

High School Basics

Rising 9th Graders Guide to Choosing the Right Courses



Griffin-Spalding County Schools
2015-2016 School Year

It is the policy of the Griffin-Spalding County School System not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, color, religion, national origin or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment practices.

BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND!

Graduation from high school is the goal of every entering freshman. Successful completion of coursework, required assessments, and attendance policies are all crucial to on-time completion of high school. Understanding these requirements can help you plan for your success – not only in high school, but in your future education and career plans!

Post-secondary institutions and potential employers use your high school record to determine your suitability for their programs. Here are some things that they look for:

- Good attendance (Students will not receive credit for classes if they fail to meet attendance requirements for credit)
- Exemplary conduct records
- Good grades – You have to participate in class, complete assignments, and perform well on tests and activities.
- Record of challenging coursework

Testing is an important part of high school as well. Students are required to take and pass the Georgia High School Writing Test. They also must take the Georgia Milestones End-of-Course assessments in 8 core classes (CCGPS Coordinate Algebra, CCGPS Analytic Geometry, 9th Grade Literature, American Literature, Physical Science, Biology, US History and Economics). These EOC Assessments count as 20% of a student's grade for the course. Students are also tested on the PSAT in tenth grade.

BEWARE OF THE TRAPS!

Beware of the traps that many high school students find. Failure to study and keep up with class work can cause students to fail. Many high school courses must be taken in a certain order. If students fail a class, they may fall behind and may not be able to graduate on time. Failing required courses may also limit student's choices for elective classes. Attendance is important. Students must meet attendance guidelines to receive credit for courses. Even if students pass a course, they may not receive credit if they are absent too many days! Extra help is available for students who need assistance with class work. High school courses may be more demanding than middle school work, so stay on top of classwork, prepare well for tests and projects, and keep track of your progress.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

AP Environmental Science

This course is designed for advanced-level college preparatory students. Content, pacing, assignments, and delivery models are demanding. CONTENT AND EXPECTATIONS ARE COLLEGE LEVEL AND MEET COLLEGE BOARD GUIDELINES. The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science, through which students engage with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental Science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

AP Human Geography

This course is designed for advanced-level college preparatory students. Content, pacing, assignments, and delivery models are demanding. CONTENT AND EXPECTATIONS ARE COLLEGE LEVEL AND MEET COLLEGE BOARD GUIDELINES. Students must display strong reading, writing, analytical, and work ethic skills to be successful in this course. The AP Human Geography course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. The course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications.

AP United States Government and Politics

This course is designed for advanced-level college preparatory students. Content, pacing, assignments, and delivery models are demanding. CONTENT AND EXPECTATIONS ARE COLLEGE LEVEL AND MEET COLLEGE BOARD GUIDELINES. AP United States Government and Politics introduces students to key political ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the political culture of the United States. The course examines politically significant concepts and themes, through which students learn to apply disciplinary reasoning assess causes and consequences of political events, and interpret data to develop evidence-based arguments.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Basic Agricultural Science

This course is designed as the foundational course for all Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Pathways. The course introduces the major areas of scientific agricultural production and research; presents problem solving lessons and introductory skills and knowledge in agricultural science and agri-related technologies. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences and leadership programs and activities.

General Horticulture and Plant Science

This course is designed as an introduction for the Horticulture-Plant Science Pathway Program of Study. The course introduces the major concepts of plant and horticulture science. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences and leadership programs and activities.

ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

Industry Fundamentals and Occupational Safety

This course is designed as the foundational course in the Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Masonry, Machining, Welding, Sheet Metal, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, and HVACR Electrical pathways to prepare students for pursuit of any career in construction. The course prepares the trainee for the basic knowledge to function safely on or around a construction site and in the industry in general and will provide the trainee with the option for an Industry Certification in the Construction Core.

Introduction to Construction

This course offers an opportunity for students to build on their knowledge and skills developed in Industry Fundamentals and Occupational Safety. It introduces them to four construction craft areas and is also the second step towards gaining a Level One Industry Certification in one of the craft areas. The goal of this course is to introduce students to the history and traditions of the carpentry, masonry, plumbing, and electrical craft trades. Students will explore how the various crafts have influenced and been influenced by history. The student will also learn and apply knowledge of the care and safe use of hand and power tools as related to each trade. In addition, students will be introduced to and develop skills to differentiate between blueprints related to each individual craft area.

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Introduction to Business and Technology

The course is designed for high school students as a gateway to the career pathways above, and provides an overview of business and technology skills required for today's business environment. Knowledge of business principles, the impact of financial decisions, and technology proficiencies demanded by business combine to establish the elements of this course. Emphasis is placed on developing proficient fundamental computer skills required for all career pathways. Students will learn essentials for working in a business environment, managing a business, and owning a business.

Business and Technology

Business and Technology is designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills to be an asset to the collaborative, global, and innovative business world of today and tomorrow. Mastery use of spreadsheets and the ability to apply leadership skills to make informed business decisions will be a highlight of this course for students. Publishing industry appropriate documents to model effective communication and leadership will be demonstrated through project based learning. Students will use spreadsheet and database software to manage data while analyzing, organizing and sharing data through visually appealing presentation.

DRAMATIC ARTS

Theater Arts Fundamentals I & II

Develops and applies performance skills through basic vocal, physical and emotional exercises; includes improvisation and scene study and related technical art forms.

Dramatic Arts/Film/Video & Television I & II

Provides an overview of film, television and video and their relationship to drama and theater. Covers technical considerations of program production and the interactive roles of the director, actor, choreographer and technical designers. Provides opportunities to analyze film, television and video productions and to develop criteria to evaluate these media forms.

Public Speaking – Oral and Written Communications

Focuses on critical thinking, organizing, and communicating appropriately to different audiences; presents methods to develop and arrange ideas and information in written form for effective oral delivery. Emphasizes writing and public speaking skills.

Journalism I & II (Yearbook)

This course focuses on journalistic writing through analysis of newspapers, yearbooks, literary magazines, and broadcast journalism publications. A concentration on the following components of journalistic writing is critical: influence, purpose, structure, and diction. Reading, writing, and critical thinking are key components as students explore the power and influence of journalism. Students will participate in news gathering, the study of ethics, and the aspects of copy writing, editing, and revising and will study the ethics of journalism. If a publication is produced, the students will learn the process of publishing.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING**Introduction to Early Childhood Care and Education**

The Early Childhood Education I course is the foundational course under the Early Childhood Care & Education pathway and prepares the student for employment in early childhood education and services. The course addresses the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors associated with supporting and promoting optimal growth and development of infants and children.

Early Childhood Education II

The course provides a history of education, licensing and accreditation requirements, and foundations of basic observation practices and applications. Early childhood care, education, and development issues are also addressed and include health, safety, and nutrition education; certification in CPR/First Aid/Fire Safety; information about child abuse and neglect; symptoms and prevention of major childhood illnesses and diseases; and prevention and control of communicable illnesses.

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY**Army JROTC LET I**

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is a leadership education program. This program will help students build a strong knowledge base of self discovery and leadership skills applicable to many leadership and managerial situations. Mastery of these standards through project-based learning, service learning and leadership development activities will prepare students for 21st Century leadership responsibilities. This laboratory course is designed to introduce students to the history, customs, traditions and purpose of the Army JROTC program. It teaches students strategies to maximize their potential for success through learning and self-management. Basic leadership skills to include leadership principles, values and attributes and communications skills are integrated throughout the course.

Army JROTC LET II

This laboratory course is designed to build on the self discovery skills sets taught in JROTC 1. As self directed learners, students study the fundamentals citizenship skills, the foundation of the American political system and our Constitution. Personal responsibility and wellness is reinforced by diet, nutrition and physical fitness activities. Drug and alcohol awareness and prevention are reinforced. Students are placed in leadership roles that enable them to demonstrate an understanding of basic leadership principles, values and attributes.

HEALTH SCIENCE

Introduction to Healthcare Science

This course will enable students to receive initial exposure to the many Healthcare Science careers as well as employability, communication, and technology skills necessary in the healthcare industry. The concepts of human growth and development, interaction with patients and family members, health, wellness, and preventative care are valued, as well as the legal, ethical responsibilities of today's healthcare provider. Fundamental healthcare skills development is initiated including microbiology, basic life support and first aid. This course will provide students with a competitive edge to be the better candidate for either entry into the healthcare global marketplace and/or the post-secondary institution of their choice to continue their education and training.

Essentials of Healthcare

The Essentials of Healthcare is a medical-focused anatomy course addressing the physiology of each body system, along with the investigation of common diseases, disorders and emerging diseases. The prevention of disease and the diagnosis and treatment that might be utilized are addressed, along with medical terminology related to each system. This course provides an opportunity to demonstrate technical skills that enforce the goal of helping students make connections between medical procedures and the pathophysiology of diseases and disorders.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Introduction to Digital Technology

This course is designed for high school students to understand, communicate, and adapt to a digital world as it impacts their personal life, society, and the business world. Exposure to foundational knowledge in hardware, software, programming, web design, IT support, and networks are all taught in a computer lab with hands-on activities and project focused tasks. Students will not only understand the concepts, but apply their knowledge to situations and defend their actions/decisions/choices through the knowledge and skills acquired in this course. Employability skills are integrated into activities, tasks, and projects throughout the course standards to demonstrate the skills required by business and industry.

Computer Science Principles

This course emphasizes the content, practices, thinking and skills central to the discipline of computer science. Through both its content and pedagogy, this course aims to appeal to a broad audience. The focus of this course will fall into these computational thinking practices: connecting computing, developing computational artifacts, abstracting, analyzing problems and artifacts, communicating, and collaborating.

FINE ARTS/MUSIC

Beginning Band I & II

Provides opportunities to develop performance skills on a wind or percussion instrument. Emphasizes performance and production; may include analysis, historical and cultural influences, improvisation and appreciation of music. Organizes objectives for self-paced progress through all four levels. Stresses individual progress and group experiences.

Beginning Chorus

Provides opportunities to develop performance skills and knowledge in mixed choral singing. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation of music. Organizes objectives for self-paced progress through all four levels. Stresses individual progress and group experiences.

Beginning Guitar

Beginning Guitar is offered for any student interested in learning the *basics* of playing the guitar. The objectives of this course are outlined in the Georgia Performance Standards for Grade 9-12 Beginning Guitar. Concepts will include learning to read and notate music in addition to learning the fundamentals of guitar performance. Students must be able to provide their own instrument for each class. *Essentials Elements for Guitar, Book 1* will be the literature used.

Beginning Keyboarding Techniques

Introduces basic piano keyboard techniques. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation of music. Provides an individualized setting.

Beginning Instrumental Ensemble I & II

Offers smaller ensemble experience for instrumentalists in large band and orchestra. Emphasizes the performance style and literature of the instrumental chamber group medium. May include brass, woodwind, percussion, and string ensembles. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, creative aspects of music, historical and cultural influences and music appreciation.

Beginning Men's Chorus I & II

This class is offered for any male student interested in participating in the choral program. Because of the varying levels of experience and abilities, objectives for this course can be found in both the Beginning and Intermediate portions of the Georgia Performance Standards. The objectives include learning to read and write music, learning the fundamentals of vocal performance, learning about the history of music and lastly, learning about the music of other cultures. Students will be required to participate in performances that may include performing in a mixed choir setting with one or more of the other women's choirs.

Beginning Women's Chorus I & II

This class is offered for any female student interested in participating in the choral program. Because of the varying levels of experience and abilities, objectives for this course can be found in both the Beginning and Intermediate portions of the Georgia Performance Standards. The objectives include learning to read and write music, learning the fundamentals of vocal performance, learning about the history of music and lastly, learning about the music of other cultures. Students will be required to participate in performances that may include performing in a mixed choir setting with one or more of the other men's choirs.

Intermediate Band

Provides opportunities for intermediate-level performers to increase performance skills and precision on a wind or percussion instrument. Includes performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation of music. Stresses individual progress and learning and group experiences; strengthens reading skills.

Intermediate Chorus

Provides intermediate-level performers opportunities to increase performance skills and knowledge in mixed choral singing. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation of music. Organizes objectives for self-paced progress through all four levels. Stresses individual progress and group experiences.

Music Appreciation

Introduces production and performance; covers terminology and idioms, elements of music, perceptive listening and attitudes and appreciation. Stresses the ability to become a literate consumer and the ability to speak and write about music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exercise and Weight Control

Provides safe, effective and physiologically sound ways to manage weight and alter metabolism and body composition. Includes consumer information on products, programs and fitness concepts for developing healthy lifetime habits.

Health

*This course is required for graduation.** Explores the mental, physical, and social aspects of life and how each contributes to total health and well-being; emphasizes safety, nutrition, mental health, substance abuse prevention, disease prevention, environmental health, family life education, health careers, consumer health, and community health.

Introduction to Team Sports

Introduces fundamental skills, strategies, and rules associated with team sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, team handball, and flag football.

Personal Fitness

*This course is required for graduation.** Provides instruction in methods to attain a healthy level of physical fitness. Covers how to develop a lifetime fitness program based on a personal fitness assessment and stresses strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, body composition and cardiovascular endurance. Includes fitness principles, nutrition, fad diets, weight control, stress management, adherence strategies and consumer information; promotes self-awareness and responsibility for fitness.

***Students may elect to take 3 credits (3 years) JROTC in place of Health and Personal Fitness. Students who do not earn 3 JROTC credits prior to their senior year will be scheduled for Health and Personal Fitness as seniors.**

General Physical Education I

Focuses on any combination or variety of team sports, lifetime sports, track and field events, aquatics/water sports, outdoor education experiences, rhythmic/dance, recreational games, gymnastics, and self-defense. Provides basic methods to attain a healthy and active lifestyle.

Weight Training

Introduces weight training; emphasizes strength development training and proper lifting techniques. Includes fitness concepts for developing healthy lifetime habits.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

Foundations of Engineering and Technology

The Foundations of Engineering and Technology is the introductory course for the Engineering and Technology Education pathways. This STEM driven course provides the students with an overview of engineering and technology including the different methods used in the engineering design process developing fundamental technology and engineering literacy. Students will demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have learned through various project based activities while using an engineering design process to successfully master the “E” in STEM.

Engineering Concepts

Students will learn to design technical solutions to engineering problems using a whole systems approach to engineering design. Students will demonstrate the application of mathematical tools, teamwork, and communications skills in solving various design challenges, while maintaining a safe work environment.

VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts Comprehensive I

Introduces art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgment and studio production. Emphasizes the ability to understand and use elements and principles of design through a variety of media, processes and visual resources. Explores master artworks for historical and cultural significance.

Visual Arts Comprehensive II

Enhances level-one skills in art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgment and studio production. Emphasizes and reinforces knowledge and application of the design elements and their relationship to the principles of design. Explores different two-and three-dimensional art media and processes. Investigates master artworks to increase awareness and to examine the role of art and the artist in past and contemporary societies.

WORLD LANGUAGES

German I

Introduces the German language; emphasizes all skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing in an integrated way. Includes how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics and to develop an understanding of German-speaking cultures.

German II

Enhances Level One skills in German and provides opportunities to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. Provides continued practice in how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics and to increase understanding of German-speaking cultures.

Latin I

This course provides an introduction to the basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of Latin on a comparable basis with English. A brief survey of Roman culture is included for understanding of Latin idiomatic expressions. English vocabulary derived from Latin will be emphasized.

Latin II

Enhances Level One skills and provides opportunities to translate longer, more challenging passages. Emphasizes how ancient Roman language and civilization has influenced Western language and civilization.

Spanish I

Introduces the Spanish language; emphasizes all skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. Includes how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics and to develop an understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Spanish II

Enhances Level One skills in Spanish and provides opportunities to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. Provides continued practice in how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics and to increase understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.