

Arcadia Charter School

2016-17 High School Curriculum Guide

High School Graduation Requirements

Students are required to take foundational classes in core subject areas in the beginning of their high school careers. The remainder of the credits needed to satisfy Arcadia's requirements and Minnesota Department of Education's Graduation Requirements are completed through projects, classes, or seminars. Credits are granted based on depth, demonstration and mastery of knowledge.

In addition to these core classes, students are encouraged to take electives (e.g. dance, Spanish, and other world languages, physical education) or to initiate group projects. The emergent and interdisciplinary nature of the many seminars and projects allows students and teachers the flexibility to create unique learning plans with guidance from teachers.

To earn an Arcadia Charter School diploma, students must successfully complete the following requirements:

23.0 Credits are required

Quarter-long courses are worth 0.25 credit; yearlong courses are worth 1.0 credit.

Language	4.0 Credits	(2 Credits in Writing, 2 Credits in Literature)
Arts		
Social Studies	3.5 Credits	(1.0 Credit in US History, 0.75 Credit in World History, 0.25 Geography, 0.5 Credit in Economics, 1.0 Credit in US Government & Civics)
Math	3.0 Credits	(1.0 Credit in Algebra 2 is required)
Science	3.0 Credits	(1.0 Credit in Physical Science, 1.0 Credit in Biology)
Art	2.25 Credits	(2.0 Credits in Art, 0.25 Credit in Arts Analysis)
Electives	7.25 Credits	

Senior Project

In order to graduate from Arcadia, each senior must complete a challenging, interdisciplinary Senior Project. Students choose the topics, complete ten to fifteen pages of writing, and present to the Arcadia community during Senior Presentation Nights in the spring. Students who are enrolled in full-time PSEO are exempt from this requirement as they participate in college full-time and are not on campus to fulfill the senior project tasks.

Junior Project

In order to graduate from Arcadia, each junior must complete a teacher facilitated portfolio that looks at life after high school. Students research and reflect on career interests, college opportunities, lifestyle choices, and personal finances. The goal of the project is to begin the process of preparing students for their transition after high school.

High School Literature Courses

Introduction to Literature

Required 9th Grade

Term 1 & 2: Students will be exposed to a variety of genres (poetry, short stories, novels, non-fiction, and drama) and literature from different times and places. Students will also be exposed to literary terms and concepts (theme, setting, characterization, and plot) for a deeper understanding and appreciation of literature. One semester in length.

(0.50 credits/semester)

High School Literature

Elective 10th - 12th Grade

This class will focus on a different literary work each quarter. Novels and plays vary from year to year and include, but are not limited to American Literature, British Literature, and Contemporary Literature. For example:

Term 1: To Kill a Mockingbird

Term 2: Lord of the Flies

Term 3: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Term 4: The Crucible

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Book Groups

Elective 9th - 12th Grade

High School students not enrolled in the High School Literature elective class are required to complete a book project each quarter, proposed to and approved by the Language Arts Specialist. Book Groups of 4-6 students may also be formed after approval.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

High School Writing Courses

Research Writing

Required 10th Grade

Terms 1 & 2

The goal of this class is to learn the skills needed for writing longer research papers. These skills include developing effective thesis statements, choosing and evaluating resources, note-taking and paraphrasing, citation principles and practices, organizing strategies, thorough revising and editing, peer editing, and formatting. Assignments will include three 5 – 7 page essays that coincide with the skills taught, short exercises, and grammar work. This class is a semester long class.

(0.50 credits/semester)

College Prep Writing: Application & SAT/ACT Essay Writing

Elective

Term 1

The goals of this class are to get a jump start on writing that college application essay, to develop strategies for the writing portion of the SAT and ACT, and to practice writing these essays. By providing samples of college application questions and test questions, students will compose their own personal statements and have authentic practice with the college entrance exams.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

NaNoWriMo**Elective**

November

An annual, internet-based, creative writing project that takes place during the month of November, NaNoWriMo encourages students to spend focused time writing novels on any theme and within any genre of fiction. Students who sign up will set their own word goals within the recommended guidelines for their grades. Each student will be given an account with the Young Writer's Program where he can keep track of his personal process. Weekly check-ins are required, and, if there is enough interest, "Write Ins" will be planned.

*(0.15 credits/month)***Writing Seminar: Advanced Composition****Elective**

Terms 3 & 4

During this seminar, students will continue to write non-fiction, expository essays in order to expand their writing abilities. In the smaller seminar setting, students will explore strategies for writing longer and more in-depth pieces with the help of in-class discussions and feedback from classmates. Three to four essays or other short writing exercises will be written per term. This class can be taken one or both terms.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Basic Composition****Required 9th Grade**

Term 3 & 4: Students will be taught the basic principles of writing essays and compositions. This class will cover the following topics: outlines, effective thesis statements and topic sentences, effective introductions and conclusions, supporting details, writing coherence, and organizational strategies. The grammar portion of the class includes review of the parts of speech and sentence building strategies. Assignments will include 3 non-fiction essays (2 - 5 pages long) and regular grammar practice. This is a semester long class.

*(0.50 credits/semester)***Creative Writing: Writer's Workshop****Elective**

Terms 2, 3, and 4

During this seminar, students will concentrate on the creative process for writing. We'll discuss and practice various ways to jumpstart the creative process and then use these strategies in creating a variety of written projects. We will also explore a range of fiction and nonfiction genres both as models and for inspiration. Students will be required to complete weekly journal prompts and 3 - 4 longer creative projects.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

High School Mathematics Courses

Geometry**Required 9th Grade**

Geometry is all about questioning size, angle measurement, relationships of shapes and properties of space. Students will gain perspective on basic computations to topics such as the following: Area, Perimeter, Surface Area, Proofs, Circumference and Volume of two and three-dimensional figures. Students will be required to complete skill practice and projects according to our schedule.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Intermediate Algebra**Optional Grades 10+**

This course will be a bridge between Algebra I and Algebra II. It will start with Linear functions included in Algebra I and then move to the Quadratic functions associated in Algebra II. The goal of this class is to prepare students for Algebra II. Class size will be limited to 20 students with first priority given to teacher recommendations.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Algebra II (Advanced Algebra)****Required Grades 10+**

Algebra II will focus on interpreting equations and inequalities involving multiple variables as well as the use of equations and inequalities to represent real-world mathematical problems. This course will also discuss tables, verbal descriptions, symbols and graphs. Students will be required to complete skill practice and projects according to our schedule.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Algebra III (Pre-Calculus)****Optional Grades 10+**

Pre-Calculus is a review of advanced Algebra II topics with a strong emphasis on Trigonometry. This course addresses the use of algebraic properties to evaluate expressions, graphical representations of functions explaining the results in relation to original context, data analysis, probabilities, and the study of triangles. Students will be required to complete skill practice and projects according to our schedule.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

High School Science Courses

Physical Science**Required 9th Grade**

The class is an overview of Chemistry and Physics and will cover both energy and matter. Topics of focused are: light and sound, waves, forces and motion, energy, classification of matter, chemical bonding, elements and the Periodic Table, chemical interactions, and the scientific method. Projects include: alternatives energies, musical instruments, and material manufacturing.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Biology****Required 10th Grade****Term 1: Classification and the Human Organism**

This class will focus on everything starting from the tiniest cell to the largest systems. You will work with simulated blood, and be exposed to real human images and systems. We will also look at how we organize and classify organisms.

Term 2: Diseases and Nutrition

We will be answering 2 large questions this quarter: *What is the science behind being “healthy”?* and *How does our body interact with our environment?* This quarter includes a long term project where students will identify and address areas of concern in their personal nutrition.

Term 3: Introduction to Genetics

We will explore the world of genetics and focus on DNA, genetics, mutations, and the how natural selection changes the frequencies of genes over time.

Biology, cont.**Term 4: Animal Behavior and Ecology**

In this class we will review natural selection and introduce: sexual selection, environmental effects, animal behavior, and how they relate to each other. There will also be a brief introduction to nutrient cycles and biomes.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Introduction to Chemistry**Elective****Why is the World As It Is?**

Term 1: Will include an introduction to the study of Chemistry and the significance to other science studies and to all matter. The Students will explore the formation of the Periodic Table of Elements, as well as, chemical bonds, formulas, and nomenclature. Students will do a series of labs, readings and projects to demonstrate their knowledge of the material and to explore their understanding of the material. Will explore acid and base reactions and how this demonstrates other concepts in science. Students will engage in a series of labs to understand titration, conservation, and lab technique. Students will also explore hydrogen bonds are a property of organic chemistry and water.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Earth Science**Elective****What is the Planet We Live On?**

Term 3: Will begin with an understanding of the human growth and culture in context with the changes in our planet. Students will next explore the structure of the planet and the dynamics of its movement. Students will then understand the rock cycle and identify rocks and minerals. Extra time will focus on human use of minerals. Students will understand human's relationship to our planet and how our planet has affected humanity.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Astronomy**Elective****Where Are We in the Universe?**

Term 4: We will explore the Universe from the largest to the smallest objects and where our planet fits within this system.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Environmental Science**Elective****How Does Small Space Affect Large Space?**

Term 4: Will focus on the study of our environment. Students will understand the movement of ground water and weather pattern. This will lead into cycles of energy and elements in the environment, which will lead into pollution. Finally, students will explore the different methods of field studies, will understand how those methods find different results, and will create and execute a field study in the local environment.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Microbiology**Elective**

Term 1

This class will be an introduction to a college level Micro class. Labs will be microscope heavy. You will get an overview on prokaryotes, protozoans, and algae. The class will culminate in a final group student led presentation.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Scientific Ethics and Debate****Elective**

Term 2

Welcome to the intriguing world of questions, opinions, arguments, and debate. We will work to define ethics, human rights, and their role in science. This class is meant to stretch a student's boundaries and cause them to think in ways they will initially resist. It will include a midterm and final debate.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Advanced Genetics****Elective**

Term 3

This class is to help students understand the complex world of DNA and genetics. The topics include transcription and translation, gamete formation, epigenetics, and statistical analysis of inheritance.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Advanced Ecology****Elective**

Term 4

This course will cover material including: availability of resources, habitat types, population (processes, movement, and patterns), competition, pollution and sustainability. This course will conclude in a final project and essay.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Greenhouse Management****Elective**

Term 3 and 4

The goal of this teacher facilitated course is to allow students to experience seedling growth and greenhouse management. There are plenty of opportunities for students to mold this course to meet their own needs. Students can work in groups or independently. There are opportunities to also revive our composting program.

(Depending on the level of participation 0.10-0.50 credit can be earned over the course of the terms).

High School Social Studies Courses

US History

Required 9th Grade

Terms 1, 2, 3, 4 (year-long course; 3x/week)

The United States History course incorporates the curriculum of the *Choices for the 21st Century Education Program (Choices)*, Zinn & Steffoff's *A Young People's History of the United States* into a survey of American history. *Choices* units focus the study of history on historical turning points such as:

- American Independence and the Constitution
- Westward Expansion, Slavery in the United States, and Native American Genocide
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- Progressive Era, Immigration, and Jim Crow America
- World Wars and Great Depression
- The Cold War and Civil Right Movements
- Responding to Terrorism: Challenges for Democracy
- Black Lives Matter and Modern Social Justice Movements

(0.25 credits/quarter)

World History

Required 10th Grade

Terms 1, 2, 3, 4 (year-long course; 2x/week)

The World History course is based upon the curriculum of *World History for Us All (WHFUA)*, which is a project of San Diego State University in cooperation with the National Center for History in the Schools at UCLA.

WHFUA progresses chronologically through nine Big Eras. The Big Eras are:

- Big Era 1 - Humans in the Universe (13 Billion - 200,000 Years ago)
- Big Era 2 - Human Beings almost Everywhere (200,000-10,000 Years Ago)
- Big Era 3 - Farming and the Emergence of Complex Societies (10,000 - 1000 BCE)
- Big Era 4 - Expanding Networks of Exchange and Encounter (1200 BCE - 500 CE)
- Big Era 5 - Patterns of Interregional Unity (300 - 1500 CE)
- Big Era 6 - The Great Global Convergence (1400-1800 CE)
- Big Era 7 - Industrialization and its consequences (1750-1914 CE)
- Big Era 8 - A Half Century of Crisis (1900-1950 CE)
- Big Era 9 - Paradoxes of Global Acceleration (1945 – Present)

(.75 total over four terms)

US Government: How to Elect a President

Elective

Term 1

This 2016 US Government course is focused on the upcoming presidential election. Students will learn about the steps in the presidential election process, basics of the political spectrum, political parties and their differing opinions on key political issues, and the electoral college. Students will also follow along with the 2016 presidential election in the news and debates and learn about candidates at the national and local level.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Personal Finance: Economics Seminar**Elective**

Terms 3 & 4 (6 week course)

Students will learn about various aspects of personal finance as it applies to real life money management. Using the Hands On Banking program from Wells Fargo, students will learn the basics of managing how banking and money work, managing credit and debit cards, opening and managing a bank account, creating and managing a budget plan, and how to access their money using ATMs, checks, and more. This course will feature regular assistance from Annie Clack, a banking specialist at the Northfield Wells Fargo.

*(.15 Credits)***US History: Exploring US History through Film****Elective**

Term 4

Students will explore major events, movements, and cultural trends in US History through film in this elective course. Students will watch a selection of US History-related movies in class and then participate in online discussion forums and write reflection papers about each film. The films that students will watch is TBD, but think *Selma*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Lincoln*, *Milk*, movies like that. The plan is to watch 5 to 7 different films to analyze. Students will need a permission slip from their parents to attend this course, as some of the featured movies for this course may be rated R.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

High School Arts Courses

Introduction to Art**Required 9th Grade**

Term 1

This course is required for 9th grade students and students without high school art experience. Open to all high school students with an interest in improving drawing skills. Intro to art is designed to give a foundation in the creation and production of two dimensional art works, art history, aesthetics, and the language of the artist. Students will learn about the elements of art and principles of design. They will create artwork based on direct observation and learn skills to render images with accuracy and realism. Students will present and reflect upon their work.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***2D Art****Elective**

Term 2

Open to all high school students. In this class students will learn basic color theory and some additional skills and methods of creating two-dimensional artworks. We will create acrylic and watercolor paintings, mixed media artworks and monoprints. Students will work to develop concepts. Students will reflect and revise their own work.

2016/2017 Artist in Residence, Elizabeth Christian- Printmaker

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Sculpture**Elective**

Term 3

Open to all high school students. In this course students will learn various ways of constructing sculptural art forms. We will use media including: wire, fabric, paper, wood, foam, and clay. Students will create work that stands on its own, hangs from the ceiling, is worn on the body and mounted on a wall. Students will participate in the critique process as well as reflect upon and revise their own work.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Collaborative Art****Elective**

Term 4

Open to all high school students. In this class students will collaborate in small and large groups to create larger scale works of art. Past projects have included murals, installations, stop motion videos, and performances. All are welcome! Come with an open mind, good attitude and a spirit of cooperation!

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***African Drumming****Elective**

Term 1

Students will learn, aurally, two and three part drum songs from Ghana, West Africa.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***The World of David Ives****Elective**

Term 1

David Ives is a very funny and intelligent playwright. He loves to play with words. We'll explore his life and work, first reading his adaptation of *The Liar*, then seeing it performed at Park Square Theater. We'll then read and work with his play *All In the Timing*, which will be our High School Spring Play.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Realism on the Stage****Elective**

Term 2

Students will both study and perform scenes from playwrights such as Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and Anton Chekhov, examining the role of the actor in the performance of these plays. Particular emphasis will be placed on Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. Class culminates in a trip to Park Square Theater to see their production of *A Raisin in the Sun*.

*(0.25 credits/quarter)***Playwrighting****Elective**

Term 3

Students will research and discuss successful playwrights, playwriting techniques and forms. Each student will then write a play, culminating in readings of each play in class.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

Monologues for the Actor**Elective**

Term 4

Students will choose, analyze, memorize, rehearse and perform dramatic and/or comedic monologues.

*(0.1 Credit for one monologue, 0.2 credit for two monologues)***Dance Sampler****Elective**

Semesters 1 and 2

In this class we will dive into a variety of dance styles and techniques. Styles may include: ballet, ballroom, musical theater, modern/improvisation, African or other world dances.

*(0.50 credits/semester)***Dance on Film****Elective**

Term 3

In this multi-age class we will explore a variety dance clips from well-known movie musicals. Students will analyze and discuss the way dance is used in film and will also learn some dances from the repertoire of movie musicals.

(0.25 credits/quarter)

High School Elective Courses

World Language

Arcadia offers a number of languages through the Transparent Language program. Each language level corresponds to the language levels taught as regular high school courses and will be followed by a culture/history/political project to enhance understanding of the global and cultural aspects of the language learned. A full credit will be applied for each language level.

Spanish**Elective**

For students wanting to learn Spanish who are beyond the levels of the online learning program or who prefer classroom learning, language groups will be formed and instruction will be based on literature, film, conversation, food and culture, and produced language in spoken and written forms.

ACT Study Group**Elective**

Term 3

The ACT (American College Testing) college readiness assessment is a standardized test used for high school achievement and for college admissions. The primary objective of this class is to familiarize students with the ACT, to review basic high school level content that will be covered in the test, to develop test-taking strategies relevant to this test, to establish individual preparation plans, and to reduce test anxiety.

(0.25 credits/quarter)