

Core Classes

Geography & World History Survey (*Full Year*)

Guide: Molly Keenan

9th and 10th grade students will study political, cultural, and physical geography while learning about a range of topics in world history from roughly Mesopotamia through the Middle Ages. Individual research and writing, map-making, small group work, project-based learning, and field studies in the Twin Cities will all be methods of learning in this course.

Communications (*Full Year*)

Guide: Kate Diehn

The goal of the communications course is for students to become conscious and considerate of the images and messages around them, and the images and messages that they produce. We will do this through a study and understanding of five types of communication: intrapersonal, interpersonal, small group or group, public speaking, and mass communication. Our approach to these types of communication will vary, but will include writing (creative and expository), reading fiction and nonfiction (novels, plays, essays), and studying visual texts (art, advertisements, other media).

Earth and Physical Science (*Full Year*)

Guides: Tami Limberg & Russ Heitman

This inquiry based class encompasses several areas of science, physical, earth, and chemical sciences. Topics will include geology, rock types, forces that change the Earth, atoms, matter, chemical equations, the Periodic Table, forces of motion, and other topics. Students should be ready to learn through lab experiments and exercises. Students will keep a field journal (that can be purchased from Tami on orientation night) for all notes and lab reports.

Math (*Full Year*)

Guide: Anne Springfield

Students will work through concepts in algebra I, geometry, or algebra II as appropriate. Students will work on concepts in conjunction with other 9/10 core classes and the Minnesota State Standards. This course is project-based as much as possible, but proof of competency for each standard will be required and may take the form of tests and quizzes.

Beginning Spanish (*Full Year; both AM and PM*)

Guide: Enrique Garita

¡Bienvenidos! This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of Spanish grammar and pronunciation, basic skills in speaking, writing and understanding the spoken and written word, to introduce the Latin-American culture, geography and way of life, and to develop an appreciation for another culture and lifestyle through the study of language. Students will discover a new realm of communicative skills, knowledge of the Spanish language, and appreciation of Hispanic culture.

Intermediate Spanish (*Full Year; both AM and PM*)

Guide: Enrique Garita

¡Bienvenidos! This course aims to develop and expand proficiency in four areas of Spanish language skills—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—through a review of grammar, mastering new and more complex grammar concepts and tenses, vocabulary-building exercises, culturally relevant dialogues, and readings regarding Hispanic civilization. The emphasis of the course is on communication; students will have ample opportunities to interact in Spanish on a variety of topics.

Electives

Film Studies (*Semester 1, PM*)

Guide: Kate Diehn

Satisfies English credit requirement

This course is designed to enhance students' abilities to interpret, analyze, and appreciate films using a variety of approaches. We will move through film history, learning terms and theories while watching classic and contemporary films and holding seminars. Films may include titles such as *Metropolis*, *Citizen Kane*, *Do the Right Thing*, and *Run Lola Run*. There will also be individual choice assignments involving genre/director studies.

Shakespeare in Film (*Semester 2, PM*)

Guide: Kate Diehn

Satisfies English credit requirement

In this course we will study 4-5 plays by William Shakespeare, focusing on interpreting them through literary analysis and analysis of their presentation in classic and popular films. Students will seek to understand Shakespearean language, themes, and patterns while gaining foundations of film interpretation and adaptation. We will also seek out opportunities to see live Shakespearean productions in the Twin Cities to enhance understanding of performance and interpretation.

Youth Theater Lab: Self & Society (*Semester 1, AM*)

Guide: Molly Keenan

Satisfies Social Studies credit requirement

This course will allow 8th, 9th and 10th grade students to explore personal and social issues through improvisational theater. Students will develop original scenes with their peers that will culminate in small and large-scale performances that illustrate their diverse perspectives and experiences.

History and the Future (*Semester 2, AM*)

Guide: Molly Keenan

Satisfies Social Studies credit requirement

This course will allow students to use science fiction media as lenses through which to understand the world, social issues, and ethical dilemmas. Science Fiction has historically provided us a range of perspectives for understanding past, present, and future human cultural and technological development. In this course, students will regard science fiction texts and other media as a tool for interpreting human history, contemporary society, and our possible future.

Physics (*Full Year, PM*)

Guide: Sheila Sullivan

Satisfies Science credit requirement; must pass pre-test

This is an advanced course in high school physics designed to prepare students for success in college course work. This course assumes knowledge of basic algebra and trigonometry concepts. Although large group instruction is part of this course, students are expected to be able to design and carry out lab procedures, determine steps in problem solving and carry out research independently and in small groups. Semester one topics are focused largely on mechanics. Semester two topics include optics, electricity and magnetism.

Chemistry (*Full Year, PM*)

Guide: Russ Heitman

The study of chemistry helps students connect the world around them to the invisible interactions of particles. Chemistry at GRS will build abstract visual and quantitative skills, so that students will be able to understand, confirm and explore unseen but fundamental parts of nature. Students will explore the behavior of matter through topics such as atomic structure, bonding, and energy. Students will also apply a chemistry perspective to current social and environmental issues.

Art & Design (*Semester 1-PM; Semester 2-PM*)

Guide: Randi McClure

Students will delve into the art of the psyche. Using artists such as Wassily Kandinsky, Chuck Close and Jerry Uelsmann as inspiration, we will practice putting ourselves into our work, both figuratively and literally. Using pencil, paint, collage and more, we will learn to use drawing as a means of communication and creative expression.

Art & Design (*Semester 1-AM*)

Guide: Sam O'Brien

Any one can learn how to draw! We will learn how to look at the world through shape, tone, and line. Students will practice finding ease in making marks on the page without apprehension. This course will explore drawing through ink, pencil, charcoal, chalk, pastel, and watercolor. We will learn the skills that are required to express visual ideas clearly. Our work will range from illustration of what we see to representation of how we feel and think. We will learn how to analyze design and composition as we discuss how images represent ideas.

Environmental Art (*Semester 2-AM*)

Guide: Sam O'Brien

This class will study issues in urban agriculture, and contribute to the Great River Garden. We will learn the basics of seed starting, composting, planting and garden care. Our class will start the plants that populate the school garden and beautify the school throughout the 2011 growing season. Environmental Art class will also study the ways in which art and the environment interact. Skills learned will include drawing, watercolor painting, tile mosaic, and building techniques with wood. We will study artists who focus on environmental issues, use materials from the environment, and use the environment as an essential element in their work. Such artists include Georgia O'Keefe, Herman de Vries, Andy Goldsworthy, Rosalie Gascoigne and Patrice Stellest. We will focus our work on drawing and painting the natural world, sculpture that uses materials from the environment, and installations that include the garden and the school.

Mixed Choir (*Full Year, AM*)

Guide: Caroline Miesle

Mixed Choir is a non-auditioned choir open to all students in the A1 and men in the A2. Any student who enjoys singing is welcome to join this ensemble! Singers will learn a variety of music ranging from classical and world music to popular tunes chosen by the choir. Students in Mixed Choir will also select music to learn independently as a soloist or in a small ensemble, and have several opportunities to perform for their fellow singers.

Women's Choir (*Full Year, PM*)

Guide: Caroline Miesle

Women's Choir is open to all women in the A2 and A3 levels and does not require an audition. Any student who enjoys singing is welcome! Singers will strengthen their musicianship by learning a variety of music, helping to select several pieces each semester. Students in Women's Choir will also choose music to learn independently as soloists or in small ensembles, and may perform for the choir once or several times.

Chamber Choir (*Full Year, 7:30-8:25 AM*)

Guide: Caroline Miesle

Chamber Choir is a select, auditioned choir offered for elective credit as a "zero hour" class. Rehearsing Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday each week from 7:30-8:25, Chamber Choir offers students an opportunity to sing challenging music and gain more independence as musicians. Singers will learn a wide range of repertoire, including classical, world, musical theatre, jazz, and popular music, and will perform regularly throughout the year in both small ensembles and as a full choir. Students in this elective may choose a study hall for their afternoon elective.

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Musicianship II (*Semester 1, AM; Semester 2, AM*)

Guide: Zack Scott

Continue to study and develop skills introduced in Musicianship I including ear training, arranging, practice techniques, effective rehearsal strategies, performance, and music theory (scales, inversions, chord voicing, notation). Students will also write original compositions in any style for any instruments. Students are welcome to play any of the available instruments (guitar, bass, keyboards, drums) or may bring their own. All students are encouraged to participate in performances throughout the semester (i.e., Coffeehouse, Winter/Spring Concert, Fall Harvest Festival).

Occupations: Sustainable Cooking (*Semester 1, AM*)

Guide: Tami Limberg

This class will take an in-depth look at sustainable kitchen life. From growing your own food, cooking with fresh ingredients, canning and preserving foods, cooking from scratch, to designing a CSA. Students will also be asked to design their own projects and read the books *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* and *Omnivore's Dilemma*. Students will be completing garden projects, harvesting foods, looking at sustainable gardening and more projects that come up specific to class interests. The class is driven by the natural cycles in the garden and kitchen and by student desires and interest!

Eco Education (*Semester 2, AM*)

Guide: Tami Limberg

This class will study issues in urban agriculture, and contribute to the Great River Garden. Eco-Education will investigate environmental and food justice as a community, state or global issue. Students will learn about the many aspects of the issue, decide on solutions, and take action. The class is entirely student-driven as the issues and solutions will be determined entirely by students. Students will also decide on and complete smaller hands on community projects. Students should be ready to delve into an environmental or food justice issue, investigate and evaluate complex real world problems, write a grant, and carry out a solution. Be prepared to be empowered!