses on the following key strands: Number Sense; Functions and Algebra; Measurement and Geometry; Statistics, Data Analysis, and Probability; and Mathematical Reasoning. Basic operations, problem solving, and communication in math are also emphasized. (Ref. *California Math Content Standards for Math 7*)

Algebra Readiness 1, 2 (A4080)

Grade: 8

This course is designed for grade 8 students who need additional time and support to build the fundamental skills necessary for success in algebra. The course is organized around five major strands: Number Sense, Algebra and Functions, Measurement and Geometry, Algebra 1, and Mathematical Reasoning. It reinforces the skills and concepts needed to meet the standards on which these students will be assessed. Students will study an array of principles including: Operations and properties; solving one-step equations and inequalities; working with ratios, proportions and percents; solving linear functions; graphing; analyzing data; and probability.

Basic Algebra 1, 2 (A4032, A4033)

Grade: 8-9

This is the standard course required of all grade 7 students who are not enrolled in Honors Pre-Algebra or Pre-Algebra Exploration or grade 8 students who have not successfully passed pre-algebra. The course lays the foundation for Algebra and emphasizes the following strands: number sense and operations; functions and algebra, problem solving, mathematical reasoning, general mathematics vocabulary and communication. (Ref. *CA Math Content Standards for Basic Algebra*)

Algebra 1, 2

(A4041, A4042/A4032, A4033)

Grade: 8-10

This course in elementary algebra is a college preparatory course in which the student learns the fundamentals of solving problems by methods that were not previously available at the arithmetic level. Students develop an understanding of the symbolic language of math. Algebraic skills and concepts are developed in various problem-solving situations with symbolic reasoning and calculations with symbols serving as the focus of the course.

(Ref. *California Math Content Standards and Framework for Algebra 1*). This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Geometry 1, 2 (A4141, A4142)

Grade: 9-11

Students will learn many geometry skills and concepts that are useful in their daily lives. In addition to learning these skills and concepts, students will develop the ability to construct formal, logical arguments and proofs in geo-

metric settings and problems. (*Ref. California Math Content Standards and Blueprint for Geometry*) This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Integrated Math 1, 2 (A4121, A4122)

Grade: 10-12

This course is designed to review the concepts taught in a first-year algebra course and in the geometry course. It provides supplementary instruction of the key California Content Standards for these two courses and reinforces both content knowledge and basic skills in these disciplines. (*Ref. California Content Standards for Integrated Math 1*)

Intermediate Algebra 1, 2 (A4151, A4152)

Grade: 11-12

This course complements and expands the mathematical content and concepts of Algebra 1 and Geometry. In this course, students gain experience with algebraic solutions of problems in various content areas including the solution of systems of quadratic equations, permutations and combinations, logarithmic and exponential functions, the binomial theorem, and the complex number system. (*Ref. California Math Content Standards Blueprint for Algebra 2*) This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Pre-Calculus 1, 2 (A4161, A4162)

Grade: 11-12

This college preparatory course is normally offered only to twelfth-grade students. The course includes two semesters of integrated concepts of trigonometry and advanced algebra in such a form as to make them most use-

ful for later study of analytic geometry and calculus. This course also includes an introduction to topics in discrete mathematics. This course is intended to help students meet mathematics content standards AT.1 through AT.7 and performance standards. (*Ref. CA Math Content Standards*) This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

CAHSEE Support Math Part 1 (A4088)

Grade: 10-12

This one-semester course is specifically designed for 10th-12th grade students that have not passed the mathematics section of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Course content includes diagnostic tests and test prep skills, fractions, decimals, percents, problem solving and critical thinking, integers and order of operations, exponents, introduction to algebra, solving one step equations and inequalities.

CAHSEE Support Math Part 2 (A4088)

Grade: 10-12

This one-semester course is specifically designed for 10th-12th grade students that have not passed the mathematics section of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Course content includes diagnostic tests and test prep skills, solving multi step equations and inequalities, algebra word problems, introduction to graphing, graphing and writing equations, systems equations and systems of inequalities, polynomials, and statistics.

CAHSEE Support Math Part 3 (A4088)

Grade: 10-12

This one-semester course is specifically designed for 10th-12th grade students that have not passed the mathematics section of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Course content includes diagnostic tests and test prep skills, data interpretation, probability, patterns and problem solving, measurement, ratio, proportions, and scale drawing, plane geometry, solid geometry, reflections, translations, and plotted shapes.

CAHSEE Support Math (10-12) (A4088)

Grade: 10-12

This one-semester course is specifically designed for 10th-12th grade students that have not passed the mathematics section of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Course content includes topics to be found in Number Sense, Statistics, Data Analysis, and Probability, Algebra and Functions, Measurement, Geometry, Algebra 1, and Mathematical Reasoning Strands.

SCIENCE

Life Science 7-1, 7-2 (A6003a, A6003b)

Grade: 7

Pre-requisite: none

This two-semester course is designed to meet the California Content Standards for Life Science which includes an introduction to the

topics of cell biology, genetics, evolution, earth science, and living systems. Students in this course will use the inquiry method supplemented by conducting and analyzing experiments in order to explore the nature of living things. Students will also use technology to collect data and communicate ideas.

Physical Science 8-1, 8-2 (A6005a, A6005b)

Grade: 8

Pre-requisite: none

This two-semester course is designed to meet the California Content Standards for Physical Science which includes motion, forces, structure of matter, earth and life science, chemistry, density and buoyancy. Students will use the inquiry method supplemented by conducting and analyzing experiments to explore the nature of the physical and chemical world. Students will also use technology to collect data and communicate ideas.

Earth Science 1, 2 (A6023, A6024)

Grade: 9-12

Pre-requisite: Physical Science 8 and Algebra 1 or concurrent enrollment

Graduation Requirement: Physical Science
UC approval: "g"

This two-semester course is designed to meet the California Content Standards for Earth Science which includes astronomy, chemistry, geology, oceanography, meteorology, and paleontology, and serves as a foundation for further study in physics, chemistry, marine and environmental science. Students will use the inquiry method to investigate those principles and processes that bring about changes in the physical environment, supplement their understanding by conducting and analyzing

experiments, and utilizing technology to collect data and communicate ideas. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Biology 1, 2 (A6111, A6112)

Grade: 10-12

Pre-requisite: Physical Science 8 and Algebra 1 or concurrent enrollment

Graduation Requirement: Life Science

UC approval: “d” & “g”

This two-semester course is designed to meet the California Content Standards for Biology which includes cell biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, and physiology. It also serves as a foundation for further study in physics, chemistry, marine and environmental science. Students in this course will use the inquiry method supplemented by conducting and analyzing experiments to investigate the fundamental processes of living and non-living systems, as well as the interrelationships between them. Students will also use technology to collect data and communicate ideas. In addition, students will explore the impact of human society and technology on the biosphere. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Physics 1, 2 (A6311, A6312)

Grade: 9-12

Pre-requisite: Physical Science 8 and Algebra 1 or concurrent enrollment

Graduation Requirement: Physical Science

UC approval: “d” & “g”

This two-semester course is designed to meet the California Content Standards for Physics which includes motion, forces, conservation of energy, momentum, heat and thermody-

namics, wave phenomena, electricity and magnetism. It also serves as a foundation for further study in biology, chemistry, marine and environmental science. Students will use the inquiry method supplemented by conducting and analyzing experiments to investigate the physical laws that govern nature and the universe. Students will also use technology to collect data and communicate ideas.

Chemistry 1, 2 (A6211, A6212)

Grade: 10-12

Prerequisite: Physics or Biology and Algebra 1

Graduation Requirement: Physical Science

UC approval: “d” & “g”

This two-semester course is designed to meet the California Content Standards for Chemistry which includes atoms and bonding, conservation of matter, stoichiometry, properties of gases, acids and bases, solutions, chemical thermodynamics, reaction rates, chemical equilibrium, organic and nuclear chemistry. This course serves as a foundation for further study in college science courses. Students will use the inquiry method supplemented by conducting and analyzing experiments to investigate the nature of elements, compounds and mixtures, and how they interact through chemical reactions. Students will also use technology to collect data and communicate ideas. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History and Geography 7-1, 7-2 (A6521a, A6521b)

Grade: 7

In this two-semester course students will learn about the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred throughout the world in the years A.D.500-1789. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which history is uncovered, students will study the history of great civilizations that were developing throughout the world during medieval and early modern times. Students explore the causes and effects of the vast expansion and ultimate disintegration of the Roman Empire. Students learn all aspects about civilizations in the Middle Ages such as Islam, Ghana, Mali, Japan, China, and Latin America. Students examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. Students learn about the continuing impact of these civilizations in the world today. *(Ref. California Grade 7 History-Social Science Content Standards)*

United States History & Geography 8-1, 8-2 (A6551a, A6551b)

Grade: 8

In this two-semester course students will study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the U.S. Constitution up to World War I, emphasizing America's role in the war. After studying the birth and rise of America's democratic institutions, students examine the shaping and the establishment of the Constitu-

tion. Students trace the development of American politics, society, culture, and economy and connect them to the emergence of major regional differences. They learn about the struggles facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. They make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions. *(Ref. California Grade 8 United States History-Social Science Content Standards)*

World History, Geography, and Economics 1, 2 (A6605, A6606)

Grade: 10

In this two-semester course students will study major turning points that shaped the modern world, from the late eighteenth century through the present, including the cause and course of World Wars One and Two. They trace the rise of democratic ideas and develop an understanding of the historical roots of current world issues, with a focus on international relations. They learn from the American experience that democratic ideals are often achieved at a high price, remain vulnerable, and are not practiced everywhere in the world. Students develop an understanding of current world issues and relate them to their historical, geographic, political, economic, and cultural contexts. Students consider multiple accounts of events in order to understand international relations from a variety of perspectives. *(Ref. California Grade 10 History-Social Science Content Standards)* This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

United States History 1, 2 (A6701, A6702)

Grade: 11

In this two-semester course students will study the major turning points in American history in the twentieth century. Following a review of early American history and the impact of the Enlightenment on the U.S. democratic ideals, students build upon the tenth grade study of global industrialization to understand the emergence and impact of new technology and a corporate economy, including the social and cultural effects. Students will trace the change in the ethnic composition of American society; the movement towards equal rights for racial minorities and women; and the role of the United States as a major world power. An emphasis is placed on the expanding role of the federal government and federal courts as well as the continuing tension between the individual and the state. Students consider the major social problems of our time and trace their causes in historical events. Students understand that our rights under the U.S. Constitution are vital to maintain in order to continue our freedoms. (Ref. *California Grade 11 History/Social Science History Content Standards*) This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Government 1 (A6757)

Grade: 12

In this one-semester course students will study and seek a deeper comprehension of cultural and political institutions in American government. Students will apply their knowledge of American political institutions as they compare other systems of government in the world today. They will analyze the history and pat-

tern of change in interpretations of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive and judiciary branches of government. Students will focus in particular on relationships among federal, state and local governments and specific emphasis on the significance of historical documents, such as the *Federalist Papers*. (Ref. *California Grade 12 History-Social Science State Standards*) This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Economics (A6758)

Grade: 12

In this one-semester course students will establish a foundation of understanding of fundamental economic concepts. They will expand their ability to analyze and apply tools such as graphs, statistics, and equations from other subject areas to the understanding of operations and institutions of economic systems. Students will comprehend and analyze basic economic principles of micro- and macroeconomics, international economics, comparative economic systems, measurement and methods in an historic context. (Ref. *California Grade 12 History-Social Science State Standards*) This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Geography 1 (A6538)

Grade: 9-12

This one-semester course is offered as an elective. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of human and physical geography. They will be able to explain the uses of geography and various ways that the world is organized. This will include proficiency in reading various maps, charts, and graphs.

Major topics will include the solar system, weather and climate, land forms, water, and natural resources, human systems, North America, South America, and Europe. (*ref. History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools*)

Philosophy 1 (A6821)

Grade: 11, 12

This one-semester rigorous course provides an historic overview of the major schools of philosophic thought in the Western and Eastern worlds, and introduces students to eight major philosophic ideas concerning the nature of man and his relationship to the universe. Students learn to employ the vocabulary of epistemological, metaphysical, and ethical discussion, while developing critical thinking skills through the combined dynamic of reading, debate, and discussion. (*ref. History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools*) This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Psychology 1, 2 (A6831, A6832)

Grade: 11, 12

In this first semester course students will study the following areas: An introduction to Psychology research methods; Biological Bases of Behavior; Sensation and Perception; Motivation and Emotion; Learning; Memory and Thought; Thinking and Language; States of Consciousness; and Lifespan Development. Specific content will include Research, The Nervous System, The Endocrine System, Nature vs. Nurture, Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, Sleep, Drugs, Cognitive and Emotional Development, Dying and Death, and Gender Roles and Differences,

Personality and Individuality, Intelligence Testing, Theories of Personality, Psychoanalytic Theory, Humanistic Theory, Cognitive Theory, Stress and Health, Psychological Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, Drug Addiction, Therapy and Change, Biological Approaches to Treatment, Individual Interaction, Group Interaction, Attitudes and Social Influence, and Psychology Future and Present. (*ref. History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools*) This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Sociology (A6837)

Grade: 11, 12

Pre-requisite: Completion of first semester or concurrent enrollment in US History

In this one-semester course students are introduced to sociological concepts, theories, and procedures. Students will learn to analyze the basic structures and functions of societies and of groups within societies. They will study social organization, identify conditions that lead to disorganization, and evaluate methods of reorganization. The topics explored will include sociological perspectives, sociological methods of inquiry, culture, social structure, socialization, self and social interaction, deviance, crime, and social control, groups and organizations, social institutions, stratification, racial and ethnic relations, gender and age inequality, demography and urbanization, and social change. (*ref. History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools*) This course is approved for admission to the University of California.



FOREIGN LANGUAGE

German 1 (A2051)

Grade: 7-12

No prerequisites

In this one-semester course students will build a foundation of knowledge in the German language in each communication pathway: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Main concentration is on the development of the aptitude to speak fluently with precise pronunciation and intonation, while encouraging gratitude for the traditions and customs of the culture. (*Ref. Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools*). This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

German 2 (A2052)

Grade: 7-12

Prerequisite: German 1

In this one-semester course students will build a foundation of knowledge of the German language in each communication pathway: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Main concentration is on the development of the aptitude to speak fluently with precise pronunciation and intonation, while encouraging gratitude for the traditions and customs of the culture. (*Ref. Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools*). This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

German 3 (A2053)

Grade: 7-12

Prerequisites: German 1 and 2

This one-semester course is designed to expand students' base knowledge of the German language in each communication pathway: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Main concentration is on the development of the aptitude to speak fluently with precise pronunciation and intonation. Encouragement of gratitude for the traditions and customs of the culture is extended. (*Ref. Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools*). This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

German 4 (A2054)

Grade: 7-12

Prerequisites: German 1, 2, and 3

This one-semester course is designed to expand students' base knowledge of the German language in each communication pathway: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Main concentration is on the development of the aptitude to speak fluently with precise pronunciation and intonation. Encouragement of gratitude for the traditions and customs of the culture is extended. (*Ref. Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools*). This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Spanish 1 (A2321)

Grade: 7-12

No prerequisite

This one-semester course is designed to build a foundation of knowledge of the Spanish language in each communication pathway: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Main con-

centration is on the development of the aptitude to speak fluently with precise pronunciation and intonation, while encouraging gratitude for the traditions and customs of the culture. (*Ref. Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools*). This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Spanish 2 (A2322)

Grade: 7-12

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

This one-semester course is designed to build a foundation of knowledge of the Spanish language in each communication pathway: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Main concentration is on the development of the aptitude to speak fluently with precise pronunciation and intonation, while encouraging gratitude for the traditions and customs of the culture. (*Ref. Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools*). This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Spanish 3 (A2323)

Grade: 8-12

Prerequisite: Spanish 1 and 2

This one-semester course is designed to expand students' base knowledge of the Spanish language in each communication pathway: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Main concentration is on the development of the aptitude to speak fluently with precise pronunciation and intonation. Encouragement of gratitude for the traditions and customs of the culture is extended. (*Ref. Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools*).

Prerequisites: Spanish 1 and 2. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Spanish 4 (A2324)

Grade: 8-12

Prerequisite: Spanish 1, 2 and 3

This one-semester course is designed to expand students' base knowledge of the Spanish language in each communication pathway: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Main concentration is on the development of the aptitude to speak fluently with precise pronunciation and intonation. Encouragement of gratitude for the traditions and customs of the culture is extended. (*Ref. Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools*). This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

FINE ARTS

Art 7-1, 7-2 (A0101, A0102)

Grade: 7

In this two-semester course students will be introduced to the elements and principles of art, art theory, and art criticism. Students will create and critique works of art that use various mediums such as pencil, paint, and ink. Students will learn self-expression through basic art concepts.

Art 8-1, 8-2 (A0120, A0121)

Grade: 8

In this two-semester course students will con-

Art 1, 2 (A0191, A0192)

Grade: 9-12

Graduation Requirement: Fine Art

This two-semester course is an introduction to elements and principles of art, art theory, and art criticism as it applies to master works and their own work. The course introduces a variety of media, including pencil, paint, cardboard, and ink to complete expressive compositions. Assignments based on an articulation of realistic space and three-dimensional forms provide a foundation for more complex projects integrating the principles of art. Students will investigate the historical context of art throughout projects and evaluate the role of art in contemporary society, including the social/political uses of art. Students will analyze the role and influence of mass communication in the arts. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Photography 1 (A3691)

Grade: 9-12

In this one-semester course students will acquire the ability to complete all of the processes involved in taking various kinds of photographs and producing finished prints. Students are taught the terminologies and techniques of photographic production, and camera operation. Students will study sensory, formal, expressive, and aesthetic properties of photographic art. Students will understand the principles of good composition (texture, shape, light, motion, perspective) and the application of photographic principles to industrial processes. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

Music Appreciation 1, 2 (A5381, A5382)

Grade: 9-12

Graduation Requirement: Fine Art

This two-semester course introduces the historical contributions and cultural dimensions of music throughout the world. Students have an opportunity to respond to, analyze, and make judgments about specific works of music. Students investigate music from several cultures and different time periods. Students develop an understanding of cultural diversity as it relates to music and composers. Students also critically assess and derive meaning from works of music according to the elements of music, aesthetic qualities, and human responses.

Commercial Art 1, 2 (A0201, A0202)

Grade: 9-12

Graduation Requirement: Fine Art

In this two-semester course students will explore and design basic computer based two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art. Students are introduced to the elements and principals of visual design, such as line, shape, and balance, through various media. Students will develop design skills to be applied to real-world applications of design by creating various commercial art products. This course is approved for admission to the University of California.

PRACTICAL ARTS

**Middle Level AVID/Senior High AVID
(A8061/A8060)**
Grade: 6-8/9-12

This one-semester course is designed for college bound students who are enrolled in a college-prep course. This course is designed to teach strategies to ensure success in college-prep coursework such as, note taking, outlining, writing, speaking, reading, test taking, and self-awareness. Students will work individually as well as collaboratively with small groups.

Business Careers 1 (A0701)
Grade: 9-12

This one-semester course is designed to introduce modern business practices that include training in math, vocabulary, writing, communication, and proper business manner. Students will also learn about the American economic system, entrepreneurship, leadership, money management, and consumerism. Included are units on banking services, finances, paying taxes and Social Security services.

Beginning Accounting 1 (A0731)
Grade: 9-12

This one-semester course is designed to prepare students for a variety of career opportunities. Students will learn about communication skills and ethics within the accounting workplace. They will learn to analyze and record transactions for a service business. They will also develop an understanding of starting a

proprietorship and cash control systems. This course is recommended for students who have an average ability in math.

Business Law 1, 2 (A0561, A0562)
Grade: 9-12

This two-semester course provides students with an understanding of the legal aspects of business. The first semester focuses on the intricacies of law and recognizing situations that may require legal assistance. Included units are contractual agreements, the court system, consumer protection and product liability and warranties. The second semester examines a variety of contracts. Included units are agency relationships, employment law, transferring and negotiable instruments, marriage, divorce, renting and buying a home, and retirement.

Career and Life Management 1, 2 (A1169, A1163)
Grade: 9-12

This two-semester course will explore career possibilities, consumerism and the dynamics of family and human services. The course increases students' awareness of life skills including balancing personal/school life, work and family. Students will explore career paths and interests.

**Child Development/Parenthood Education
(A1125, A1126)**
Grade: 9-12

This two-semester course will introduce students to the vital skills in parenting and will provide information in the growth and development of infants and children as well as provide “real-life” opportunities to observe a day-care setting, care for a simulated infant, and explore essential parenting skills. Students will further explore the vital skills needed by a parent to ensure the positive development of all family members. Students will also explore “real-life” opportunities by seeking out community resources for children and their families.

Exploring Family and Consumer Sciences (A1032)

Grade: 7, 8

This one-semester course teaches middle school students the necessary living skills to assist them in improving their home, personal qualities, and family environments. They will study the dynamics of personal, family, and peer relationships. They will also learn about child care and development, food and nutrition, living environments and careers related to family and consumer sciences. Students will also learn how to have active roles in their school and community.

Food Preparation and Nutrition 1, 2 (A1165, A1166)

Grade: 9-12

This two-semester course will introduce the principles of being a smart consumer, proper food selection and preparation, basic nutrition, and preparing meals for both the individual and family. Students will develop necessary

skills for meeting nutritional needs through exposure to food and ecology, special nutrient needs, and kitchen organization. Food customs and traditions in the U.S. will also be explored.

Health (A2550)

Grade: 9-12

This one semester course teaches students how to care for their bodies. Units covered in this course are: consumer and community health, injury prevention, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, nutrition, environmental health, family living and communicable and chronic diseases.

Health and Driver’s Education (A2751)

Grade: 10-12

This is a one semester course that teaches components of health along with driver’s education. Units covered in the **Health** component are: tobacco and alcohol, illegal drugs, communicable and sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, safety and well-being, first aid, and handling emergencies. **Driver’s Education** prepares students to pass the state driving exam. The units covered in this course are: Assessing and Managing Risk, Handling Social Pressures, Rules of the Road, Basic Driving Skills, Light and Weather Conditions, Buying a Car, and Getting your State Driving Test.

Intro to Careers 1 (A8103)

Grade: 9-11

This one-semester course allows students the opportunity to explore post secondary career and educational possibilities. Students will begin career exploration and research using interest surveys and learning style inventories. The course allows students to examine and create a budget for real life application. Students will create a final multimedia presentation that describes their specific actions to prepare for their career.

Introduction to Careers 2 (Senior Exhibition) (A8104)

Grade: 12

This one-semester elective is required of all graduates. Students will be ready for life beyond high school. Students will be introduced to pre-employment techniques and the steps required for college admission and the securing of financial aid. In completing projects for a senior portfolio and presenting an exhibition students will demonstrate their readiness for the future.

Introduction to Careers (Military) (A8104)

Grade: 12

This one-semester elective is an alternative option for graduates planning for careers in the military service. Students will be introduced to pre-military requirements and the ASVAB matriculation process. In completing projects for a senior portfolio and exhibition, students will improve their recruitment opportunities and create documents appropriate to entering military service.

Keyboarding 1, 2 (A0601, A0602)

Grade: 9-12

This is the first semester of keyboarding. Upon completion of this course, students will have knowledge of the keyboard, proper keyboarding techniques, hand and body positioning needed for keyboarding, tabulations, speed and accuracy. Students will improve and enhance letter/memo, report, keyboarding, and table formatting skills with speed and accuracy.

Parenting and Infant Development (A1171)

Grade: 9-12

This one-semester course will teach students necessary skills for parenting. It will also introduce students to infant and child development. Students will learn how to prepare for a newborn baby and what to expect each month of the first year of life. They will also learn about prenatal care, being an educated consumer, budgeting, and decision making. This course teaches the theory of aspects of parenting and child development.

Service Learning (A8087)

Grade: 9-12

This one semester course provides the opportunity for students to complete the (60 hours) community service with a non profit organization within their community. Students are encouraged to explore organizations in need of help within their community where they can apply skills learned through their academic program and provide essential support to the community in which they live. Students

who choose the Service Learning option for graduation must complete 2 semesters (120 hours) of Service Learning.

Study Skills (6th – 8th) (A8030)

This one-semester course is designed to help students improve in and provide added support for study skills, organization, reading, mathematics, and courses in which the student is concurrently enrolled. The activities in this course will help enhance higher level thinking, problem solving, and basic skills via workshops and personalized assignments developed to support and ensure student success.

Study Skills (9th – 12th) (A8007, A8008)

This one-semester course is designed to help students improve in and provide added support for study skills, organization, reading, mathematics, and courses in which the student is concurrently enrolled. The activities in this course will help enhance higher level thinking, problem solving, and basic skills via workshops and personalized assignments developed to support and ensure student success.

Study Skills (CHSPE Math 9-12) – 5th edition (A8007, A8008)

This one-semester course is designed to prepare students to pass the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) examination. It uses individualized instruction for remediation with a specific focus on weaknesses in mathematics. Completion of this

course should enable students to (1) improve their skills in basic math and elementary algebra, (2) recognize and understand the various types of objective test questions, and (3) improve their chances of passing the CHSPE test. The primary methods of instruction include, but are not limited to, lectures, timed tests, homework assignments, and individualized instruction.

Study Skills (CHSPE Math 9-12) – 6th edition (A8007, A8008)

This one-semester course is designed to prepare students to pass the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) examination. It uses individualized instruction for remediation with a specific focus on weaknesses in mathematics. Completion of this course should enable students to (1) improve their skills in basic math and elementary algebra, (2) recognize and understand the various types of objective test questions, and (3) improve their chances of passing the CHSPE test. The primary methods of instruction include, but are not limited to, lectures, timed tests, homework assignments, and individualized instruction.

STUDY SKILLS – CHSPE PREP/Part 1/ Language Arts – 5th edition (A8007, A8008)

This one-semester course is designed to prepare students to pass the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) examination. It uses individualized instruction for remediation with a specific focus on weaknesses in language arts. Completion of this course should enable students to (1) improve their skills in basic grammar, writing, and lan-

guage skills, (2) recognize and understand the various types of objective test questions, and (3) improve their chances of passing the CHSPE test. The primary methods of instruction include, but are not limited to, lectures, timed tests, homework assignments, and individualized instruction.

**STUDY SKILLS – CHSPE PREP/Part 1/
Language Arts – 6th edition (A8007, A8008)**

This one-semester course is designed to prepare students to pass the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) examination. It uses individualized instruction for remediation with a specific focus on weaknesses in language arts. Completion of this course should enable students to (1) improve their skills in basic grammar, writing, and language skills, (2) recognize and understand the various types of objective test questions, and (3) improve their chances of passing the CHSPE test. The primary methods of instruction include, but are not limited to, lectures, timed tests, homework assignments, and individualized instruction.

*******Decision Making**

Students will learn and develop basic social and decision making skills needed to be successful after high school. Units include self awareness, goal setting, information gathering, research and writing, career exploration, and the negative health effects of smoking.

******Genre Studies 1-4**

In order to increase student comprehension and application of writing conventions, this course will focus on the writing process, writing effective paragraphs and essays, parts of speech, parts of a sentence and clauses.

******Consumer Math (A2505)**

This course teaches mathematical knowledge needed to function in society today. Students will learn how to solve real-life problems using methods of math. Units covered in this class are: units of payroll, checking and savings accounts, credit, housing, inflation and budgets. *Prerequisites: basic math skills*



GED COURSES

Pre-GED Preparation: Language Arts, Writing (A8063)

The Pre-GED Preparation: Language Arts, Writing course provides remediation in order to prepare students to pass the Language Arts and Writing portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve writing skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Language Arts and Writing portion of the General Education Development (GED).

Pre-GED Preparation: Language Arts, Reading (A8063)

The Pre-GED Preparation: Language Arts, Reading course provides remediation in order to prepare students to pass the Language Arts and Reading portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve reading skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Language Arts and Reading portion of the General Education Development (GED).

Pre-GED Preparation: Essay (A8063)

The Pre-GED Preparation: Essay course provides remediation in order to prepare students to pass the Essay portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve essay writing skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course

students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the essay portion of the General Education Development (GED).

Pre-GED Preparation: Mathematics (A8063)

The Pre-GED Preparation: Mathematics course provides remediation in order to prepare students to pass the Mathematics portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve mathematics skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Mathematics portion of the General Education Development (GED).

Pre-GED Preparation: Science (A8063)

The Pre-GED Preparation: Science course provides remediation in order to prepare students to pass the Science portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve science skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Science portion of the General Education Development (GED).

Pre-GED Preparation: Social Studies (A8063)

The Pre-GED Preparation: Social Studies course provides remediation in order to prepare students

to pass the Social Studies portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve social studies skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Social Studies portion of the General Education Development (GED).

Pre-GED Preparation: Critical Thinking Skills (A8063)

The Pre-GED Preparation: Critical Thinking Skills course provides remediation in order to prepare students with the critical thinking skills necessary to pass the General Education Development (GED).

GED Preparation: Language Arts, Writing (A8063)

The GED Preparation: Language Arts, Writing course prepares students to pass the Language Arts and Writing portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve writing skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Language Arts and Writing portion of the General Education Development (GED).

GED Preparation: Language Arts, Reading (A8063)

The GED Preparation: Language Arts, Reading course prepares students to pass the Language Arts

and Reading portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve reading skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Language Arts and Reading portion of the General Education Development (GED).

GED Preparation: Essay (A8063)

The GED Preparation: Essay course prepares students to pass the Essay portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve essay writing skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the essay portion of the General Education Development (GED).

GED Preparation: Mathematics (A8063)

The GED Preparation: Mathematics course prepares students to pass the Mathematics portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve mathematics skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Mathematics portion of the General Education Development (GED).

GED Preparation: Science (A8063)

The GED Preparation: Science course prepares

students to pass the Science portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve science skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Science portion of the General Education Development (GED).

GED Preparation: Social Studies (A8063)

The GED Preparation: Social Studies course prepares students to pass the Social Studies portion of the General Education Development (GED). This course is designed to improve social studies skills through small group seminars and individualized instruction. During this course students will take practice tests, pre-tests, post-tests and complete assignments in their GED Preparation text in order to improve their chance of passing the Social Studies portion of the General Education Development (GED).





STEPS TO SUCCESS

“Students at the Altus Schools will become self-motivated, competent, and lifelong learners, ones who are literate and possessed of high order thinking skills.”
Mary Searcy Bixby, Founder, President & CEO, Altus Institute

SELF MOTIVATION

I am a self-motivated learner who...

- Meets classroom and assignment deadlines.
- Does quality work independently.
- Takes charge of my education.
- Actively contributes to the learning environment.

COMPETENCY

I am a competent person who...

- Sets and achieves goals.
- Works independently and as part of a team.
- Is responsible and accountable.
- Takes pride in my work.

ACADEMIC LITERACY

I am an academically proficient and literate student who can...

- Meet the California standards.
- Write a well-developed essay, using correct grammar and spelling.
- Use basic math, algebra, and geometry effectively.
- Complete credits.

LIFE SKILLS FOR LEARNING

I am a student able to keep learning throughout my life, because I...

- Use materials, resources and technology on my own.
- Communicate confidently and effectively using various formats.
- Read and think about the world around me.
- Participate and interact with the community.

COMPLEX THINKING SKILLS

I use higher order thinking skills to...

- Understand complex inter-relationships.
- Obtain and apply knowledge to new situations and other learning.
- Solve problems creatively.
- Understand the consequences of my choices.

