

Basics & Beyond High School

Course Descriptions

2009-2010

BASICS AND BEYOND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Basics Diploma Requirements:

Careers I: Exploration

Required for students graduating in 2010

Students graduating in 2011 forward will be required to take one Careers course

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the world of work. Students will explore three major themes to determine where their career interests lie. The first area students will explore include interests, values, and the ideal lifestyle and how these items will influence their career choice. Next the student will develop an individual career plan and from there the student will research the skills needed on the job and gain valuable insight on how to develop these skills. Students will also be required to complete job shadowing activities for this class.

Careers II: Development

Prerequisite: Careers I

Students will use information and research from Careers I to further develop their employability skills. In this course, more time will be spent on developing job-hunting skills, creating an employment portfolio, and pursuing job interests. Students will participate in various internships at local businesses throughout the community to gain more experience in the world of work.

Community Living:

No Prerequisite

The basic objectives of this course are to help students explore all aspects of life: personal development, decisions affecting their future, lifestyle options and consequences, managing family living, personal finance, and money management.

Computer Applications 1

Prerequisite: Keyboarding

The purpose of this course is to give students an in-depth introduction to Office 2003. Students will learn the fundamentals of Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. This course will acquaint students with the proper procedures to create documents, worksheets, databases, and presentations suitable for coursework, professional purposes, and personal use. Students who take this course will learn these skills by completing hands-on activities.

Computer Applications 2

Prerequisite: Computer Applications 1

This course is intended to teach advanced computer applications. Students must learn and complete the fundamentals of Computer Applications 1 before taking this course. This course is designed to extend the student's basic knowledge of and teach the fundamentals of Microsoft Office 2003. Students will be completing hands-on activities in Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint.

Keyboarding:

No Prerequisite

Keyboarding is a course that emphasizes the techniques necessary in learning to use the touch method – which means proper posture and not looking at your fingers. It is designed for those students who have never had keyboarding training or for those students who believe they need to strengthen their keyboarding skills.

Health:

Required

No Prerequisite

The health course is to help you recognize the value of attaining and maintaining good health. If you know the benefits and rewards of good health, you are more likely to find the motivation to achieve it. You need the knowledge in order to get healthy and to stay healthy.

Physical Education:

Required

No Prerequisite

All students are required by state law to participate in physical education classes each year are in attendance. An effort is made to provide a variety of activities to meet the needs and interests of as many students as possible. The major goal is to provide activities that are life long.

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Social Studies

Students graduating in 2010 are required to have 5 social studies credits

Students graduating in 2011 forward are required to have 6 social studies credits

US Government:

Required

The class will meet the requirements to earn a high school diploma from Basics and Beyond, DMACC, or transfer to any high school served by Basics and Beyond. Students will learn the make-up of the United States government systems from local to federal governments and how each is intertwined. Those students eligible to vote will register and exercise his/her right to vote on Election Day.

American History I:

Required

No Prerequisite

In American History 1 students will study from colonial times up to and including the Civil War. This course will meet the requirements needed to earn a high school diploma from Basics and Beyond, DMACC, or transfer to any high school served by Basics and Beyond.

American History II:

Required

Prerequisite: American History I

American History 2 will cover from the 1870's to present times. This course will meet the requirements needed to earn a high school diploma from Basics and Beyond, DMACC, or transfer to any high school served by Basics and Beyond.

Contemporary American History:

Elective

No Prerequisite

Contemporary History will cover the beginning of the twentieth century through present times. This class will focus on American society and how many changes occurred socially and politically. Emphasis will be placed on WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Wars.

Psychology:

Elective

No Prerequisite

This course exists to help the students analyze and solve their problems with themselves and others. Basically, it tries to answer the question: "Why do people act the way they do?" Emphasis is placed on the biological and environmental influences on one's behavior, covering areas such as: Personality, Behavior Modifications, Learning, Social Psychology, Dream Analysis, and Intelligence. The course is open to all students and becomes a valuable tool in helping them to manage their lives.

Sociology:

Elective

No Prerequisite

In Sociology we will discover the meaning behind behavior and society's impact on an individual. Through the text, quick labs, case studies, projects, and discussions students will have the opportunity to analyze current social issues relevant to an adolescent student. Major themes the course will discuss are: Cultural Diversity and Conformity, The Adolescent and Adult in Society, Social Stratification, Gender, Age and Health, Family, Education, and Religion in Society.

US Geography:

Elective

No Prerequisite

This class will meet requirements for high school diploma from Basics and Beyond, DMACC diploma, or transfer to any high school served by Basics and Beyond. Students will learn 5 basic questions of geography and how it relates to parts of the world as well as local geography including reading a map.

World Geography:

Elective

No Prerequisite

In World Geography, the central themes the students will be looking at are physical features, climate, people and culture, politics and economy. We will focus our study on the Middle East, Central and East Asia. By gaining knowledge about these regions of the world, students will be better-rounded for a world that is increasingly inter-dependent.

World History I:

Elective

No Prerequisite

In World History I, we will begin to know and understand the “thinkers” who wanted to use reason to improve society. This may include composers, writers, and rulers within the society. We will focus on the industrial revolution and see how this revolution changed the lives of workers. In addition, we will see how change led to revolutions in Europe as well as Latin America. Lastly, we will examine the consequences of nationalism and imperialism throughout the world.

World History II:

Elective

No Prerequisite

In World History II, we will examine how people of the world are all linked together. As the global economy becomes more interdependent culturally, economically and politically, we will look at the events that put into motion our world interdependence. The topics we will talk an in depth look at are the following: World War I (causes, the alliances, fighting, consequences (political, social, etc.), the in between years in Europe, World War II (causes, the Holocaust, results, United Nations), and lastly the Cold War and its effects on the world.

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English Requirements:

All students are required to have 8 credits of English

English 9-1 (English 1):

Required

No Prerequisite

In this course, a variety of poetry, short stories, and writing opportunities will be addressed. Major elements of the course include: analyzing texts for theme, style, and purpose; recognizing and understanding a variety of literary elements; reading for content; writing effectively for diverse purposes; and punctuation, capitalization, and spelling skills. Activities include research projects, journal writings, small group discussions, and grammar and usage applications.

English 9-2 (English 2):

Required

No Prerequisite

This course is an extension of skills addressed in English 9-I (English I); however, reading materials become longer and more involved. Students will read short stories, poetry, drama, and non-fiction from a variety of authors. A longer unit focused around a featured novel is also incorporated. Students will create power points, short stories and extension projects over targeted reading materials/subjects. Reading comprehension/strategies, vocabulary, and grammar and word usage will be reviewed and applied.

English 10-I Literature (English 3):

Required

No Prerequisite

Students in the course will be exposed to several new authors, literary works, and writing styles. Small and large group discussion, journals, and writing opportunities focus students on theme, figurative language, elements of poetry, and evaluation of writing styles. Units include: oral tradition (legends, myths, folk tales), poetry, science fiction, and non-fiction. English grammar and usage will be reviewed and applied.

English 10-II Writing (English 4):

Required

No Prerequisite

Normally taken as a follow-up to English 10I (English III), this course focuses on increasing skills on a variety of writing styles. Objectives include composition skills (including citing sources), literary analyses, and writing effectively for diverse purposes. The following essays will be addressed: compare/contrast, character sketch, extended definition, personal narrative. English grammar and usage will be reviewed and applied.

Speech:

Required

No Prerequisite

Speech class gives the student an opportunity to develop the skills required to communicate effectively through speaking. The major goal is to attain a sense of comfort when placed in front of a large group of people. Students will gain confidence through various non-threatening exercises. Speeches that inform, entertain, persuade, and motivate will be discussed and delivered. Impromptu speeches and interpretive elements will also be covered.

American Authors

Elective

No Prerequisite

This literature-based class emphasizes the major periods of American literary history and the accompanying social climate. Short stories, plays, and poetry are areas of concentration. Areas of emphasis include: an author's purpose for writing, social/period influences, gender/racial/socio-economic issues, and literary elements. English grammar and usage will be reviewed and applied.

Creative Writing 1/Creative Writing 2:

Elective

Both of these courses are intensive writing courses designed for students who want to improve their creative writing skills. Students will write and revise poetry, short stories, and other works of fiction and nonfiction. CW II will write plays, more involved short stories, and additional forms of poetry. English grammar and usage will be reviewed and applied in both courses.

Popular Literature:

Elective

No Prerequisite

In Popular Literature we will read a variety of popular reading materials, including titles from the Best Sellers List, Iowa Teen Awards, and ALA/YALSA book awards lists. Also included in the course will be articles from current magazines, graphic novels, movies, and poetry. A goal of this class will be to develop in students an enjoyment and appreciation for literature through the utilization of materials focused on current social teen issues. Students will creatively explore literature through group and individual readings, projects, journaling, and group discussion. Major elements the course will discuss include: analyzing how text relates to current social issues and/or personal issues, literary elements authors utilize within their writings, writing and speaking effectively for diverse purposes, and using technology to gather, to create, and communicate information and ideas.

Independent Reading 1/2:

Elective

No Prerequisite

This class is offered for the student who loves to read and/or is interested in discovering new authors and titles/genres to read. Students read a combination of assigned books as well as those of choice. Reading logs and reflections are written, and projects are completed.

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Science Requirements:

Students graduating in 2010 are required to have 5 science credits

Students graduating in 2011 forward are required to have 6 science credits

Human Biology:

No Prerequisite

This course is designed to study in detail the systems of the body. Students will gain a good knowledge base of the systems of the human body and how they interact with one another.

Physical Science:

No Prerequisite

Physical science is a course designed to teach students about the properties of matter, elements, compounds, electricity, sound, light and much more.

Earth Science:**No Prerequisite**

Earth Science is a course designed to teach students about the history of the earth, the structure of the earth, the solar system, and the forces of nature.

Cell Biology:**No Prerequisite**

This course is designed to study cells, heredity, DNA, and ecology. Students will gain a good knowledge on cell structures and functions and how heredity plays a role in their life. Students will also learn how organisms interact with one another and their environment.

Plant Biology:**No Prerequisite**

Plant Biology is a course designed to teach students about the evolution of plants/trees and how they are classified. They will grasp an understanding of interdependence and interrelationships among organisms in their ecosystems. Students will learn about matter, energy flow, conservation and photosynthesis.

Animal Biology:**No Prerequisite**

Animal Biology is a course designed to teach students about the evolution of animals through natural selection. They will learn about the diversity of species through biological classification. Students will be able to identify structures and functions of animals through on-line/hands-on dissections.

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Math Requirements:

Students graduating in 2010 are required to have 5 math credits

Students graduating in 2011 forward are required to have 6 math credits

Consumer Math:**No Prerequisite**

The purpose of this course is to give students an opportunity to learn common terms and develop the skills needed for solving consumer math problems they will be faced with in real life. Students need to understand the options available concerning the use of their money and obtain the necessary skills to be survivors in today's financial world.

General Math A and B:**Prerequisite: Teacher Approval**

General Math is designed for students who need to work on their mathematical skills before taking Algebra I or Geometry as demonstrated by a below proficient score on ITBS or ITED. This course will emphasize basic arithmetic skills needed for success in Algebra I and Geometry. Topics include number theory, fractions, integers, rational numbers, basic algebraic equations and proportions.

Pre-Algebra A and B:

No Prerequisite

Pre-Algebra A is the first course of two designed for students who need to work on their mathematical skills before taking Algebra 1, or those who plan to go directly to employment or attend technical schools following graduation. The course will emphasize thinking and problem solving techniques, real-life applications, use of technology, probability and statistics, communicating math concepts, interpreting data, and reasoning skills. Pre-Algebra B will also center on basic geometric concepts such as lines, angles, polygons, and circles. The student will be able to use formulas to find area, circumference, perimeter, and volume of each.

Algebra I A and B:

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or Teacher Approval

Algebra I is the first course in the college preparatory mathematics sequence. It provides a general understanding of mathematics while covering algebraic topics including real number operations on expressions, linear equations and inequalities, linear graphs, systems of linear equations, quadratic equations, and polynomials.

Algebra II A and B:

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

Algebra II is the third course in the college preparatory mathematics sequence. It briefly reviews the topics covered in Algebra I and introduces the student to higher level topics in mathematics. Topics will include quadratic functions, polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, graphing of rational functions, normal distribution of data, and fundamental probability principles.

Pre-Geometry A and B:

No Prerequisite

Pre-Geometry is designed for students who have not taken Algebra I and Geometry. This course will emphasize mathematical reasoning skills. Topics include problem-solving, measurement, and basic geometry terminology and calculations. This course will also center on basic geometric concepts such as lines, angles, polygons, and circles. The student will be able to use formulas to find area, circumference, perimeter, and volume of each.

Geometry A and B:

Prerequisite: Algebra I A and B

Geometry is the second course in the college preparatory mathematics sequence. Students will apply a variety of problem solving procedures, mathematical thinking and reasoning to solve problems involving geometric concepts. Topics will include inductive and deductive reasoning, relationships of points, lines, and planes, and properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, and circles. Technology will be used throughout the course.

Pre-Calculus A and B

Prerequisite: Above average grade in Algebra II: recommended for college-bound students.

Pre-Calculus is the fourth course of the college preparatory mathematics sequence. It briefly reviews the topics covered in Algebra II and develops the basic understanding and manipulative skills that are essential for success in college level mathematics. Topics include polynomial functions, trigonometry, analytic geometry, and exponential and logarithmic functions. Technology, including graphics calculators, will be used throughout the course.

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Work Credit:

No Prerequisite

This course is designed for Basics & Beyond students who have acquired a job that demonstrates a positive career choice. The student will be in contact with their advisor weekly during the work experience. The student will be under the supervision of their advisor and the community employer. Weekly work summaries will be required. Basics & Beyond credits are earned by completing required assignments and the number of on-site working hours engaged. The course must be taken during the school year. Work Credits: 120 hours/trimester = 1 credit

Learning Skills:

No Prerequisite

Learning Skills class is for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Students enrolled in this class will work on academics and behavioral goals outlined in their IEP. Progress towards goals will be graphed to provide information to parents at annual reviews/parent-teacher conferences. Students will be allowed to receive assistance in other classes as mentioned as accommodations in each student's IEP.