

# *American School*<sup>®</sup>

Offering the Accredited High School Courses  
You Need, at a Cost You Can Afford



- **Paper-Based Courses**
- **Online Exams for Paper-Based Courses**
- **Online Courses**



# Course Descriptions

**AMERICAN SCHOOL®**  
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Accreditation:

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)

National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)

Accreditation International (Ai)

Recognized as a non-public secondary school by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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# Course Delivery Options:

American School knows that flexibility is important in helping you meet your education goals. That is why we are proud to deliver our courses and administer our exams in a variety of ways.

- **Paper-Based Courses**
- **Online Exams for Paper-Based Courses**
- **Online Courses**

## Paper-Based Courses:

For most paper-based courses, you will receive a textbook, study guide and/or exam booklet. The beginning pages of each study guide tell you how the course is organized. Each study guide contains information on lesson plans, reading assignments, and discussions of the material. Your study guide serves, in part, as a teacher. It will give you step-by-step directions and suggestions to help you complete the course.

For some courses, you will receive instructional books, such as Writing 1 or Planning Your Career, that contain both text material and study directions. These courses do not have a separate study guide.

You will find your exams in the study guide or in a separate exam booklet.

## Online Exams for Paper-Based Courses (OEPC):

If you have opted to complete online exams for paper-based courses, like the paper-based courses, you will receive a textbook and study guide, or instructional book and exam booklet in the mail; however, instead of completing the paper exams and sending them by mail, you will do all exams online. Once your enrollment has processed, you will be sent an email containing information on how to access your course. System requirements are listed on the next page. You will be able to complete exams, view grades, receive announcements and communicate with teachers via email and messaging through your course site. **Please be aware that if you choose to do your exams online, you may not switch to paper exams any time during your enrollment in the course.**

## Fully Online Courses:

If you have opted to take fully online courses, you will be sent an email containing information on how to access your course once your enrollment has processed. System requirements are listed on the next page. You will be able to complete exams, view grades, receive announcements and communicate with teachers via email and messaging through your course site.

# Online System Requirements

Please visit [www.americanschool.org/online-learning](http://www.americanschool.org/online-learning) for more information.

## PC Requirements

Operating System	Hardware	Software	Browser	Screen Resolution
Windows 7 or later	PC 2 GHz 2 GB of RAM  Broadband/High-Speed Internet	Word processing software  Adobe Reader	Google Chrome 4 or higher  Firefox 3 or higher  Internet Explorer® 8.0 or higher	800 x 600

## Mac Requirements

Operating System	Hardware	Software	Browser	Screen Resolution
Max OS X 10.6 or later	PC 2 GHz 2 GB of RAM  Broadband/High-Speed Internet	Word processing software  Adobe Reader	Google Chrome 4 or higher  Firefox 3 or higher  Internet Explorer® 8.0 or higher  Safari 5.1 or later  Opera 9 or later	800 x 600

## Preferred Browsers

**GradPoint Courses:** The preferred browsers to use when taking GradPoint courses are Firefox 3 or higher and Internet Explorer® 8.0 or higher.

**Online Exams for Paper-Based Courses (OEPC):** The preferred browsers to use for these exams are Google Chrome 4 or higher and Firefox 3 or higher.

## Mobile Devices

Many mobile devices, such as tablets, can be used to view course materials. However, some functions will not work well with mobile devices such as uploading documents or taking exams. It is recommended that you use your desktop or laptop computer to take exams and submit written assignments.

## Special Software

Some American School Online courses will require the use of special software for completing course requirements. Courses that use special software will have instructions provided within those courses for obtaining the necessary software.

## Pop-Up Blockers

You will need to disable the Pop-Up Blocker option on the American School Online site in order to complete Online Exams for Paper-Based Courses (OEPC).

# Course Descriptions for Paper-Based Courses

## Business, Career and Technical Education

### Accounting, Fundamentals of

Fundamentals of Accounting provides students with an understanding of the basic concepts and procedures necessary for accounting. It focuses on two accounting cycles: one for a service business organized as a proprietorship and one for a merchandising business organized as a corporation.

Among the activities students do in completing this subject are preparing a beginning balance sheet; recording transactions in a journal; posting from a journal to a general ledger; preparing an income statement, an eight column work sheet and financial statements; and reconciling a bank statement. These activities require a solid knowledge of arithmetic and the application of the basic accounting concepts and procedures which students learn in this subject.

There are 7 examinations in Fundamentals of Accounting.

Gilbertson et al., *Fundamentals of Accounting, Course 1*, South-Western/CengageLearning.

### Automotive Systems

Automotive Systems introduces students to the how and why of the design, construction, and operation of all makes and models of modern automobiles. It begins each discussion of a major automotive system with basic theory and then proceeds to examine the major components until the entire system has been explored. Relevant areas from math, physics, chemistry, electricity, magnetism and hydraulics are introduced as appropriate. This course also stresses the proper use of tools and safety precautions.

In completing this subject, students demonstrate an understanding of the functions of the basic components of the major automotive systems by answering objective questions and providing written responses. Students are also required to view an actual engine and describe its ignition and fuel system. Students show their knowledge of the formulas used in measuring engine performance by performing various calculations such as engine displacement and the force of a piston.

There are 8 examinations in Automotive Systems. OEPC Available.

Stockel, Stockel and Johanson, *Auto Fundamentals*, 11th edition, The Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc.

### Automotive: Know Your Car

Know Your Car is a half–unit subject designed to provide the average driver with a basic understanding of how a car works and what should be done to keep it working—whether as a do-it-yourself project or by the mechanics at the local service station. It explains trouble signs to watch for and how to avoid potential problems by preventive maintenance. If a breakdown should occur, it tells what is involved in getting the repairs made and gives a reasonable idea of the repair costs. The course also deals with the issues of deciding whether to keep or replace an old car and buying a new car. In completing this subject students demonstrate their understanding mainly through objective questions.

There are 4 examinations in Know Your Car. OEPC available.

Haefner, *The Car Care Book*, Delmar Learning.



## Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)

### Business Law

Business Law focuses on the application of law to business operations and transactions in the United States. It covers such topics as contractual agreements, employment, commercial paper, insurance, personal and real property, partnerships, and corporate organization.

In completing this subject students apply the knowledge and concepts they have learned to new situations involving legal issues.

There are 10 examinations in Business Law.

Brown and Sukys, *Understanding Business and Personal Law*, Glencoe McGraw-Hill.

### Business Math

Business Math is a full-unit course with many practical applications to daily life in both personal and business settings. The first half of the course, in which students do 3 examinations, deepens the student's understanding of concepts such as using checking and savings accounts and credit cards, keeping good financial records, and dealing with loans for homes and vehicles. The second half of the course, in which students do 2 examinations and 1 project, takes students through starting and running a business of their own. Students work on projects dealing with depreciation, insurance, employee payroll handling, business inventory management, and marketing and growing a business.

There are 5 examinations and 1 project in Business Math.

Lange and Rousos, *Mathematics for Business and Personal Finance*, McGraw-Hill.

### Business, Introduction to

The primary focus of Introduction to Business is on understanding the basic economic and organizational principles underlying a market economy and how individuals in their roles as workers, citizens and consumers influence our economic life. The course particularly stresses the consumer role and includes sections on making wise buying decisions, using the banking system and credit, purchasing insurance, saving and investing, and establishing a financial plan.

In completing this course students apply the concepts they have learned to scenarios similar to those they might encounter in real life. For example, students present a plan on how to fund the repair of a local highway system, compare a brand-name-item to its generic equivalent, balance a checkbook, and compare the costs of insurance.

There are 8 examinations in Introduction to Business. OEPC available.

Egglund, et al., *Intro to Business*, South-Western/Cengage Learning.



## **Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)**

### **Career, Planning Your**

Planning Your Career is designed to help individuals to make decisions about their career now and in the years to come. It begins with helping students explore how their interests, abilities, values and personality relate to choosing a career and ends with practical advice on how to get a job. Along the way, topics such as sources of career information, training and educational options, financial aid for going to college or vocational school and many more are covered.

As part of this course students complete objective questions which test their knowledge of the concepts and factual information to which they have been introduced, and then they apply this knowledge to their own situation by, among other things, analyzing their interests, abilities and values; identifying occupational clusters which contain jobs which interest them; taking the Self-Directed Search®; and completing a sample job application form.

There are 5 examinations in Planning Your Career. OEPC available.

Allen, *Planning Your Career*, American School.

### **Carpentry**

Carpentry provides a systematic overview of the most common tools, materials and procedures used in residential construction, from laying a foundation to finish work.

In this subject students calculate board feet, interpret labeling information, identify components in drawings as well as complete objective questions which test their knowledge of the basic tools, materials and procedures.

There are 6 examinations in Carpentry. OEPC available.

Koel, *Carpentry*, American Technical Society.

### **Child Care and Development**

In Child Care students study the care and guidance of children from infancy through adolescence. The focus of the course is on the physical, intellectual, and emotional/social development of the child at each stage of his or her life as well as on the role of the caregiver in promoting the child's well-being at each stage.

In completing this course students are asked, among other things, to apply what they have learned to determine appropriate actions that a caregiver might take in a wide range of situations.

There are 6 examinations in Child Care. OEPC available.

Brisbane, *The Developing Child*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

## **Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)**

### **Clothing**

Clothing is about how to make the most of your looks and how to get the most for your clothing dollar. It is also about the basic steps in making your own clothes. Students learn about the basic principles of color and design and how to apply these in choosing clothes which flatter their figure, the cloth-making process and fabric selection, planning their wardrobe, taking proper care of their clothing, how to use a pattern, how a sewing machine operates, and how to do simple hand stitches.

In completing this subject students complete a wide range of projects including determining their figure proportions and body shape, doing an inventory of items in their wardrobe, identifying techniques used in advertisements, drafting a complaint letter, describing how they could redesign or recycle items in their wardrobe, and providing samples of basic hand stitches. For the last exam in the course students submit a completed sewing project from a kit provided. Access to a sewing machine is recommended, but not required.

There are 7 examinations in Clothing. OEPC available.

Liddell and Samuels, *Clothes and Your Appearance*, The Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc.

### **Computers, Introduction to**

Introduction to Computers is a course for both students who are experienced computer users and those who have had little or no experience in using a computer. The aim of the course is to give students a general overview of how computers operate and, given the proper software, what they can do, including word processing, spreadsheets, graphics and online photoediting. Students also develop skills in using the Internet to obtain useful information and learn how to protect their privacy and their computers from outside threats. Access to a computer and to the Internet is required in this course. OEPC available.

In completing this subject, among other activities, students demonstrate the ability to do online research, outline a plan for backing up data on their computers, do basic character and paragraph formatting, and describe how a firewall protects a computer.

There are 5 examinations in Computers, Introduction to.

Norton, *Peter Norton's Introduction to Computers*, McGraw-Hill Technology Education.

### **Consumer Economics**

The goal of this course is to give students the knowledge and skills necessary to make wise choices as consumers. In Consumer Economics, students learn about the roles of consumers, producers and the government in our economic system, the decision-making process, how to budget, and managing consumer credit. In addition, students study available options and how to get the most for their money in specific areas of spending, such as food, transportation, housing and insurance.

In completing this subject students do activities such as discussing steps to protect against identity theft, calculating the net worth of an individual, reconciling a bank statement, deciding what type of life insurance would best suit a particular situation, and interpreting the information on a nutrition label.

There are 6 examinations in Consumer Economics. OEPC available.

Lowe et al., *Consumer Education and Economics*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

## **Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)**

### **Drafting, Basic**

Basic Drafting is a general drafting course. Students are introduced to basic drafting tools and skills, including sketching, drawing, dimensioning, architectural drawing, and every other important drafting practice. Though Computer-Assisted-Drafting is not covered in depth, it is discussed, and students who have access to CAD are encouraged to use a computer to complete some of their assignments. Students are required to purchase on their own or through the School the necessary drafting tools for completing the required drawings.

In completing this subject students are required to demonstrate their ability to use appropriate drafting tools; to perform basic geometric constructions; to draw an object as a multiview; to prepare sectional, auxiliary and pictorial views; to properly dimension figures; and to complete working drawings that describe how a product is made.

There are 9 examinations in Basic Drafting.

Walker and Mathis, *Exploring Drafting: Fundamentals of Drafting Technology*, The Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc.

Walker, *Exploring Drafting Worksheets*, The Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc.

### **Electricity, Fundamentals of**

Fundamentals of Electricity gives students a basic understanding of electrical principles and their real world applications. From an introduction to the basic concepts of work, energy and charge, students proceed to a study of various types of circuits and the use of electromagnetism, capacitors, inductors and transformers. No previous knowledge of electricity is assumed. Students are required to have completed Algebra 1 as a prerequisite for taking this course. The math required for solving electrical problems is explained in detail with examples.

In completing this subject students are required, among other activities, to calculate the efficiency of a motor and of a transformer, determine resistance, read circuit diagrams and determine circuit values, conduct a loop analysis of a circuit, use standard theorems to analyze circuits, and calculate voltage across a capacitor.

There are 7 examinations in Fundamentals of Electricity. OEPC available.

Fowler, *Electricity: Principles and Applications*, McGraw-Hill.

### **English, Business**

Business English stresses the writing of effective business communications. Students learn how to write request, response, transmittal, and confirmation letters and memos; letters to customers, prospective customers, and suppliers; administrative and public relations communications; and human resources communications. There are also assignments dealing with employment letters, résumés, and business reports.

As students are required to complete numerous writing assignments in this course, students should have a solid foundation in English grammar and mechanics before taking this subject.

There are 8 examinations in Business English.

Poe and Fruehling, *Business Communication: A Case Method Approach and EMCParadigm*.

## **Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)**

### **Food Study**

In Food Study students focus on the principles of nutrition and the relationship of good nutrition to our well-being. Students learn how to plan diets appropriate for their age and lifestyle as well as how to find and evaluate information on nutrition. In addition, they are introduced to the fundamentals of food preparation for all the major food groups as well basic cooking tools, microwave cooking, and safety precautions in preparing and handling food.

In completing Food Study students do activities such as identifying the nutrient content of food prepared in various ways, describing how to prevent foodborne illnesses, reading and understanding the information on a can of food and on a meat label, identifying nutritious and easy to fix snacks from the major food groups, and describing how to prepare food to preserve the nutrients.

There are 8 examinations in Food Study. OEPC available.

Byrd-Bredbenner, *Adventures in Food and Nutrition!*, The Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc.

### **Home Planning and Decorating**

Home Planning and Decorating provides a comprehensive look at how to plan for your housing needs—from budget considerations to designing the interior. In this course students learn about such things as the elements and principles of design, house and furniture styles, evaluating the structural soundness of a building, and making the best use of natural resources and the environment in meeting our need for shelter.

In completing this subject, among other activities, students apply what they have learned to real life scenarios, including their own situations.

There are 7 examinations in Home Planning and Decorating. OEPC available.

Sherwood, *Homes Today and Tomorrow*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

### **Home Repair and Maintenance**

Home Repair and Maintenance is for those students interested in doing their own home maintenance and repair work. Students learn the basic information and techniques necessary to use the major tools and various building materials required for routine repair and maintenance of a residential structure and its systems, including exterior and interior walls, roofs, windows, heating and cooling systems, and insulation.

In completing this subject, among other activities, students identify components of systems on illustrations, read lumber grade markings, estimate the number of square yards of carpeting required for a room, and provide the dimensions for standard cabinets for a layout.

There are 7 examinations in Home Repair and Maintenance.

Landers, *Home Repair and Maintenance*, The Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc.

## **Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)**

### **Keyboarding**

Keyboarding is for the beginner as well as for the individual who has learned the keyboard but wishes to improve his or her technique. Efficiency and speed are emphasized in specially designed exercises. Students also learn how to type copy in the most commonly used formats. As part of the focus on accuracy, students are expected to recognize and correct common errors in mechanics and grammar. Students must have access to a computer or typewriter to complete this subject.

In completing Keyboarding students demonstrate mastery of basic keystrokes and keystroke combinations in timed and untimed exercises. Assignments become increasingly complex as students progress in the course until by the end students are producing business letters and reports and formatting tables.

There are 7 examinations in Keyboarding. OEPC available.

Hoggatt et al., *Century 21 Computer Keyboarding*, South-Western/Cengage Learning.

### **Office Procedures**

Office Procedures focuses on the needs of the modern office worker. It stresses communication and interpersonal skills, including proper handling of the telephone; the processing of information and managing of records in modern business organizations; common business documents and procedures; and efficient time and task management.

In completing this subject students apply the skills and concepts they have learned to determine what to do and how to handle various business situations. Among other activities, they write emails, proofread and properly format business letters, prepare an invoice, work with a records retention schedule, properly prepare file folders, process mail and prepare an agenda for a meeting.

There are 7 examinations in Office Procedures. OEPC available.

Oliverio, et al., *The Office: Procedures and Technology*, South-Western/Cengage Learning.

### **Print Reading 1, Building Trades**

This half–unit course introduces students to the fundamentals of printreading, particularly as it relates to residential construction. Students begin by learning about the various types of graphic information used to communicate construction ideas and information. They then are given the necessary background to read plot plans, floor plans, elevations, sections and details. In addition, students are introduced to building trades information. Two sets of plans are included with the course, one of which is also on the accompanying CD-ROM, which provides supplemental reference material.

In completing this subject students take competency exams included as part of the textbook materials.

There are 10 examinations in Print Reading 1.

Proctor and Toenjes, *Printreading for Residential Construction, Part 1*, American Technical Society.



## Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)

### Print Reading 2, Building Trades

This half-unit course provides printreading experience in residential and light commercial construction. The text/workbook is designed to reinforce concepts regarding elements commonly found on prints. The course provides a detailed description of various construction materials and explores the typical use of working drawings and written specifications by building trades for various types of construction. Real world building plans for a brick veneer residence, condominium, commercial building, bank, and restaurant are examined in detail. Written specifications for both the brick veneer residence and restaurant are studied, as are building codes. Five sets of plans are included with the course, many of which are also on the accompanying CD-ROM, which includes supplemental reference material.

In completing this subject students take competency exams included as part of the textbook materials.

There are 8 examinations in Print Reading 2.

Proctor and Toenjes, *Printreading for Residential and Light Commercial Construction, Part 2*, American Technical Publishers.



# English

## English 1, Understanding

Understanding English 1 gives students an in-depth knowledge of how sentences are organized. Through this knowledge, students learn to recognize and use good sentences. The first half of the course concentrates on sentence types, parts of speech, punctuation and verb forms. The second half of the course concentrates on phrases, clauses, conjunctions and the diagramming of sentences.

In completing this subject, students do activities such as writing original examples of types of sentences and writing well-organized, focused paragraphs on a wide variety of topics with sufficient detail to engage the reader. Students are expected to proofread their work before submission.

There are 8 examinations in Understanding English 1. OEPC available.

*Understanding English 1, American School.*

## English 1: Composition and Grammar

English 1: Composition and Grammar is the first in a series of one-half unit courses which stress a progressive mastery of language and writing. In this course students begin by reviewing grammar, word usage and mechanics. Students then engage in the writing process with an emphasis on creating interesting, well-constructed, concise and unified paragraphs and essays. In this first course in the series there is a particular stress on expanding vocabulary.

In completing this course, among other activities, students are required to identify and correct grammatical and mechanical errors; diagram sentences; brainstorm and freewrite ideas for essays; outline; proofread; and write personal essays as well as narrative, essays and essays that explain and persuade.

There are 6 examinations in English 1: Composition and Grammar.

*Language Network (Grade 9), McDougal Littell.*

## English 2, Understanding

Understanding English 2 builds on the foundation in grammar and usage provided in Understanding English 1. In this course students concentrate on improving their style and writing with clarity and precision for a variety of purposes, including themes, biographies, reviews and letters.

In completing this subject students do activities such as writing original sentences correctly using specified words and constructions; writing well-organized, focused paragraphs on a wide variety of topics with sufficient detail to support the main idea; developing paragraphs using specific techniques to achieve clarity and good style; and writing a biographical sketch, a review of a book, TV show or movie, various types of letters and a résumé.

There are 8 examinations in Understanding English 2. OEPC available.

*Understanding English 2, Assignments 1-4 and Understanding English 2, Assignments 5-8, American School.*



## English (Cont.)

### English 2: Composition and Grammar

English 2: Composition and Grammar is the second in a series of one-half unit courses which stress a positive interest in language and training in speaking and writing. In this course, students build on the understanding of vocabulary, grammar, writing and speaking acquired in English 1: Composition and Grammar. They develop their communication skills through expanding their vocabulary, analyzing sentence structure, and writing themes.

In completing this course, among other activities, students are required to identify and correct grammatical and mechanical errors, edit paragraphs for clarity and consistency; engage in prewriting activities; write spatial order, compare and contrast, and cause and effect essays as well as essays which describe, narrate, explain and persuade; and write a business letter.

There are 6 examinations in English 2: Composition and Grammar. OEPC available.

*Language Network: Grammar, Writing, Communication*, McDougal Littell.

### English 3: Composition and Grammar

English 3: Composition and Grammar is the third in a series of one-half unit courses which stress a positive interest in language and training in writing. In this course, students concentrate on writing paragraphs for different purposes using vivid language and varied sentence patterns. Students also expand their familiarity with information resources and are introduced to the documented research paper.

In completing this course, among other activities, students focus on strengthening their prewriting skills and writing well-organized paragraphs using varied vocabulary, structures and rhythms. They then write longer personal narratives, comparison/contrast essays and persuasive essays. Students end the course by writing a short research paper.

There are 6 examinations in English 3: Composition and Grammar. OEPC available.

*Language Network (Grade 11)*, McDougal Littell.

### English 4: Composition and Grammar

English 4: Composition and Grammar is the last in a series of one-half unit courses which stress a progressive mastery of language and writing. In this course, students begin by reviewing grammar, usage and mechanics. Student then engages in the writing process with an emphasis on creating interesting, well-constructed, concise and unified paragraphs and essays. Particular attention is paid to issues of style. Students focus on writing a personality profile (descriptive essay), subject analysis (expository essay) and a proposal (persuasive essay). They conclude the course by researching and writing a research report.

There are 6 examinations in English 4: Composition and Grammar. OEPC available.

*Language Network (Grade 12)*, McDougal Littell.

## English (Cont.)

### English, Business

Business English stresses the writing of effective business communications. Students learn how to write request, response, transmittal, and confirmation letters and memos; letters to customers, prospective customers, and suppliers; administrative and public relations communications; and human resources communications. There are also assignments dealing with employment letters, résumés, and business reports.

As students are required to complete numerous writing assignments in this course, students should have a solid foundation in English grammar and mechanics before taking this subject.

There are 8 examinations in Business English.

Poe and Fruehling, *Business Communication: A Case Method Approach and EMCParadigm*.

### English, Grammar, Basic

Basic English Grammar is a half–unit subject which deals with the basic fundamentals of grammar. It provides a review of sentence types and structure, punctuation, forming plurals, agreement of subject and verb, use of possessives and connecting words, common ungrammatical expressions, paragraphing and writing friendly letters.

In completing this course students are expected to write sentences, paragraphs and personal letters using proper grammar.

There are 8 examinations in Basic English Grammar.

Hoffman, *Basic English Grammar*, American School.

### Journalism

Journalism introduces students to the world of the professional newspaper reporter. Students learn how news is gathered, how various types of news stories are handled, and how to write such stories using good journalistic style. Professional responsibilities and the editing process are also covered.

Among the activities students do in completing this subject are writing short news and feature stories, writing various types of other stories including personal interview, accident, and crime stories as well as a critical review. Students also learn about proofreading and editing. As students are required to complete numerous writing assignments in this course, students should have a solid foundation in English grammar and mechanics before taking this subject.

There are 8 examinations in Journalism. OEPC available.

Leiter et al., *The Complete Reporter*, Allyn and Bacon.

## English (Cont.)

### Literature 1

Using a wide range of poems, short stories, plays and non-fiction prose by authors from different time periods and different cultural backgrounds, Literature 1 introduces students to some excellent writing and helps them to become familiar with basic literary devices and how they are used in the works under discussion. In this way, the study guide and textbook lead students to an understanding of the structure and meaning of these literary works.

In completing this half–unit subject, among other activities, students complete Skillbuilder exercises in the textbook which help prepare them for writing short answers and essays about the literary works they have read.

There are 5 examinations in Literature 1. OEPC available.

*The Interactive Reader, Level 9*, McDougal Littell.

### Literature 2

Literature 2 expands on the reading of literary works begun in Literature 1. As in Literature 1, students analyze plays, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction prose from a broad range of times and cultures to determine how authors convey their meaning.

In completing this half–unit subject, among other activities, students complete Skillbuilder exercises in the textbook which help prepare them for writing short answers and essays about the literary works they have read. Students are required to do more extensive analysis in their writing than in Literature 1.

There are 5 examinations in Literature 2. OEPC available.

*The InterActive Reader, Level 10*, McDougal Littell.

### Literature 3: Selected American Classics

This half–unit course allows students to explore in-depth several classics of American Literature: Willa Cather’s *My Ántonia*; Mark Twain’s *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*; poetry by Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Robert Frost, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Langston Hughes and others; and short stories by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, O. Henry, Stephen Crane, Washington Irving, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ambrose Bierce, Henry James, Herman Melville, Edgar Allan Poe and Philip K. Dick among others. Emphasis is on reading for enjoyment and understanding through an analysis of the structure and themes of each work. In addition, the study guides for these works stress the development of specific writing skills, including writing synopses and descriptive sentences.

In completing this course, among other activities, students prepare a synopsis, paraphrase passages, identify techniques used in descriptive passages, identify the rhyme and rhythm schemes of poems, and write a critical essay.

There are 4 examinations in Literature 3. OEPC available.

Cather: *My Ántonia*, Dover; Dickinson: *Selected Poems*, Dover; *Great American Short Stories*, Dover; *101 Great American Poems*, Dover; Twain: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*, Dover.

## English (Cont.)

### Literature 4: Selected English Classics

This half–unit course allows students to explore in-depth four classics of English Literature: William Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*, George Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion*, Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Wilkie Collins’ *The Moonstone*. Emphasis is on reading for enjoyment and understanding through an analysis of the structure and themes of each work. In addition, the study guides for each work stress a different aspect of vocabulary development, including paraphrasing and analogies.

In completing this course, among other activities, students discuss the use of various types of literary elements in the works, compare and contrast characters, and identify the rhyme and rhythm scheme of a poem.

There are 4 examinations in Literature 4. OEPC available.

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, Dover; Collins, *The Moonstone*, Signet Classic; Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, Dover; Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, Classic Theater, Ltd. (C.D., selected excerpts); Shaw, *Pygmalion*, Dover.

### Literature, American

American Literature provides a survey of major American authors from the early 17th to late 20th centuries. Emphasis is placed on analyzing how authors convey their ideas and produce emotional effects in individual works as well as on understanding major trends in the development of American Literature.

The activities students are required to complete in this subject include discussing the use of various literary elements in the assigned works, comparing and contrasting literary elements in different works, and discussing historical influences on particular works. By the end of the course students are asked to analyze a novel that they have read on their own.

There are 8 examinations in American Literature. OEPC available.

American Literature, a custom published textbook prepared for the American School by Globe Fearon using original texts; Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*, Simon & Schuster. (Students may substitute one of four other novels for *The Old Man and the Sea*, but they are responsible for obtaining their own copy of the substitute novel.)

### Literature, British

British Literature provides a survey of major British authors from the 7th through the 20th centuries. It emphasizes understanding the content and form of the readings as well as how they reflect the literary trends of their time. The reading assignments include short stories, poems, nonfiction prose, a Shakespearean play and a complete novel.

Among the activities students do in completing this course are comparing and contrasting literary elements in different works, taking a position on the interpretation of a literary work and supporting the position with relevant details, and writing a compare and contrast essay on the novel read for this course.

There are 8 examinations in British Literature. OEPC available.

*British Literature*, Pearson Longman and Pearson Custom Publishing (includes CD with readings of various selections by professional actors); Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*. (Students may substitute one of three other novels for *Sense and Sensibility*, but they are responsible for obtaining their own copy of the substitute novel.)

## English (Cont.)

### Literature, Classic Adventure

Classic Adventure Literature is a half-unit course that allows students to explore several classic adventure novels: Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*, Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*, and J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. Emphasis is on the basic elements of a novel (plot, character, and setting), while students learn to read actively.

In completing this subject, students analyze the authors' use of basic literary elements in the four novels by answering objective questions and providing written answers. In the process students discuss such topics as how the setting affects the plot, how the style affects the tone, and where the climax of a novel occurs. Students are expected to use graphic organizers and character maps in preparing their analyses.

There are 4 examinations in Classic Adventure Literature. OEPC available.

London, *The Call of the Wild*, Dover; Tolkien, *The Hobbit*, Ballantine Books; Verne, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, Dover; Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, Dover.

### Literature, World

World Literature gives students an overview of important literary works of the last 500 years representing a variety of countries and cultures. Students study how writers from different backgrounds use literary elements and techniques to convey meaning in their short stories, plays, poems and non-fictional works. Students write compare and contrast essays about characters, plot elements, and themes in a variety of literary works. The aim is for students to gain a historical and geographical context for literature and to learn to analyze literature by asking relevant questions as they read for the course, and for their own pleasure.

There are 8 examinations in World Literature. OEPC available.

Puchner, Martin (Ed.), *The Norton Anthology of World Literature, Shorter Third Edition, Vol. 2*, W.W. Norton & Company. Please note: This textbook comes packaged with a complimentary novel, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This novel is not a required part of this course.

### Speech: How to Talk More Effectively

The challenge to persuade others is one we face every day. How to Talk More Effectively is designed to help students meet that challenge. It takes apart the process of preparing and delivering speeches and tells students how to master the ability to talk on a one-to-one basis as well as before large audiences. Among the topics covered are giving different types of speeches, leading conferences and meetings, expressing oneself on the telephone, and successful interviewing. A CD with examples of speeches and a listening exercise is supplied with the course and students have the option of submitting their speeches on CD or cassette tape for evaluation by an instructor.

In completing this half-unit subject, among other activities, students analyze speeches to evaluate techniques used by the speakers and prepare their own speeches for a variety of situations. By the end of the course students are asked to prepare a three-minute talk on a subject of their own choosing.

There are 6 examinations in Speech. OEPC available.

Bordeaux and Allen, *How To Talk More Effectively*, American School.

## English (Cont.)

### Spelling

Being able to spell correctly is an important part of communicating clearly and of making a good impression. This half-unit course focuses on both sounding out and visualizing the spelling of words, as appropriate. Topics covered include dictionary usage, common spelling rules and their exceptions, and the use of prefixes and suffixes.

There are 4 examinations in Spelling. OEPC available.

Milanovic and Cox, *American School Spelling*, American School; Webster's New World Dictionary, Pocket Books.

### Writing 1

Writing 1 is a full year course intended to improve students' ability to use written English. In pursuit of this goal, Writing 1 (Units 1-4) combines the teaching of grammar, mechanics and punctuation with a variety of writing assignments involving personal, descriptive, expository and persuasive writing. In doing so, it exposes students to many examples of good writing, both fiction and non-fiction, by a wide variety of authors to serve as models. Writing 1 (Units 5-8) expands on the writing skills students have developed in Writing 1 (Units 1-4). It focuses on writing with coherence and unity as well as proofreading and the revision process. It aims to expand the student's command of the conventions of standard English in grammar and usage and punctuation, particularly in the use of phrases and clauses. Like the first half of the course, it provides numerous writing assignments and exposes students to a wide variety of writing, both fiction and non-fiction, of various levels of complexity and style by a wide variety of authors.

There are 8 examinations in Writing 1. OEPC available.

Berlatsky, *Writing 1*, American School.

### Writing 2 (Units 1-4)

Writing 2 (Units 1-4) is the first half of a full year course which builds on the writing skills developed in Writing 1. Writing 2 (Units 1-4) fosters a student's ability to write grammatically correct, unified, coherent extended essays that are well-researched and that use varied syntax. In the process students analyze various types of texts for their central ideas and claims, reliability and possible ambiguity. Proper citation and avoidance of plagiarism is stressed.

There are 4 examinations in Writing 2 (Units 1-4). OEPC available.

Berlatsky and Perry, *Writing 2 (Units 1-4)*, American School.

***If there's a book you really want to read but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."* - Toni Morrison**

## Fine Arts

### Art: Drawing Animals

Drawing Animals is a half–unit course which introduces students to the basic skills needed to render animals realistically in pencil. Attention is paid to proportion, texture, shading and perspective with the goal of helping students capture through drawing whatever it is that they find interesting about an animal.

There are 4 examinations in Art: Drawing Animals.

Barghusen and Emry, *Art: Drawing Animals*, American School.

### Art: Drawing Landscapes

Drawing Landscapes is a half–unit course which introduces students to the basic skills needed to render realistically in pencil outdoor scenes which do not include people or buildings. Attention is paid to mastering the use of a pencil, proportion, shading, aerial and linear perspective, rendering 3-dimensional forms and composition. The goal is to help students capture through drawing whatever it is that they find interesting in a landscape.

Students are supplied with the appropriate drawing pencils and paper to complete the sketches and drawings needed for completion of the subject. These sketches and drawings require students to devote time and effort to mastering the basic drawing skills.

There are 4 examinations in Art: Drawing Landscapes.

Blake, *Landscape Drawing: Step-by-Step*, Dover Publications.

### Photography

Photography introduces students to both the technical and artistic aspects of taking photographs. On the technical side students learn about such things as operating a camera, selecting film and what happens in a darkroom. On the artistic side students learn about vocabulary for discussing photographs, elements of composition and a brief overview of the history of photography. Students are required to submit examples of their work and therefore must have access to a camera, either manual or digital. Access to a darkroom is not required.

In completing this subject, among other activities, students complete several shooting assignments and conclude the course by creating a photo essay of their own work on a topic of their choosing.

There are 6 examinations in Photography. OEPC available.

Folts et al., *Handbook of Photography*, Thomson/Delmar Learning.



# Mathematics

## Algebra 1

Algebra 1 is a comprehensive course in the elements of algebra. This course stresses an understanding not only of basic algebraic principles and techniques, but also of how to model and solve real-world problems. Students will study the writing, graphing, and solving of linear equations and inequalities, both individually and in systems; the basics of quadratic, polynomial, and exponential functions and their graphs; and the fundamentals of probability and data analysis.

This course provides students with a variety of study materials to complement the textbook. The course guidebook offers regular checkpoints for students to test their skills; recommended problems for further practice; and over five hundred additional worked-out solutions. The course website offers animations, games, and other activities so students can further explore course concepts.

Students must have access to a graphing calculator for this subject. Popular among high school and college students are graphing calculators manufactured by Texas Instruments, such as the TI-84+ Silver edition and the TI-nSpire CX as well as the older TI-84+ or TI-83+ in the event you wish to purchase used. American School is not affiliated with nor endorses these products. The information is provided here as a courtesy to our students and is not to be construed as an endorsement.

Among the activities students do in completing this subject are applying properties of rational numbers and units to solve problems; creating equations that describe numbers or relationships; representing and solving equations and inequalities graphically; describing and correcting errors; performing arithmetic operations on polynomials; interpreting key features of functions and their graphs; constructing and applying mathematical and graphic models to solve problems; and using the rules of probability to compute theoretical probabilities of events.

There are 13 examinations in Algebra 1.

Larson et al., *Larson Algebra 1*, Holt McDougal.

***“The study of mathematics, like the Nile, begins in minuteness but ends in magnificence.”***  
- Charles Caleb Colton

# Mathematics (Cont.)

## Algebra 2

Algebra 2 builds on the foundations established in Algebra 1, expanding the student's understanding of problem-solving and algebraic concepts. This course is recommended for the college-bound student. Students will extend their knowledge of quadratic, polynomial, and exponential functions, and then explore logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Other topics include conic sections and their graphs, data analysis and statistics, sequences and series, and trigonometric identities.

Students will graph and interpret key features of functions, construct and apply mathematical and graphical models to solve problems, work with complex numbers, and describe and correct errors. Students will then create and apply statistical models, find specific terms of arithmetic and geometric sequences, and calculate the summation of series. Finally, students will interpret equations of conics, use conics to model events, determine the values of trigonometric functions, and interpret their graphs.

This course provides students with a variety of study materials to complement the textbook. The course guidebook offers checkpoints for students to test their skills; recommends problems for further practice; and contains hundreds of worked-out solutions. The textbook publisher's course website offers animations, games, and other activities so students can further explore course concepts.

Students must have access to a graphing calculator for this subject. This graphing calculator must be able to display graphs of functions, find the intersection of functions, and perform regressions among other features. Current students are encouraged to review the help sheet "Choosing a Calculator for your Math Course" in the American School Online Student Center if they intend to purchase a calculator for this course.

Completion of Algebra 1 is required. Additionally, completion of or concurrent enrollment in Geometry is strongly recommended.

There are 10 examinations in Algebra 2.

Larson et al., *Larson Algebra 2*, Holt McDougal.

## Business Math

Business Math is a full-unit course with many practical applications to daily life in both personal and business settings. The first half of the course, in which students do 3 examinations, deepens the student's understanding of concepts such as using checking and savings accounts and credit cards, keeping good financial records, and dealing with loans for homes and vehicles. The second half of the course, in which students do 2 examinations and 1 project, takes students through starting and running a business of their own. Students work on projects dealing with depreciation, insurance, employee payroll handling, business inventory management, and marketing and growing a business.

There are 5 examinations and 1 project in Business Math.

Lange and Rousos, *Mathematics for Business and Personal Finance*, McGraw-Hill.

## Mathematics (Cont.)

### Geometry

Geometry introduces students to mathematics as a deductive science. It shows how a few simple assumptions about points, lines, etc., can lead to a substantial body of geometric theorems and the ability to solve problems involving the properties of various two- and three-dimensional geometric figures. For each chapter in the textbook, students start with a preview of the concepts covered and a self-evaluation of the prerequisite skills needed. The students engage study material both in their textbook and online, including games, other activities and animations. Checkpoints are provided each step of the way for students to practice their skills and problem solving with additional practice assigned in the event the student encounters difficulties.

In completing this subject students construct various types of proofs, including two-column proofs; apply postulate and theorems and explain their reasoning in solving geometric problems; and solve various types of problems using geometric and algebraic concepts and principles. Completion of Algebra 1 is a prerequisite for taking Geometry, and access to a hand-held or computer-based scientific or graphing calculator is required.

There are 12 examinations in Geometry.

Larson, *Geometry*, Holt McDougal.

### Mathematics 1, Essential

In our everyday lives we all must add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers as we buy things, balance our checking accounts, figure interest and so on. Essential Math 1 deals with these basic math operations and how to use them in solving common problems involving whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages.

There are 6 examinations in Essential Mathematics 1.

Essential Mathematics I, Lessons 1-3; Essential Mathematics I, Lessons 4-6, American School.

### Mathematics 2, Essential

When we paint a room, put up a fence, buy a rug, or wrap a present, we are using shapes. Essential Math 2 deals with the nature and property of shapes such as circles, triangles and squares. In doing so, this course provides an introduction to geometry and algebra. Essential Math 2 also acquaints students with the metric system of measurement.

There are 4 examinations in Essential Mathematics 2.

*Essential Mathematics II, Lessons 1 and 2; Essential Mathematics II, Lessons 3 and 4, American School.*

# Science

## Biology (lab)

Biology introduces students to the study of living things. Students learn about ecology, the basic chemistry of life, cellular processes, genetics, evolutionary theory, the major kingdoms and phyla of organisms, and the various biological systems of the human body. There is an alternate unit on contemporary issues in biology for those students whose religious beliefs preclude studying the unit on evolution. Activities are included to introduce students to various topics and to expand their understanding and experience of what is being discussed in the written course materials.

There are 10 examinations in Biology. Students will choose to do Unit 10A: Contemporary Issues in Biology or Unit 10B: History of Biological Diversity (including evolution).

Biggs, Alton et al., *Biology: The Dynamics of Life*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

## Biology (non-lab)

Biology introduces students to the study of living things. Students learn about ecology, the basic chemistry of life, cellular processes, genetics, evolutionary theory, the major kingdoms and phyla of organisms, and the various biological systems of the human body. There is an alternate unit on contemporary issues in biology for those students whose religious beliefs preclude studying the unit on evolution. Activities are included to introduce students to various topics and to expand their understanding and experience of what is being discussed in the written course materials. For an additional fee, students may receive a laboratory kit and manual to perform and report experiments in conjunction with the exams submitted.

There are 10 examinations in Biology. Students will choose to do Unit 10A: Contemporary Issues in Biology or Unit 10B: History of Biological Diversity (including evolution). OEPC available.

Biggs, Alton et al., *Biology: The Dynamics of Life*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

***“To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.” - Albert Einstein***

## Science (Cont.)

### Chemistry (lab)

The lab version of Chemistry is taken in conjunction with the non-lab version of the course. The investigations build and expand on concepts presented in the textbook. The labs are based on a microchemistry approach to minimize handling of chemicals. Computation requiring a solid background in algebra is necessary for interpreting data collected during investigations.

Algebra 1 is a prerequisite for Chemistry (lab).

The following is a list of the laboratory investigations which students complete:

Preparing for and Conducting an Investigation; Collecting Data; The Scientific Method and Organizing Data; Melting Points/Super Cooling; Boyle's Law; Charles's Law; Radioactive Decay; Paper Chromatography; Gumdrop (or Jelly Bean) Molecules; A Microscale Titration; Qualitative Analysis; Molar Mass by Titration; Mole Ratios; Double Replacement Reactions; Solubility Product Constant; Reaction Rates: The Effect of Concentration, Reaction Order; Reaction Rates: The Effect of Temperature; pH and pH Indicators; A Buffer Solution; Oxidation and Reduction; Decomposition; The Electrical Conductivity of Several Solutions; Synthesis of Organic Compounds.  
Chemistry Lab Kit Supplies

There are 8 examinations in Chemistry.

Suchocki, *Conceptual Chemistry*, Pearson/Benjamin Cummings.

### Chemistry (non-lab)

Chemistry introduces students to the basic principles of chemistry. Although students are required to have completed Algebra 1 to take this subject, the focus of the course is on the conceptual foundations of chemistry, rather than on computation. The textbook comes with a DVD which includes mini-lectures, video demonstrations and animations to help reinforce concepts.

In completing this course students demonstrate their understanding through a wide range of objective and written response questions. The written response questions require students to apply the concepts they have learned in specific contexts.

There are 8 examinations in Chemistry. OEPC available.

Suchocki, *Conceptual Chemistry*, Pearson/Benjamin Cummings.

## Science (Cont.)

### Physics

Physics is the science which explores matter and energy in terms of motion and force. While Algebra 1 is a prerequisite for the course and solving problems involving mathematical computation is required, the focus of this course is on understanding concepts, rather than on numerical manipulation. Everyday examples and illustrations are used wherever possible, and students are encouraged to think through specific applications of the general concepts which they study.

In completing this subject, among other activities, students apply the concepts they have learned to explain the physics of actual situations.

There are 11 examinations in Physics. OEPC available.

Hewitt, *Conceptual Physics*, Prentice Hall.

### Physiology and Health

Physiology and Health approaches health education from the perspective of wellness. This means that it aims to provide the basis for wise decisions and choices that promote total physical, mental and social well-being. The first half of the course focuses on physical fitness, nutrition, body systems, the life cycle, and mental and emotional health. The second half looks more specifically at issues such as drug abuse, infectious diseases, safety and first aid, violence prevention, healthy relationships and environmental issues related to health.

Among the activities students do in completing this subject are devising a plan to reach one of their goals, interpreting the information on a food label and on a medicine label, discussing ways to resolve a conflict peacefully, and identifying actions that can improve health.

The second semester of this course is Health.

There are 9 examinations in Physiology and Health. OEPC available.

Bronson, *Health*, Glencoe.

### Science, Earth

Earth Science is a comprehensive study of the Earth—its internal and external structure, its ever-changing surface, its various bodies of water, its chemical makeup and its atmosphere and weather. Optional parts of the course also include the history of the Earth and Earth's unique place in space. (Students must select and successfully complete one of the optional parts.) Accordingly, Earth Science is a combination of geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy.

In this course, students view the Earth as a dynamic system and investigate, among other things, such topics as the movements of land, water and air, rock formation, types of rocks and minerals, and how the Earth is affected by the sun and moon.

There are 7 examinations in Earth Science. OEPC available.

Allison, DeGaetano and Pasachoff, *Earth Science*, Holt McDougal.

## Science (Cont.)

### Science, Environmental

Environmental Science is the study of the interaction of people with their environment. This course covers a broad range of environmental topics and issues while at the same time giving students the background necessary to understand the basic science behind the issues. Students then apply what they have learned to new situations, which may involve researching on the Internet. Throughout the course, students collect information and data about two very different places as well as their own location as a basis for comparison of different biomes and to get a real-life understanding of the relationships between physical and ecological features. By the end of the course, students are reading and analyzing scientific texts and writing logical arguments on environmental topics.

There are 9 examinations in Environmental Science. OEPC available.

Schachter, *Environmental Science*, AMSCO.

### Science, General

General Science provides an introduction to four major areas in science—energy and matter, the living world, planet earth, and space. Students thus become acquainted with the basic ideas upon which a number of sciences are built, including Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science and Astronomy. Selected readings and science activities are suggested so that students may further their understanding.

Activities students do in completing this subject include using the concepts and knowledge gained in the course to explain new situations, interpreting information on maps and graphs, using the metric system of measurement, and summarizing the content of a current article on a scientific development.

There are 7 examinations in General Science. OEPC available.

Goldsmith, *General Science*, American School.

### Science, Physical

Physical Science introduces students to the study of matter and energy. It, therefore, includes topics from both Physics (such as acceleration, light, and electrical current) and Chemistry (such as states of matter, chemical reactions, and nuclear decay). The emphasis in this course is on a conceptual understanding of the fundamental forces and processes at work in the world around us. Each assignment starts with a brief activity to introduce students to the topic under discussion.

In completing this subject, among other activities, students use the concepts and knowledge they have learned to determine and explain what happens in new situations.

There are 8 examinations in Physical Science. OEPC available.

Hewitt et al., *Conceptual Physical Science—Explorations*, Addison Wesley/Prentice Hall. A DVD is included which helps guide students through each chapter through the use of interactive tutorials and videos of lectures and demonstrations.



# Social Science

## **Civics, Social (Government)**

Social Civics is the study of how our government is organized and run at the national, state and local levels. Beginning with a look at how government developed, this course covers such topics as our federal constitution, political parties, and government policy and involvement in various areas of our lives, including the economy, education and foreign affairs. The course stresses the importance of citizen involvement.

Examples of tasks students complete in this subject include describing actions in the process of lawmaking, distinguishing among the various powers vested in the three branches of government, developing a position on the appropriate means of funding local services, and drafting a letter outlining a proposed solution for a current issue of the student's own choosing.

There are 8 examinations in Social Civics. OEPC available.

Munro, Kennelly and McCarthy, *Social Civics*, American School.

## **Geography, World**

Geography is the study of the spatial distribution of physical and cultural features, including the interaction between the physical characteristics of a place and human endeavor. These physical and cultural features affect the global similarities and differences in economic, political and social activities. This course gives students basic knowledge about the major geographic regions, particularly as it relates to contemporary developments.

In this subject students read and interpret maps and various types of graphs and charts and apply the knowledge and concepts they have learned to explain historical and contemporary developments in regions around the world. This they do through writing both short responses and longer essays, including compare and contrast, cause and effect, descriptive and position essays.

There are 9 examinations in World Geography. OEPC available.

Finkelstein et al., *Global Geography*, Amsco School Publications, Inc.; *Quick Reference World Atlas*, Rand McNally.

## **History, United States**

United States History covers events from the first Native People groups settling in the Americas and the creation of the United States through the present. Students will have opportunities for developing skills in comprehending, analyzing and interpreting how past historical events influence our present lives. Students will also demonstrate understanding of important tools such as maps, charts, and timelines and will use them to analyze historical data.

There are 9 examinations in United States History. OEPC available.

Appleby, Brinkley, Broussard, McPherson, and Ritchie, *The American Vision*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

***American School is proud to have a student body  
that represents more than 65 countries around the world.***

## Social Science (Cont.)

### History, World

To truly understand developments in today's interdependent world, we need to know their historic roots. World history provides a survey of political, social, economic and cultural trends from the Stone Age to the present. Its focus is global, emphasizing the interactions among various regions of the world.

In completing this subject students are asked to apply what they have learned to further understand and analyze historical developments, including primary source material and artistic productions. Students also work with maps and write a variety of essays typically found in social studies, including compare-and-contrast and cause-and-effect essays and essays taking a position on an issue.

There are 8 examinations in World History. OEPC available.

Brun et al., *Global History and Geography: The Growth of Civilizations*, Amsco School Publications, Inc.

### Psychology for Life Today

Psychology is the study of how and why we behave as we do. In this course, students study factors which affect behavior—such as habits, attitudes, emotions and personality—and how they are developed. It also includes discussions of how we learn and how to get along with others.

In completing this course students do activities such as give an example of a learned behavior, identify good study habits, recognize types of propaganda, describe how to handle anxiety, describe qualities which make for a good leader and discuss ways of getting along on the job.

There are 6 examinations in Psychology for Life Today. OEPC available.

Foster, *Psychology for Life Today*, American School.

### Sociology

Sociology is the study of how people behave in groups and how these groups interact with each other. This course investigates the process of socialization—how individuals learn to be part of the groups around them, including the family and larger organizations which make up their society and culture. It also discusses why sociology developed, its research methods and some of the major sociological studies. In addition, this course focuses on recent trends in three major areas of social concern—the family, crime and urban development.

In completing this subject, among other activities, students use the concepts and knowledge they have learned to analyze and explain social phenomena, give examples of concepts from their own experience, identify aspects of American symbolic culture in advertisements, and develop questions for a survey on a public policy issue.

There are 7 examinations in Sociology.

McKeown, *Sociology*, American School.

## World Languages (Cont.)

### French 1

French 1 provides an introduction to grammatical principles and vocabulary. Their correct usage is emphasized in numerous exercises and dialogues. The course includes the study of the present and passé composés tenses of regular and irregular verbs, pronouns, adjectives, idiomatic expressions and sentence structure. A CD to help students with their pronunciation is provided at no additional charge.

In completing this subject students complete numerous exercises requiring the use of appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures for a wide variety of everyday scenarios. In addition, students read passages in French and answer questions about the passages using complete French sentences. Translation from English to French is also a skill developed in this course.

There are 8 examinations in French 1. OEPC available.

Valette and Valette, *Discovering French: Bleu*, McDougal Littell.

### French 2

French 2 expands on the grammatical principles and vocabulary students learned in French 1. It emphasizes correct usage in context and thinking “in French” through the use of visuals and dialogue formats. Verb tenses covered include the passé composé (review), the imperfect, the future, the conditional, and the present subjunctive.

In completing this subject students complete numerous exercises requiring the use of appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures for a wide variety of everyday scenarios. In addition, students read passages in French and answer questions about the passages using complete French sentences. Translation from English to French is also a skill further developed in this course.

There are 9 examinations in French 2. OEPC available.

*Discovering French Nouveau: 2 Blanc*, McDougal Littell. This is an eEdition CD-ROM textbook. Please read this notice if you are using a Mac to view the CD-ROM textbook. The course also includes a Take-Home Tutor CD. These two CDs are packaged separately from each other.

### Latin 1

Latin 1 introduces students to the basic vocabulary and syntax of Latin. Students learn to read and understand progressively more difficult sentences, dialogues and narratives that focus on Roman life and legends.

In completing this subject, among other activities, students complete numerous exercises demonstrating their knowledge of Latin vocabulary and grammar, answer questions testing their comprehension of reading passages and engage in translation from Latin to English and vice versa.

There are 12 examinations in Latin 1.

Ullman and Henderson, *Latin for Americans I*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.



# Course Descriptions for Online Courses

## Business, Career and Technical Education

### **Accounting 1 (online)**

This online Accounting course provides students with an introduction to accounting concepts and principles, financial statements, internal control design, and accounting for partnerships.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 16 graded modules in Accounting 1 (online).

### **Business Communication (online)**

In this online Business Communication course, students explore business communication, including letters, memos, electronic communication, written reports, oral presentations, and interpersonal communication. Resumes, application letters, interviewing tips, and employment follow-up are also covered.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 16 graded modules in Business Communication (online).

### **Culinary Arts, Introduction to (online)**

In this online Introduction to Culinary Arts course, students learn about food, food culture, food history, food safety and current food trends. Students also learn about the food service industry and will attempt to prepare culinary delights. Through hands-on activities and in-depth study of the culinary arts field, this course will help students hone their cooking skills and give them the opportunity to explore careers in the food industry.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 12 graded modules in Culinary Arts, Introduction to (online).

***“Cooking is like painting or writing a song. Just as there are only so many notes or colors, there are only so many flavors - it’s how you combine them that sets you apart.” - Wolfgang Puck***

## **Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)**

### **Economics (online)**

This multi-media online Economics course focuses on the decision making of individuals, organizations, and governments in a market setting. It covers topics such as scarcity, opportunity cost, demand, supply, price, and the four types of market structures.

Economics contains 61 lessons and begins with an introduction of economics, including a review of the American free enterprise system. Students will then learn about markets, business and labor, and banking and finance in the microeconomics section. Next, they will learn about measuring economic performance, the government's role in the economy, and international trade and development in the macroeconomics section.

Taxes and government spending are highlighted as well as the role of the Federal Reserve and monetary policy. There are 10 videos dealing with personal finance that are assigned to provide students with practical knowledge and skills that are immediately applicable to their everyday lives, such as buying insurance, paying for education, and how to open a savings account.

This half unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 2 graded discussion boards and 19 examinations in Economics (online).

### **Fashion and Interior Design (online)**

In this online Fashion and Interior Design course, students explore what it is like to work in the industry by exploring career possibilities and the background needed to pursue them. Students will learn the basics of color and design and then test their skills through hands-on projects. In addition, they'll develop the essential communication skills that build success in any business. By the end of the course, students will be well on their way to developing the portfolio they need to get their stylishly clad foot in the door of this exciting field.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 10 graded modules in Fashion and Interior Design (online).

### **Hospitality and Tourism (online)**

With greater disposable income and more opportunities for business travel, people are traversing the globe in growing numbers. As a result, hospitality and tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. This course will introduce students to the hospitality and tourism industry, including hotel and restaurant management, cruise ships, resorts, theme parks, and other areas. Students will learn about key hospitality issues, the development and management of tourist locations, event planning, marketing, and environmental issues related to leisure and travel. The course also examines current and future trends.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 8 graded modules in Hospitality and Tourism (online).

## **Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)**

### **International Business (online)**

From geography to culture, global business is an exciting topic in the business community today. This course is designed to help students develop the appreciation, knowledge, skills and abilities needed to live and work in a global marketplace. It takes a global view on business, investigating why and how companies go international and are more interconnected. The course further provides students a conceptual tool by which to understand how economic, social, cultural, political and legal factors influence both domestic and cross-border business. Business structures, global entrepreneurship, business management, marketing and the challenges of managing international organizations will all be explored in this course. Students will cultivate a mindfulness of how history, geography, language, cultural studies, research skills, and continuing education are important in both business activities and the 21st century.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 8 graded modules in International Business (online).

### **Life Management Skills (online)**

This online Life Management Skills course guides students as they deal with important decisions by providing them with the facts they need. Students will learn how to deal with real issues that impact their lives every day, such as nutrition, substance abuse, stress and their health.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 9 graded modules in Life Management Skills (online).

### **Parenting, Real World (online)**

In this online Real World Parenting course, students will learn the best way to care for children and teach them self-confidence and a sense of responsibility. Students will learn what to prepare for, what to expect, and what vital steps parents can take to create the best environment for their children. Parenting roles and responsibilities, nurturing and protective environments for children, positive parenting strategies, and effective communication in parent/child relationships are some of the topics covered in this course.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 8 graded modules in Parenting, Real World (online).

### **Social Media, Introduction to (online)**

In this online Introduction to Social Media course, students learn the ins and outs of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google+ and more. Students will also discover other types of social media they may not have been aware of and how to use them for their benefit—personally, academically and eventually professionally as well.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 10 graded modules in Social Media, Introduction to (online).



## Business, Career and Technical Education (Cont.)

### Thinking and Learning Strategies (online)

In this online Thinking and Learning Strategies course, students will develop critical thinking skills and test-taking strategies through reading, writing and math activities. Students will also gain reading, writing, organization and study strategies.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 5 graded modules in Thinking and Learning Strategies (online).

## *A Little Bit of History*

On December 17, American School celebrated its 118th birthday. On that date in 1897, American School received a charter from the state of Massachusetts to operate as an “educational institution not for profit.” That charter still guides us 118 years later, but not even our great founder, the legendary R.T. Miller could have envisioned what his school would one day become.

We started as a study-by-mail program offering courses such as Electrical Engineering, Machine Shop Practice and Mechanical Drafting primarily to people with jobs who wished to study at home to advance their careers. After five years in Massachusetts, we moved to Chicago in 1902 at the invitation of the Armour Institute, and Chicagoland has been our home ever since. With the move, our curriculum expanded to include courses in law, commerce, fire insurance and high school completion. We exhibited at the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis and soon had students in more than 40 countries around the world.



American School in Lansing, Illinois

In 1907, we moved to our own headquarters in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, a historic landmark which still stands to this very day. A key moment came in 1922 when a principal from Benton Harbor, Michigan, approached us and asked if students at his school could take our courses to make up credits. That idea was the seed for our Independent Study Program which today serves thousands of high schools across the country. As American School continued to grow, we offered our own diplomas and our first post-secondary scholarship in 1938. Our materials were used to help train soldiers in World War 2, and in the 1970s we became the first home study high school to earn accreditation by a regional accrediting body.

Today we are accredited by three such groups and offer accredited high school courses and diplomas in paper-based and online formats. We also have our blog and our social media pages as additional ways we communicate with students and stakeholders online. What does the future hold? We plan to continue to evolve as a leader in distance education, adding more courses and services to benefit our students. As an “educational institution not for profit” we’ve put our students’ needs first for the last 118 years and we always will.

# English

## **Creative Writing 1 (online)**

For many hundreds of years, literature has been one of the most important human art forms. It allows us to give voice to our emotions, create imaginary worlds, express ideas, and escape the confines of material reality. Through creative writing, we can come to understand ourselves and our world a little bit better. This course provides students with a sound grounding in the writing process, from finding inspiration to building a basic story to using complicated literary techniques and creating strange hybrid forms of poetic prose and prose poetry. By the end of this course, students will learn how to discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into fully realized pieces of creative writing.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 8 graded modules in Creative Writing 1 (online).

## **English 1 (online)**

English 1 addresses strategies for reading comprehension, recognition of text structure in exposure and narrative, comprehension of different genres of text, and the steps for writing an essay and applying the five-step writing process. The course also addresses basic skills in grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling, vocabulary, and research and explains how to punctuate and manipulate sentences to produce more effective writing. Furthermore, the course provides instruction on the following: how to give speeches; how to participate in group discussions; how to view informational text and fine art; and how to read and write business documents. Additionally, students learn prefixes, roots, suffixes, word origins, and analogies to aid in vocabulary acquisition. Finally, students learn the basics about how to write research papers, including using the Internet for research. This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 2 graded discussion boards, 7 projects and 18 examinations in English 1 (online).

## **English 2 (online)**

English 2 provides instruction in the competencies for literacy that are essential for responsible citizenship and for success in post-secondary schools and the workplace. This course helps students develop skills in grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling, vocabulary and communication (which includes skills such as giving speeches, using visual aids, and communicating in the workplace). In addition, English 2 focuses on strategies for reading comprehension, recognition of literary elements and techniques, and comprehension of different genres of text. Finally, this course helps students develop a variety of writing skills, including using the writing process, composing personal narratives and literary responses, understanding and applying the concepts of perspective and argument, and writing and revising research papers. Instruction on writing research papers includes lessons on evaluating and documenting sources in MLA format.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 2 graded discussion boards, 7 projects and 17 examinations in English 2 (online).

## English (Cont.)

### English 3 (online)

This online English 3 course is a full unit course in which students learn to compose and analyze complex writing, including autobiography, short stories, literary response, and essays (persuasive, expository, and research-based). Students will read and examine works of American literature, expanding their knowledge of literary devices, forms, styles, techniques, and influences.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 2 graded discussion boards, 7 projects and 20 examinations in English 3 (online).

### English 4 (online)

This online English 4 course is a full unit course in which students review grammar basics, write essays, and study selections in English literature from Shakespeare's time to the modern era. In this course, among other activities, students strengthen their grammar and basic sentence and paragraph writing skills. Students learn about major literary themes, and read excerpts from some of England's finest authors. In addition, students learn the steps in the writing process and complete several essays as well as a short research paper.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 2 graded discussion boards, 7 projects and 19 examinations in English 4 (online).

### Journalism (online)

As students work through each module of this online Journalism course, they will utilize Web 2.0 tools to respond to current news and shifts in journalism, create original projects, and reflect upon the changing face of news. Authentic assessments, interactive examples, and self-checks will deepen their understanding of the topics covered and prepare them for work or further study in the field of journalism.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 7 graded modules in Journalism (online).

### Literature, Gothic (online)

From vampires to ghosts, these frightening stories have influenced fiction writers since the 18th century. This course will focus on the major themes found in gothic literature and demonstrate how the core writing drivers produce, for the reader, a thrilling psychological environment. Terror versus horror, the influence of the supernatural, and descriptions of the difference between good and evil are just a few of the themes presented. By the time students have completed this course, they will have gained an understanding of and an appreciation for the complex nature of dark fiction.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 8 graded modules in Literature, Gothic (online).

## English (Cont.)

### Mythology and Folklore (online)

Mighty heroes. Angry gods and goddesses. Cunning animals. Since the first people gathered around fires, mythology and folklore has been used as a way to make sense of humankind and our world. Beginning with an overview of mythology and different kinds of folklore, students will journey with ancient heroes as they slay dragons and outwit gods, follow fearless warrior women into battle, and watch as clever monsters outwit those stronger than themselves. They will explore the universality and social significance of myths and folklore, and see how these are still used to shape society today.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 8 graded modules in Mythology and Folklore (online).

### Public Speaking 1 (online)

The art of public speaking is one which underpins the very foundations of Western society. This online course examines those foundations in both Aristotle and Cicero's views of rhetoric, and then traces those foundations into the modern world. Students will learn not just the theory, but also the practice of effective public speaking, including how to analyze the speeches of others, build a strong argument, and speak with confidence and flair. By the end of this course, students will know exactly what makes a truly successful speech and will be able to put that knowledge to practical use.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 10 graded modules in Public Speaking 1 (online).

***“If you can speak, you can influence. If you can influence, you can change lives.”*** - Rob Brown

## Fine Arts

### Art 1: World Cultures (online)

This online Art 1: World Cultures course provides an introduction to fundamental techniques and concepts of representational and expressive drawing within a variety of media. Emphasis is on object representation, spatial illusion, and the organization of structural relationships in two-dimensional space. Students will also learn about some of history's greatest artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, Claude Monet, Michelangelo, Pablo Picasso and others. They will examine some of the traditional art of the Americas, Africa, and Oceania in addition to the development of Western art. Finally, they will create art of their own, including digital art.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 12 graded modules in Art 1: World Cultures (online).

### Digital Photography (online)

The Digital Photography course focuses on the basics of photography and basic camera functions, including building an understanding of aperture, shutter speed, lighting, and composition. Students will be introduced to the history of photography and learn how to critique photographs in order to better understand what creates an eye catching photograph. They will also examine various aspects of professional photography, including the ethics of the profession, and examine some of the areas in which professional photographers may choose to specialize.

Students are required to submit examples of their work and therefore must have access to a digital camera, and have the ability to upload their images. Students will use the basic techniques of composition and camera functions to build a portfolio of images and explore the fields of photography and graphic arts. In the first half of the course, students will work on capturing people, landscapes, close-up, and action photographs. In the second half, students will explore wedding photography and product photography.

This full unit online course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. In Semester A (Digital Photography I) there are 10 Units. In Semester B (Digital Photography II) there are 8 Units.

There are 4 exams in Digital Photography.

Please note: Videos assigned for viewing in this course are accessed through links in the course and may begin with an advertisement or contain material that is controversial or troubling for more sensitive individuals. This course is recommended for junior or senior level students.

## Fine Arts (Cont.)

### Music Appreciation (online)

Music is part of our everyday lives and reflects the spirit of our human condition. This course will provide students with an aesthetic and historical perspective of music, covering a variety of styles and developments from the Middle Ages through the twenty-first century. Students will acquire basic knowledge and listening skills, making future music experiences more informed and satisfying.

This half credit online course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. There are 8 units. Each unit has a Lab assignment that asks the student to complete an activity at an external website that may include exploring an interactive website, listening to music, or watching videos. Students will need an up-to-date media player and speakers/headphones.

There are 2 exams in Music Appreciation.

Please note: Videos assigned for viewing in this course are accessed through links in the course and may begin with an advertisement or contain material that is controversial or troubling for more sensitive individuals. This course is recommended for junior or senior level students.

### Theater, Cinema and Film Production (online)

Lights! Camera! Action! This course will introduce students to the basics of film and theater productions. Students will learn about the basics of lighting, sound, wardrobe, and camerawork for both film and theater settings. The course also explores the history of film and theater and the influence that they have had on society. Students will analyze and critique three influential American films, Casablanca, Singin' in the Rain, and The Wizard of Oz.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 12 graded modules in Theater, Cinema and Film Production (online).





# Mathematics

## Algebra 1 (online)

This online Algebra 1 course covers key mathematical concepts, including variables, function patterns, properties of rational numbers, and operations with rational numbers. Students will solve linear equations, inequalities and absolute value equations and inequalities; study slope, exponents, proportions, polynomials, factoring, direct and indirect variations, and graph linear functions. Students will learn quadratic equations and functions and rational expressions and functions. This course will also explore data analysis using scatter plots, histograms, stem-leaf-plots, and box-and whisker plots.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. A scientific calculator or similar utility is required.

There are 6 graded discussion boards, 2 projects and 21 examinations in Algebra 1 (online).

## Algebra 2 (online)

This online Algebra 2 course offers students an opportunity to expand upon the foundations of algebra and problem-solving laid in Algebra 1. Within this course, students will solve equations, inequalities, and systems; factor expressions and equations; and graph functions, systems and inequalities. Students will explore a variety of functions: linear, absolute value, quadratic, polynomial, radical, inverse, exponential, and logarithmic. Additionally, this course introduces complex numbers, conic sections, sequences, series, probability, and statistics.

Algebra 1 is a prerequisite for taking this course. Additionally, completion of or concurrent enrollment in Geometry is strongly recommended.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials, but students must have access to a graphing calculator or equivalent utility.

There are 6 graded discussion boards, 2 projects and 17 examinations in Algebra 2 (online).

## Calculus (online)

This course includes a study of limits, continuity, and differentiation. It integrates algebraic, trigonometric and transcendental functions, and the applications of derivatives and integrals.

Completion of Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus or Trigonometry are pre-requisites for taking this course.

This full-unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. A scientific calculator or similar utility is required.

There are 9 graded modules in Calculus (online).

## Mathematics (Cont.)

### Geometry (online)

This online course gives students a comprehensive introduction to Euclidean geometry and the principles of logical reasoning. After an introduction to the GradPoint interface and the basic tools and definitions of geometric figures, students learn how to reason deductively and to construct and analyze a logical argument. Students then use these skills to study parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles (both triangle congruence and the relationships inside a triangle), quadrilaterals, and proportions. Later in the course, students investigate right triangles and basic topics in trigonometry, followed by transformations, the areas of plane figures, and the surface areas and volumes of solids. The course concludes with the study of circles and how they interact with other figures, followed by an introduction to the fundamentals of probability as applied to problems in geometry. Throughout the course, students learn to solve problems and develop proofs using both an axiomatic and an analytical approach.

Completion of Algebra 1 is a prerequisite for taking this course.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials. A scientific calculator or similar utility is required.

There are 6 graded discussion boards, 2 projects and 18 examinations in Geometry (online).

### Integrated Math 1 (online)

This course teaches students how to simplify expressions and solve linear equations, introduces basic geometric terms and logic, reasoning, and proof and addresses linear equations in a graphical sense, and parallel and perpendicular lines, first from an algebraic perspective, followed by proving associated theorems using geometry. This course also teaches students how to solve proportions, use square roots, explore exponents, simplify polynomials, factor and solve quadratic equations, and apply these skills to geometry topics such as quadrilaterals, polygons, area, and volume.

This full-unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 20 graded modules in Integrated Math 1 (online).

### Integrated Math 2 (online)

This course teaches students about linear equations and inequalities, functions and families of functions, triangles, and how to apply their knowledge to solve systems and prove theorems. This course also teaches students about geometrical relationships in triangles and plane figures, special right triangles, basic trigonometry, radicals, polynomials, rational equations, probability and statistics.

This full-unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 20 graded modules in Integrated Math 2 (online).



## Mathematics (Cont.)

### Integrated Math 3 (online)

Integrated Math 3 consists of 65 lessons and 9 projects based on the Common Core State Standards. Students study rational and polynomial expressions and perform arithmetic operations on polynomials. They solve rational and radical equations. Students apply trigonometric functions to triangles and define them on a unit circle. Finally, students study probability distributions and different ways to collect and display statistics.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. A scientific calculator or similar utility is required.

There are 16 graded modules in Integrated Math 3 (online).

### Integrated Math 4 (online)

Integrated Math 4 consists of 43 lessons.

In Data Analysis, students will learn about the central limit theorem, population proportion, standard deviation, and estimating a population variance.

In Sequences and Series, they will learn about arithmetic and geometric sequences and their series.

In Rational Functions, students will learn about rational and inverse functions.

In Introduction to Trigonometry, they will learn about radians, degrees, and the unit circle.

In Graphs and Inverses of Trigonometric Functions, students will learn about trigonometric functions and inverse trigonometric functions.

In Trigonometric Identities, they will learn about trigonometric identities and sum and difference formulas.

In Extended Trigonometry, students will learn about applications of trigonometry, polar coordinates, and vectors.

In Investigations of Functions, they will learn about functions, polynomial functions, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. A scientific calculator or similar utility is required.

There are 13 graded modules in Integrated Math 4 (online).

# Mathematics (Cont.)

## Pre-Algebra (online)

Variables, exponents, inequalities, linear functions and equations may sound like a foreign language to many students. Pre-Algebra translates these concepts in such a way that students are comfortable enough to use them as they would everyday idioms. In order for the concepts to become “second nature” the rules are set down with the operations and properties of numbers. These rules are extended to rounding, estimating, decimals, ratios, proportions, percents, and square roots. Ample interactive practice is given with the result being that students are able to manipulate the aforementioned concepts with confidence.

Building on these basics, the course continues to address equations, inequalities and linear functions. The course shifts to a practical aspect with an introduction to geometry. Area, surface area and volumes are explained for two- and three-dimensional forms with Algebra integrated into these topics. The course ends with data analysis and probability. Box-and-Whisker plots, frequency tables, line plots and histograms are all investigated.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. A basic calculator or similar utility is required.

There are 6 graded discussion boards, 1 project and 19 examinations in Pre-Algebra (online).

## Pre-Calculus (online)

This course presents students with a formal study of functions, an analysis of sequences and series, counting principles, the binomial theorem, and probability. Students will use technology to employ multiple approaches to problem solving and data modeling. This course also includes topics on trigonometry, parametric curves, the polar coordinate system, and complex numbers in polar form. Students will solve problems using the Laws of Sines and Cosines and will also analyze vectors and conics, study systems of equations and matrices, and solve systems using matrices. Limits and continuity are introduced.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials, but students must have access to a graphing calculator or equivalent utility.

Algebra 2 is a prerequisite for Pre-Calculus (online). Students who have already taken Trigonometry (online) may not enroll in Pre-Calculus (online).

There are 6 graded discussion boards, 2 projects and 21 examinations in Pre-Calculus (online).

## Trigonometry (online)

This course addresses analyzing functions, transformations, and inverse functions. Students will also learn about radians, the unit circle, right-triangle trigonometry, trigonometric functions, inverse trigonometric functions, trigonometric identities, and trigonometric equations. Additional topics include vectors, conic sections, parametric curves, and the polar coordinate system.

This half unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. A scientific calculator or similar utility is required.

Algebra 2 is a prerequisite for Trigonometry (online). Students who have already taken Pre-Calculus (online) may not enroll in Trigonometry (online).

There are 3 graded discussion boards and 10 examinations in Trigonometry (online).

# Science

## **Anatomy and Physiology (online)**

In this online Anatomy and Physiology course, students learn about anatomical structures and physiology of the human body. Body systems are discussed in terms of how each participates in homeostasis of the body. Students learn about selected major pathologies, including causes, symptoms, diagnostic procedures, and treatments, as well as common changes that occur through the life span.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials. There are 17 graded modules in Anatomy and Physiology (online).

## **Astronomy, Introductory (online)**

Why do stars twinkle? Is it possible to fall into a black hole? Will the sun ever stop shining? Since the first glimpse of the night sky, humans have been fascinated with the stars, planets, and universe that surrounds us. This course will introduce students to the study of astronomy, including its history and development, basic scientific laws of motion and gravity, the concepts of modern astronomy, and the methods used by astronomers to learn more about the universe. Additional topics include the solar system, the Milky Way and other galaxies, and the sun and stars. Using online tools, students will examine the life cycle of stars, the properties of planets, and the exploration of space.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 17 graded modules in Astronomy, Introductory (online).

## **Biology (non-lab) (online)**

This online Biology (non-lab) course addresses in its first semester key concepts and processes from chemistry, cells, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, genetics and DNA. The scientific method and foundational chemistry facts are presented to assist students in the study of biology. In its second semester, this course addresses key concepts and processes of evolution, classification, ecology, and human anatomy. An overview of human body systems, as well as, defining structure of bacteria, protists, fungi, plants and animals are also explored.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 20 graded modules in Biology (non-lab) (online).

## **Chemistry (non-lab) (online)**

This online Chemistry (non-lab) course addresses in its first semester key concepts and processes from states of matter, atomic theory, organization of the periodic table, types of chemical bonds and reactions, the naming and formulas of chemicals, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry. The field of chemistry in relation to the scientific method is also explained. In its second semester, this course also addresses properties of solids, liquids and gases, state changes, solutions, flow of energy, enthalpy, heat, entropy and free energy, rates of reactions, equilibrium, acid-base theories, oxidation and reduction, electromagnetic cells, functional groups, polymerization, biochemicals, and nuclear chemistry. The course explores concepts through lessons and lab videos.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 25 graded modules in Chemistry (non-lab) (online).

## Science (Cont.)

### Health (online)

This online Health course addresses topics in mental health, social health, nutrition, physical fitness, substance abuse, human development, and preventing disease. The course emphasizes the physical and emotional benefits of making healthful choices and discusses consequences of unhealthful behaviors. Critical thinking is encouraged through the use of open-ended questions, assessments, and videos that present real-life situations.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 16 graded modules in Health (online).

### Physics (online)

This online Physics course addresses concepts of mechanics, wave behavior, and thermodynamics, Newton's laws of motion, thermal properties of matter, and thermodynamic systems. This course also contains lessons on electricity, magnetism, optics, the interactions among electric charges, properties of electric and magnetic fields and forces, and the characteristics of electromagnetic waves. Some of the basic concepts of quantum physics are presented as well. An understanding of Algebra and Trigonometry is required.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 19 graded modules in Physics (online).

### Science, Earth (online)

Earth Science is the study of our planet Earth and its place in the universe. This online Earth Science course incorporates themes from a variety of sciences, including geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Students investigate topics that include the Earth's structure and motion; geologic time; mineral and rock formations; plate tectonics and mountain building; earthquakes and tsunamis; volcanoes; features of the ocean; properties of our atmosphere; weather and climate; and features of our sun, solar system and universe.

Upon completion of this multi-media rich course, among other activities, students will be able to identify mineral and rock structures and properties (with assisted video activities), describe plate tectonic concepts involving earthquake and volcano development, locate and map ocean characteristics and life forms, explore atmospheric structures, interpret weather maps and storm development features, analyze climate differences and changes, describe how Earth is affected by sun and moon movements, and research how Earth's environments can be affected by human activities.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 4 graded discussion boards and 25 examinations in Earth Science (online).

## Science (Cont.)

### Science, Environmental (online)

This online Environmental Science course presents relationships between organisms and how these relationships relate to the functioning of ecosystems. Students learn the key concepts and processes of nutrient cycling, biomes, pollution, energy resources, and habitat destruction. The course also covers ways to promote biodiversity and create a sustainable future.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 11 graded modules in Science, Environmental (online).

### Science, Forensic (online)

The world of law enforcement is increasingly making use of techniques and knowledge from the sciences to better understand the crimes that are committed and to catch those individuals responsible for the crimes. Forensic Science applies scientific knowledge to the criminal justice system. This multi-media online Forensic Science course focuses on the techniques and practices used by forensic scientists during a crime scene investigation. Students will examine how various elements of the crime scene are analyzed, how evidence is processed in the crime laboratory, and how it is used in trial. The course also looks at basic scientific principles that guide the forensic laboratory processes, such as DNA testing, toxicology, and material analysis.

This full unit online course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. There are 16 units.

Each unit has a Lab assignment that asks the student to complete an activity at an external website that may include playing an interactive game or watching videos.

There are 4 exams in Forensic Science.

Please note: Videos assigned for viewing in this course are accessed through links in the course and may begin with an advertisement or contain material that is controversial or troubling for more sensitive individuals. This course is recommended for junior or senior level students.

### Science, Physical (online)

This online Physical Science course addresses key chemistry concepts and processes from properties and states of matter, atomic structure, organization of the periodic table, types of chemical bonds and reactions, solutions, carbon chemistry, and nuclear chemistry. This course also addresses key physics concepts and processes from force and motion, work, power, machines, energy, optics, electricity, and magnetism. Concepts are explored through animations and videos and will assist students in advanced chemistry and physics courses.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 6 graded modules in Science, Physical (online).

## Social Science

### **Geography (online)**

This course addresses key concepts of physical and human geography and presents information about the United States, Canada, Latin America, Western Europe, Central Europe, Northern Eurasia, Central and Southwest Asia, Africa, South Asia, East Asia, the Pacific world, and Antarctica.

This full unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 4 graded discussion boards and 26 examinations in Geography (online).

### **Government (online)**

Government covers the foundations of American government, political behavior, and the three branches of the federal government. Students will learn their rights and responsibilities as American citizens. The correlation between mass media, public opinion and interest groups is also examined in relationship to fundraising and elections.

An overview of civil liberties, foreign policy, national defense, national and state government, and political parties round out this comprehensive multi-media online course.

This half unit course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials.

There are 4 graded discussion boards and 18 examinations in Government (online).

### **History of the Holocaust (online)**

In this course students will study the history of anti-Semitism; the rise of the Nazi party; and the Holocaust, from its beginnings through liberation and the aftermath of the tragedy. The study of the Holocaust is a multi-disciplinary one, integrating world history, geography, American history, and civics. Through this in-depth, semester-long study of the Holocaust, students will gain an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice and indifference, the potential for government-supported terror, and they will get glimpses of kindness and humanity in the worst of times.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 10 graded modules in History of the Holocaust (online).

### **History, United States (online)**

This online United States History course contains lessons addressing historical periods from the American Revolution to globalization and the twenty-first century. The lessons address key concepts, important historical figures, and significant events to help students gain and understanding of the political, economic, military and social structures of the early years of the United States through its emergence as a global superpower.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 24 graded modules in History, United States (online).

## **Social Science (Cont.)**

### **History, World (online)**

This online World History course contains lessons addressing historical periods from Prehistory to Colonization as well as historical periods from the Scientific Revolution through Globalization in the twenty-first century. The objectives of the lessons are directly aligned to current standards. Each lesson is designed to teach the major concepts for each historical period through text, visual aids, activities, and assessments.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 11 graded modules in World History (online).

### **Personal Psychology (online)**

Psychology is the study of the mind and behavior. Psychology answers questions about why people think and feel as they do and how they learn and see the world around them. The Personal Psychology course investigates how people learn and see the world around them as people progress through infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood. The course also investigates how our perception of events influences topics such as memory, intelligence, emotion and personality.

This full unit online course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. There are 16 units. Each unit has a Lab assignment that asks the students to complete one or more activities at an external website that may include playing an interactive game, or watching videos.

There are 4 exams in Psychology.

Please note: Videos assigned for viewing in this course are accessed through links in the course and may begin with an advertisement or contain material that is controversial or troubling for more sensitive individuals. This course is recommended for junior or senior level students.

### **Philosophy (online)**

This course will take you on an exciting adventure that covers more than 2,500 years of history! Along the way, you'll run into some very strange characters. For example, you'll read about a man who hung out on street corners, barefoot and dirty, pestering everyone he met with questions. You'll learn about another eccentric who climbed inside a stove to think about whether he existed. Despite their odd behavior, these and other philosophers of the Western world are among the most brilliant and influential thinkers of all time. As you learn about these great thinkers, you'll come to see how and where many of the most fundamental ideas of Western Civilization originated. You'll also get a chance to ask yourself some of the same questions these great thinkers pondered. By the time you've "closed the book" on this course, you will better understand yourself and the world around you—from atoms to outer space—and everything in between.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 8 graded modules in Philosophy (online).

## Social Science (Cont.)

### Psychology (online)

This highly interactive online Psychology course focuses on the study of human behavior and mental processes and answers questions about why people think, feel and act as they do, as well as how people learn and see the world around them. This course covers how people's thought processes progress through infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood and how human perception of events influences memory, language, emotion and personality. It also covers psychological disorders, such as anxiety and depression, and treatments.

For those considering a college major in any of the social sciences, this course serves as a useful introduction to studying these disciplines.

This full-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 5 graded modules in Psychology (online). Students will complete quizzes, read and analyze academic journal articles, write personal reflections and summaries, participate in discussions, and create a digital project at the end of the course.

### Psychology, Introduction to (online)

In this online Introduction to Psychology course, students gain an understanding of human behavior, including biological foundations and the brain, sensation, motivation, and perception. Students explore the relationship between learning and memory; various personality theories; emotions; states of consciousness; cognition, life-span development; and applied psychology.

This half-unit course is self-contained and does not require a textbook or any additional print materials.

There are 17 graded modules in Psychology, Introduction to (online). Students will complete quizzes, write short papers, and participate in discussion boards.

### Sociology (online)

Sociology is the study of people, social life and society. In this increasingly connected world, students will examine topics in our society such as crime, race, ethnicity, marriage, family, sports and entertainment. Students will also learn how relationships between people and society can influence their actions and beliefs.

This full unit online course is self-contained with no additional textbook or print materials. There are 16 units. Each unit has a Lab assignment that asks the students to complete one or more activities at external websites that include watching videos.

There are 4 exams in Sociology.

Please note: Videos assigned for viewing in this course are accessed through links in the course and may begin with an advertisement or contain material that is controversial or troubling for more sensitive individuals. This course is recommended for junior or senior level students.



## World Languages

Rosetta Stone is a powerful learning tool that provides students with an immersive, interactive and engaging language-learning experience. Utilizing a variety of immersion techniques and administrative features, the software accelerates language learning and provides quantifiable measurements of success. Key features include advanced speech recognition technology, speech analysis tools, predefined course templates, grammar and spelling components and a milestone feature which simulates real-life situations in which to practice the language. The immersion environment puts students' native language-learning skills to work, eliminating their dependence on translation and memorization. Images, intuition, interactivity and instruction are hallmarks of the immersion learning environment.

American School is pleased to partner with Rosetta Stone to offer the following World Language courses, which are completely online courses with no textbooks, study guides or exam books:



Education

**Arabic 1 (Full Semester)**  
**Arabic 1 (First Semester)**  
**Arabic 1 (Second Semester)**  
**Arabic 2 (First Semester)**

**Chinese (Mandarin) 1 (Full Semester)**  
**Chinese (Mandarin) 1 (First Semester)**  
**Chinese (Mandarin) 1 (Second Semester)**  
**Chinese (Mandarin) 2 (Full Semester)**  
**Chinese (Mandarin) 2 (First Semester)**  
**Chinese (Mandarin) 2 (Second Semester)**  
**Chinese (Mandarin) 3 (First Semester)**

**Dutch 1 (Full Semester)**  
**Dutch 1 (First Semester)**  
**Dutch 1 (Second Semester)**  
**Dutch 2 (First Semester)**

**English (As a Second Language) 1 (Full Semester)**  
**English (As a Second Language) 1 (First Semester)**  
**English (As a Second Language) 1 (Second Semester)**  
**English (As a Second Language) 2 (Full Semester)**  
**English (As a Second Language) 2 (First Semester)**  
**English (As a Second Language) 2 (Second Semester)**  
**English (As a Second Language) 3 (First Semester)**

**French 1 (Full Semester)**  
**French 1 (First Semester)**  
**French 1 (Second Semester)**  
**French 2 (Full Semester)**  
**French 2 (First Semester)**  
**French 2 (Second Semester)**  
**French 3 (First Semester)**

**German 1 (Full Semester)**  
**German 1 (First Semester)**  
**German 1 (Second Semester)**  
**German 2 (Full Semester)**  
**German 2 (First Semester)**  
**German 2 (Second Semester)**  
**German 3 (First Semester)**

**Italian 1 (Full Semester)**  
**Italian 1 (First Semester)**  
**Italian 1 (Second Semester)**  
**Italian 2 (Full Semester)**  
**Italian 2 (First Semester)**  
**Italian 2 (Second Semester)**  
**Italian 3 (First Semester)**

## World Languages (Cont).

Japanese 1 (Full Semester)  
Japanese 1 (First Semester)  
Japanese 1 (Second Semester)  
Japanese 2 (First Semester)

Portuguese 1 (Full Semester)  
Portuguese 1 (First Semester)  
Portuguese 1 (Second Semester)  
Portuguese 2 (First Semester)

Spanish 1 (Full Semester)  
Spanish 1 (First Semester)  
Spanish 1 (Second Semester)  
Spanish 2 (Full Semester)  
Spanish 2 (First Semester)  
Spanish 2 (Second Semester)  
Spanish 3 (First Semester)

Review the Rosetta Stone system requirements at  
<http://www.rosettastone.com/system-requirements>.





