



Houston Public Schools
Home of the Hurricanes

Houston High School Course Descriptions 2023-2024



STRENGTHENING THE HURRICANE!

Final course offerings will be determined by:
(1) MN Standards (2) student interest
(3) resources (4) space (5) staff availability

Promotion Guidelines

A student must pass a minimum academic credits per year in grades 7 and 8 in order to be promoted to the next grade.

Academic credits are as follows :

Core History 7	2	Grade 8	
English	2	Art 8	1
Health 7	1	Global Studies 8	2
Math	2	English 8	2
FACS	1	Life Skills 8	1
Music	1	Algebra 8	2
Phy Ed. 7	1	Phy Ed. 8	1
Digital Citizenship 7	1	Earth Science 8	2
Science	2	Computers 8	1
Technology 7	1		

A student may be promoted to the next class but be required to make up the class or classes that he/she failed during the previous year.

The principal will make the final decision regarding the student's placement based on evidence and recommendations gathered from the student's teachers, counselor, and parents.

Requirements for Graduation:

COMPLETE MINNESOTA STATE TESTING REQUIREMENTS IN MATH, READING AND WRITING
AND
48 CREDITS ARE REQUIRED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

For students graduating in the classes of 2024 - 2027

I. *Language Arts (8 credits)* - students are required to take one class each year
Which must include:
English 9 (year),
English 10 (year),
English 11 (year),
English 12 (year)

II. *Social Studies (7 credits)*
Which must include:
World History 9 (year),
U.S. History 10 (year) or AP U.S. History (year),
Economics (Taught under business dept.),
Geography 12, American Government/U.S. Citizenship 12

III. *Math (6 credits)*
Which must include:
High School Algebra Topics (year),
Geometry (year)
Algebra II (year), Basic Algebra II (year), or Concurrent Algebra II (year)

IV. *Science (6 credits)*
Which must include:
Physical Science 9 (year),
Biology 10 (year)
Chemistry, Physics or
Environmental Chemistry (year)

V. *Fine Arts (2 credits)*
Choose at least two credits from the following areas:
Music • Art • Communications • PrintWorks

VI. *Physical Education/Health (3 credits)*
Which must include:
PE – 9,
PE – 10,
Health – 10

VII. *Careers – 9 (1 credit)*

VIII. *Elective Credits (15 credits)*

*On-line and PSEO credits must be pre-approved by the
high school counselor to replace any of the above courses.*

One semester = One credit

Agriculture Education

These classes will be taught through Interactive Television (ito). There will be a "live" teacher at the host school. Class length and time will closely approximate Houston High School's schedule. These classes are open for 11th and 12th graders (and 10th graders by permission only). Please see a counselor for Agriculture classes.

Art

ART 8 (8, Semester) This course is an in-depth study into the concepts and principles behind the visual arts, utilizing advanced approaches to hands-on learning and art appreciation through a combination of traditional methods and modern technology.

INTRO TO ART (9-12, Semester) Intro to Art emphasizes developing critical awareness of art elements and the study of various media and techniques. Areas explored are printing, drawing, lettering, sculpture and art history. All projects are graded, and each student may be required to participate in reports on various art related subjects. Students are required to maintain a sketchbook for this course.

Drawing (9-12, Semester, offered every other year, Prerequisite: Intro to Art) Drawing will focus on developing two dimensional art using a variety of mediums, as well as some graphic design. Materials used will include graphite, charcoal, oil pastels, chalk pastels, colored pencils, and pen/ink. Subjects will include still lifes, landscapes and portraits. We will also focus on creating realistic value and shading techniques. Students will improve their abilities to see and represent while mastering their drawing skills. Students are required to maintain a sketchbook for this course.

CERAMICS (9-12, Semester, Prerequisite: Intro to Art) This course is designed for students who are interested in developing their talents and skills in ceramics. Hand-building, sculpture and work on the potter's wheel will be reintroduced, with emphasis on form and quality. The students will use clay to create required projects and student ideas. Students are required to maintain a sketchbook for this course.

3-D ART AND DESIGN (9-12, Semester, offered every other year, Prerequisite: Intro to Art) This course is recommended for students who have an interest in three-dimensional artwork. It provides students with a fundamental knowledge and introduces students to a variety of media and techniques. Students will be encouraged to explore alternative ways to manipulate various materials and create interesting artworks. Students will have the opportunity to express their individual talents by completing a variety of unique and challenging projects. Assignments will emphasize design; craftsmanship, problem solving and experience working with plaster, clay, and found materials.

Advanced Art (10-12, Semester) Depending on the medium, prerequisites will be as follow:

- Advanced Drawing: Intro to Art
- Advanced Painting : Intro to Art
- Advanced Ceramics : Intro to Art and Ceramic
- Advanced Sculpture : Intro to Art and 3D Art and Design
- Advanced Mixed Medium : Intro to Art, Ceramics and 3D Art and Design

Students in Advanced Art will work independently to produce a portfolio of work in their chosen medium. Students will work towards developing their own style and a deeper understanding of art and visual aesthetics. By the end of the course, students will organize and host their own art show displaying work produced during the semester.

Business Education

MARKETING (9-12, Semester) This class is designed to give students the opportunity to learn the essentials of marketing. Students will gain an understanding of the role marketing plays in both personal and professional success and have the opportunity to evaluate marketing as a possible field for further study. A computer simulation will be used to aid in concept application.

ACCOUNTING I (10-12, Semester) This course will cover the basic accounting equation and how it is affected by transactions in sole proprietorships. It also covers the double entry system of accounting. Students will complete a full accounting

cycle for a sole proprietorship. A computer simulation is used to aid in concept application. Accounting I is recommended for any student wishing to pursue a career in business.

ACCOUNTING II (10-12, Semester, Prerequisite: Accounting I) This course is a continuation of Accounting I. Students will apply the accounting process to merchandising businesses and corporations. Payroll, special journals, and adjustments will be introduced.

ECONOMICS AND PERSONAL FINANCE (11, Semester, Required) This course is designed to give students an introduction to economics on both microeconomic and macroeconomic levels. Emphasis is placed on personal, local, national, and global economic decision making. Topics covered include scarcity of resources, supply and demand, monetary policy, business types, inflation, and other economic issues. Saving, investing, and the wise use of credit are also explored.

Financial Foundations (10-12, Semester) Financial success requires a foundation built on knowledge and wisdom. Financial success is the result of intentional, disciplined actions carried out over the course of a lifetime. This course provides students with the opportunity to build a strong foundation for financial success now and in the future. Topics include: budgeting, saving, credit, debit, consumer awareness, career readiness, college planning, financial services, insurance, taxes, housing and investing. This is the stuff you hear people say they wish they would have learned in high school.

Career and College Education

CAREER PATHWAYS (9, Year- EOD, Required) This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn about themselves and the world around them. Students will utilize various assessments and inventories to aid them in discovering their unique skills, interests, and values. Using this knowledge, students will engage in a multitude of activities as they explore potential career options. Students will also engage in a job shadowing experience.

Emergency Medical Responders (11-12, 2nd Semester) - Description TBD

Computers

COMPUTERS 8 (8, Semester) This course is designed to give the opportunity to learn basic computer skills, including the Microsoft Office Suite. Emphasis will be placed on proper keyboarding skills and techniques throughout the course. Keyboarding software is used to develop and improve keyboarding abilities. Other topics covered include word processing, desktop publishing, presentations, and Internet usage.

MICROSOFT OFFICE (9-12, Semester) This course is designed to provide students with a thorough knowledge of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft PowerPoint. An introduction to Microsoft Access is included.

PrintWorks (9-12, Semester, Fine Art Credit) This course is designed to give students an introduction to graphic design and a basic working knowledge of design-related software. Adobe Creative Cloud is the primary source of software tools used in the course. InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator are used extensively. Students have the opportunity to design and produce buttons, notepads, calendars, and posters. Skills acquired in this class can be used in further education or directly in the world of work.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences (7th grade, Trimester) This course focuses on developing an understanding of independence. Curriculum includes units on basic personal finance, nutrition and wellness, workplace/family relations, environmental awareness and basic care/maintenance of fabrics. Upon completion, students should gain confidence in household contributions, have a better understanding of healthy relationships and understand their role in their community.

Foods (11-12, Semester) This course is designed to introduce students to basic kitchen skills/safety/science, teach nutrition facts about commonly consumed foods, convey the importance of time management/meal planning/grocery budgets, as well as experiment with new flavors and foods. The course is limited to 8 students and has a \$25 course fee.

Global Foods (11-12, Semester, Prerequisites: Foods) Examine how culture influences nutrition and wellness regionally as well as internationally. Learn new cooking techniques, develop an understanding of staples foods for different regions, menu planning employing knowledge of traditions and food availability, identifying herbs/spices/seasonings, as well as explore different career opportunities in the culinary arena. The course is limited to 8 students and has a \$25 course fee.

Language Arts

Reading 7 (7, Year- EOD) Reading 7 is a Language Arts class in addition to English 7. It focuses on the skills to read, comprehend, and analyze a text. The goal is to encourage close reading of increasingly more complex texts with accuracy and proficiency. The lessons in this class are meant to support necessary reading skills for all subject areas.

ENGLISH 7 (7, Year) Students learn about the four areas of communication (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), however, there is a heavy focus on reading works of fiction and writing. While reading various works of fiction, the students will develop spelling and reading comprehension skills. Students will also be given opportunities to develop various types of writings. Throughout this course, students will learn components that will be used in future English classes.

ENGLISH 8 (8, Year) Students learn about all four areas of communication (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), but there is a heavy focus on reading and reading comprehension. Various forms of literature are read, and various types of writing exercises are assigned. Students get opportunities to do group work, journaling, peer editing, and revising throughout the course. Students learn components that will be used in future English classes.

ENGLISH 9 (9, Year, Required) The curriculum continues work in the four areas of communication, with a focus on reading for appreciation and awareness. Students do a more complex study of concepts learned in previous English courses. Several units are covered, including Nonfiction, Short Stories, Poetry, The Epic, The Novel, and Drama. Writing activities and various projects (along with traditional assignments) are used to assess understanding.

English 10 (10, Year, Required) In this class, students will be exposed to a variety of literary forms, including short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and fiction. Additionally, there will be a portion of time dedicated to researching Shakespeare and reading one of his famous works. Throughout the various forms, students will learn basic terminology in order to enhance their studies in literature. There will also be an emphasis on grammar, mechanics, and the writing process to enhance student writing. In addition, there will be a focus on the fundamentals of speaking to help students strengthen their communication skills.

English 11 (11, Year, Required) Who are the great writers of American history? And how do they still change, challenge and encourage us? These questions will be answered in English 11, a class which focuses on the plays, poems, speeches, documents, and books that define our country. We will start our journey at the beginnings of American literature, reading about Native American legends. After that, we move through the various literary periods and the movements and ideas that were often controversial. A major focus is how the historical context affected the authors and the literary movements. Communication, research, analysis, and reading skills are all essential parts of this course where students will work on projects, individually and in groups, participate in discussions, give presentations, read various texts, and produce a variety of original, written works.

English 12 (12, Year, Required) This is a year long course comprising units designed to further reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Topics explored are: cultural issues, media literacy, proposal writing, workplace skills and writing, modern literature, plays and poetry. Students will have writing assignments, group projects and discussions and media projects to showcase their skills.

Intro to Film (11,12, semester, elective) Introduction to Film Studies is an introductory course that provides opportunities for students to develop understanding and awareness of film as art. Students will learn how to actively view films, discuss and critique various film techniques, and analyze film as a visual art form. Students will explore the history of film, beginning with its origins and examine various genres moving chronologically. The goal of this course is to foster a love for all forms of cinema and to help students develop a new skill set in order to analyze films through various critical lenses.

Film Studies (11, 12, semester, elective) Film Studies dives deeper into numerous film concepts and techniques in order for students to appreciate films in new and exciting ways. Throughout the course, students will closely examine a variety of film styles, genres, and directors. Films viewed in this course will focus on modern cinema beginning in the 1970s to present day. This course should appeal to any students who love to watch movies and discuss them both orally and in writing. Intro to Film Studies is not a prerequisite.

Mathematics

PRE-ALGEBRA 7 (7, Year Required) This course covers the Minnesota 7th grade math standards which include rational number operations, proportional relationships, percent, equivalent expressions, inequalities, inferential reasoning, probability and geometry.

ALGEBRA 8 (8, Year, Required) This course covers the Minnesota 8th grade math standards which include real numbers, linear equations, model relationships, bivariate data, systems of linear equations, and Pythagorean Theorem.

High School Algebra Topics (9, Year, Required) - This course is designed to meet some of the Minnesota math standards for high school. Material covered will build on the 8th grade Algebra class with higher level Algebraic concepts that include, solving equations and inequalities, linear equations and functions, piecewise functions, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic functions and equations, statistics.

GEOMETRY (10, YEAR, REQUIRED, Prerequisite: High School Algebra Topics) This course is designed to meet some of the Minnesota math standards for high school math. Material covered will include foundations of geometry, parallel and perpendicular lines, transformations, triangle congruence, quadrilaterals and other polygons, similarity, right triangles and trigonometry, coordinate geometry, circles, two- and three- dimensional models, probability.

Algebra II (11, Year, Prerequisite: Geometry) This course will complete the Minnesota standards for high school math. Topics include linear functions and systems, quadratic functions and equations, polynomial functions, rational functions, rational exponents and radical functions, exponential functions, basic trigonometry, data analysis and statistics, and probability.

Basic Algebra II (11-12, Year, Prerequisite: Geometry) This course will complete the Minnesota standards for high school math. Topics include linear functions and systems, quadratic functions and equations, polynomial functions, rational functions, rational exponents and radical functions, exponential functions, basic trigonometry, data analysis and statistics, probability, and topics in math for the trades during the 2nd semester. This course covers the same standards as Algebra II but less in depth.

Concurrent Algebra II (11-12, Year, Prerequisite: Geometry and Teacher Recommendation) This course will complete the Minnesota standards for high school math and will include additional topics. Students will earn 3 credits of college level math. The course topics include linear functions and systems, quadratic functions and equations, polynomial functions, rational functions, rational exponents and radical functions, exponential functions, basic trigonometry, data analysis and statistics, probability, transformations of functions, combinations of functions, inverse functions, and distance and midpoint formulas.

PreCalculus/Calculus (11-12, Year, Prerequisite: Algebra II) This course is broken up into two semesters. The first semester will be a review of Algebra II with additional topics of conic sections, matrices, function operations, inverse

functions, and trigonometry. The second semester will include a beginning look at Calculus including the topics of limit theory, derivatives, and integrals.

AP PreCalculus (11-12, Year, Prerequisite: Algebra II) This course will prepare students for a successful transition to a STEM major in college. The course is designed to ensure students have the necessary background to complete calculus in college. Students can potentially earn 3 college credits of math if they score well enough on the AP exam. For non-STEM students this could fulfill the college math requirement. Topics include polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric and polar functions, and functions involving parameters, vectors, and matrices.

Music

JUNIOR HIGH BAND (7-8, Year-EOD) Students will increase their musical development and enjoyment through improved instrumental proficiency. Students will strive for excellence, learning the fundamentals of music and performance. Basic marching fundamentals will be taught. Students will understand and experience the value of what it means to make a positive contribution through band citizenship.

JUNIOR HIGH CHOIR (7-8, Year-EOD) This class gives students the opportunity to develop vocal technique and explore singing in parts. The students will explore a variety of musical literature, including but not limited to; classical, jazz, pop, modern and spirituals. There is an emphasis on teamwork, musicianship, literacy, sight-singing skills and vocal pedagogy. Students will also be required to attend one 15-minute voice lesson per week. There will be several public performances per year.

SENIOR HIGH BAND (9-12, Year) Senior High band offers students the opportunity to continue increasing their musical development and enjoyment through improved instrumental proficiency. Students will strive for excellence, learning and performing a varied repertoire of high quality concert and pep band literature. Band members will continue to improve their marching band fundamentals. Students will understand and experience the value of what it means to make a positive contribution through band citizenship.

SENIOR HIGH CHOIR (9-12, Year, Prerequisite: Required audition in front of instructor) This course is designed to further student's musical skills and refine their vocal techniques, musicianship and independence in singing. Students have the opportunity to participate in small group ensembles and solos as part of the area Solo and Ensemble Contest. Students will be required to attend one 15-minute group or individual voice lesson per week.

Physical Education and Health

HEALTH 7 (7, Trimester) This class is designed to help the students explore the correct health decisions they will have to make in their lives. Areas of study will be personality, emotions, smoking, drug use, alcohol, environmental safety, first aid, personal hygiene and the public health system.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7/8 (7/8, Year- EOD)

Cooperative skills and team sports will be the main emphasis of this course. Time will be spent working on skills and strategies needed to compete in recreational team sports. Through physical activity, students will work to develop lifelong fitness habits.

LIFE SKILLS (8, Year- EOD) In Life Skills, students will develop skills for personal growth and independence. These skills will prepare them for the future. Some of the topics include: goal setting, self-image, problem-solving/decision making, appreciation of cultural values, sewing, cooking and budgeting.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9/10 (9-10, Year- EOD, Required) Wellness and lifetime sports will be the main emphasis during these years. Students will be introduced to a variety of lifetime sports in order to develop an understanding of the benefits and importance of physical activity to maintain a healthy body throughout their life.

HEALTH 10 (10, Year- EOD, Required) This class is designed to motivate students to take an active role in maintaining and improving their health through study of the systems of the human body.

FITNESS FOR LIFE/NUTRITION (11-12, SEMESTER) This class is designed for students who wish to learn more about staying healthy and physically fit. Units will include a variety of lifetime sports, weight lifting, cardio activities, nutrition for a healthy lifestyle and officiating of sports.

Science

LIFE SCIENCE (7, Year) Students will learn to appreciate living things through the study of cells, genetics, bacteria/viruses, plants, and animals. They will also learn how to properly use a microscope and safely perform dissections. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of ecology. They will also study the systems of the body.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE (8-9, Year, Required) Eighth-Ninth grade science consists of two parts. The first is an introduction to chemistry including the scientific method, measurement, use of the periodic table and chemical reactions. The second part is an introduction to physics. Topics studied will include Newton's Laws, work, energy, simple machines, sound and light. Instructional methods will include lectures, readings, lab experiences and projects.

BIOLOGY (10, Year, Required) Biology introduces students to a variety of topics related to the study of life. Course material will include properties of life, cells, genetics and evolution. After discussing how living things are classified, students will study basic principles of ecology. In addition the students will study the major systems of the human body and compare it to other classes of animals. Students will learn how to properly use a microscope along with how to safely perform dissections.

COMPARATIVE ANATOMY (11-12, Semester, Prerequisite: Biology) This course is highly recommended for any student interested in pursuing a health career. Students will learn more about the human body and about the anatomy of various systems of the human body compare it to other vertebrates.

CHEMISTRY (11-12, Year, Prerequisite: Biology. Offered every other year) Chemistry is the study of the structure and function of matter — in other words — what matter is made of and how it reacts! This class builds on the information covered in the first part of 9th grade physical science and is recommended for anyone pursuing a technical or college degree. Instructional methods will include lectures, readings, lab experiences and projects. This course satisfies the Minnesota Graduation requirement for Chemistry.

CHEMISTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (11-12, Year, Prerequisite: Biology) Students will become better naturalists by learning more about insect, plant, and bird populations in the area. They will also explore the relationships organisms have with each other and their environment. Students will be exposed to Chemistry as it relates to the environment. Students will have labs that incorporate chemical reactions and chemical changes in different structures. This course satisfies the Minnesota Graduation requirement for Chemistry.

PHYSICS (11-12, Year, Offered every other year) Physics is the study of energy and forces. Topics covered include kinematics, dynamics, work and power, waves, heat, and electricity and magnetism. Instructional methods will include lectures, readings, problem solving, labs, and projects. The first unit will include a mathematical review.

Social Studies

United States Studies 7 (7, Year) Grade seven features history as the "lead discipline" with a strong secondary emphasis on citizenship and government. The interdisciplinary "studies" approach is further enhanced with important economics and geography content that round out the study of United States history. Students learn about people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They examine the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions for their lasting impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history. Throughout this course students will gain the ability to use chronological thinking, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, understanding the motivations and complexities of humanity, understand the foundations of governing bodies, and evaluate the current issues facing the world.

Global Studies 8 (8, Year): This course focuses on world regional geography as the lead discipline, coupled with a strong

emphasis on contemporary world issues, history, and events. In this course, students will develop an understanding of culture, citizenship and government, and economics of the world. Students will explore and analyze the regions of North America, Latin America & the Caribbean, Europe and Russia, Southwest Asia and North Africa, East Asia and Southeast Asia, South Asia and Central Asia, Africa South of the Sahara, and Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica. While studying these regions, students will be exposed to cultural characteristics, technology, ideas, economic development and trade, population and migration patterns, and human interaction with the environment. By the end of the course, students will gain civic skills, economic reasoning skills, geographic inquiry and geospatial technology skills, and historical inquiry skills.

AP PSYCHOLOGY (11-12, Year) The purpose of the AP course in Psychology is to introduce the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Included is a consideration of the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. After completing this semester-long course, the students may opt to take the AP Psychology exam to earn college credit.

WORLD HISTORY (9, Year, Required) This course will study the beginnings of the human race (theories) and a view of the geographical, political, religious, social and economic structures of history. Individual regions of the world will be discussed and further study will uncover their development. The study of World History helps students understand the major developments in the civilizations of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. World History helps students recognize the “common problems of all humankind, and the increasing interactions among nations and civilizations that have shaped much of human life” and how individuals and nations have successfully or unsuccessfully met the challenges of human nature and their environment. This is a full year course that begins by examining the ancient civilizations. In order for one to understand the many cultures and people in our world today, it becomes necessary for one to be familiar with the beginnings and foundations of each of those peoples and cultures. In addition, this class will take a look at the geography and political regions of our world as well as the major world history events that have taken place since the beginning of written historical documentation and into the 21st century. Throughout this course students will gain the ability to use chronological thinking, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, understanding the motivations and complexities of humanity, understand the foundations of governing bodies, and evaluate the current issues facing the world.

U.S. HISTORY (10, Year, Required) This is a year-long course that will cover the time span from the indigenous people of North America through the present time. Topics will include: colonization, the American Revolution, expansion, innovation, reform, the Civil War, reconstruction, reshaping the Nation, the progressive movement, World War I, the roaring twenties, the Great Depression, World War II and post WWII, The beginnings of the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement, the Space Race, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the LBJ, Nixon, and Ford era, the Reagan administration, the ending of the cold war, the Bush era and Gulf War, the Clinton Era, and contemporary U.S events into the 2000's. Throughout this course students will gain the ability to use chronological thinking, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, understanding the motivations and complexities of humanity, understand the foundations of governing bodies, and evaluate the current issues facing the world.

AP U.S. HISTORY (10-12, Year) This course is designed to introduce students to American History from pre-Columbian societies to the United States in the post-Cold War era. It is also designed to develop critical thinking skills within students, develop their writing skills primarily within accepted historiography practices and thesis writing and defense but also within other core subject areas and throughout their future educational endeavors, and it is meant to expose students to new ways of thinking about history and historical interpretation. Students will explore and gain mastery in historical thinking skills that train students in the practice of history while learning about the past. The course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Additionally, the course is taught in accordance with the *A.P. U.S. History Curriculum Framework*. Moreover, this course will also prepare students for the A.P. U.S. History Exam in the spring. After completing this course, students are encouraged to take the AP exam of college preparedness.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT/U.S. CITIZENSHIP (12, Semester, Required) This class is designed to introduce students to the origins and workings of our American democracy and the basic structure of our government. Political ideologies both at home and abroad will be discussed in the process of learning about democracy. Students will be expected to critically analyze and discuss government issues and topics. To go along with these ideas the students will simulate various activities, which are performed within the three branches of government. Finally, the rights and responsibilities of American citizens will be understood and performed by the students during the course of the semester. By the end of the course students

will have developed civic skills, understand democratic values and the principles of democracy, understand citizen rights and responsibilities, have knowledge of the structures of the US government, and will understand that governments establish and maintain relationships with varied types of other sovereign nations, states, and organizations in order to maintain its own sovereignty. At the end of the course, students are required to take the Minnesota State Citizenship Test as a graduation requirement.

Geography 12 (12, Semester, Required): This is a semester course that is designed to introduce students to geospatial skills, places and regions of the world, human systems, and human environmental interaction. Students will explore how people use *geographic representations and geospatial technologies* to acquire, process and report information within a spatial context. Students will also *develop geographic inquiry skills* that include the ability to ask geographic questions about the world, and to gather, organize, and analyze information that help in understanding geographic problems. In addition, students will look at the *physical and human characteristics of a place* and study how and why regions are constructed on Earth. While studying human characteristics, students will specifically study world *cultural characteristics, economic characteristics, and political characteristics and how the geographic landscape influences those characteristics*. Finally, students will study how the *environment influences human actions*, how humans adapt to the environment, modify, and depend on the environment. It is intended that the knowledge gained in this course will help *prepare students for the twenty-first century* and the various peoples, cultures, and regions that they will encounter

Technology

ADVANCED WOODWORKING (9-12, Semester, Prerequisite: Woodworking [with “B” or higher] or Instructor permission.) This course is designed for students who would just like to expand their woodworking skills. Students will learn more advanced joinery. Students will make a product that will involve basic woodworking skills along with some advanced joinery. A materials’ fee is required for students to retain their project.

ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTING (9-12, Semester) This course covers the introduction to drafting and architectural design. Students will develop drawing, design and blueprint reading skills as well learn lettering, lines, and vocabulary. Students will learn the basics of Revit, a BIM (Building Information Modeling software) and how to use it for residential applications.

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY (11-12) Automotive Service Technology provides the student with pre-apprenticeship skills in tune-up, brake system, electrical systems, lamp adjustments, lubrication service and maintenance. The course will incorporate classroom and shop experience. Students will gain knowledge and skills for entering careers in automotive service and repairs.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (10-12, Semester, Prerequisite: Woodworking) This course is designed to cover basic building construction techniques used in residential construction. Safe and proper use of power and hand tools is covered. Building foundations, wall construction, and roofing will be covered. Extensive hands-on experience is part of this class.

COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN CAD (9-12, SEMESTER). This Course covers the basics of computer aided design. Students will create computer drawings of houses, buildings and miscellaneous objects. Students will learn how to create these images in two and three dimensions.

COMMUNICATIONS (9-12, Semester, Fine Art Credit) This course covers several areas of the communications industry. One unit includes learning about one of the oldest methods of duplication called block printing. Students will hand cut a block stencil and make their own stationary. Another unit the students will design their own wood sign. Another unit of the class will be architectural drafting. A major unit of the class will cover digital photography.

ELECTRICITY (9-12, Semester) This course is designed to introduce the students to electricity, how it works and how it relates to everyday importance. Students will learn how to wire an entire home from switches to outlets to light fixtures. Students will then build an interesting lamp and/or light design of their choosing. Past projects included antler lamps, twig and stick lamps, and more.

FURNITURE REPAIR AND RESTORATION (10-12, Semester, Prerequisite: Woodworking) This course will provide students with a practical framework for restoring, preserving, and refinishing furniture; both modern and antique. The skills learned in this class will provide the student with a good foundation for the opportunities of self-employment in any community in any location found on the globe. Furniture restorers are few and far between and there will always be a demand for them.

GENERAL TECHNOLOGY (9-12, Semester) This class will take an exploratory look into the areas of drafting, design and construction. We will also study the engineering and manufacturing processes. Hands-on activities will be included in each area.

MATH FOR THE TRADES (11-12, Semester) Students will explore how math is used in the Trades. Students will be learning how to use math formulas, tips and tricks as it comes to using math for future careers in the Trades.

SMALL GAS ENGINES (9-12, Semester) Students will be introduced to the inner workings of small gas engines. Students will have an opportunity to take apart and rebuild small engines that are used in machines such as chainsaws, push mowers, weed whips, etc.

TECHNOLOGY 7 (7, Trimester) Students will explore many areas of technology, including energy, woodworking, flight, bridge building, drafting, and reading a state map. Extensive hands-on experience is part of this class.

WELDING AND MEDALS (11-12, SEMESTER) This course will cover the basics and fundamentals for common skills spanning a variety of metals occupations. These basic skills include safety, mathematics, hand tools, power tools, and blueprint reading. These skills are seen as minimal essentials to the careers in the trade and industry pathway. Students will explore welding, sheet metal, and machining occupations. Limit to 10 students due to facility space and equipment.

WOODWORKING (9-12, Semester) This course is designed for all students who would just like to enjoy learning to make projects out of wood. One of America's favorite hobbies is that of woodworking, both for men and women. Students will make a product or two that will involve the most basic of woodworking skills while using some power equipment as well.

YOUR FIRST HOME (11-12, Semester) This course will teach the student everything from how much income should be set aside for that first home or rental property, to taking care of the basic maintenance skills. In this course the student will learn such skills as sheet rocking, mixing concrete and mortar, learning to fix faucets, toilets, and changing basic light fixtures, switches, and outlets.

Work-Based Learning

These classes will be taught through Interactive Television (ito). There will be a "live" teacher at the host school. Class length and time will closely approximate Houston High School's schedule. These classes are open for 11th and 12th graders (and 10th graders by permission only). Please see a counselor for Work-Based Learning classes

Additional Course Offerings

ADSIS (Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services)

ADSIS Reading Interventions (7th-10th) is a supplemental reading program where students receive instruction with research-based strategies. Students are identified for reading services through yearly screening. Depending on students' deficits, the students may receive instruction in decoding, vocabulary, and/or comprehension. The overall goal is to increase student's reading ability which can then support comprehension of general education curriculum. Interventions consist of small group or individualized instruction with guided practice, feedback, and consistent progress monitoring.

Special Education Courses

Consumer Math is a class for students who are receiving special education services. The focus is to work on functional math skills that are applicable to daily living. Students in this course work towards their individual education goals and objectives.

Consumer English is a class for students who are receiving special education services. The focus is to work on functional reading and writing skills that are applicable to daily living. Students in this course work towards their individual education goals and objectives.

PLANNING GUIDE

Name: _____

Freshman Year

Total credits earned _____

English 9	English 9
World History	World History
Physical Science	Physical Science
High School Algebra Topics	High School Algebra Topics
Phy. Ed.	Careers
Elective:	Elective:
Elective:	Elective:

Sophomore Year

Total credits earned _____

English 10	English 10
U. S. History	U. S. History
Biology	Biology
Geometry	Geometry
Phy. Ed.	Health
Elective:	Elective:
Elective:	Elective:

Junior Year

Total credits earned _____

English:	English:
Economics	

Senior Year

Total credits earned _____

English:	English:
American Government/U.S Citizenship	Geography 12

Credit Checklist

English: ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____

Math: ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____

Science:

Biology: ____, ____

Physical Science: ____, ____

Other Science: ____, ____

Fine Arts: ____, ____ Physical Education: ____, ____ Health: ____

World Language: ____, ____ (Optional) Careers: ____

Electives: ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____

Social Studies:

Geography: ____

US History: ____, ____

World History: ____, ____

Government: ____

Economics: ____

Total Credits _____ (Need at least 48)