



VIRGINIA
VIRTUAL ACADEMYSM



Elective Course Description Brochure

Grades 9-12 School Year 2022-2023

Stride

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

All world languages are year-long.

SPANISH I

Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of world language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar.

[Course Description Video](#)

SPANISH II

Students continue their study of Spanish by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. By Semester 2, the course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish.

[Course Description Video](#)

SPANISH III

Students further deepen their understanding of Spanish by focusing on the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Each unit consists of a variety of activities which teach the students how to understand more difficult written and spoken passages, to communicate with others through informal speaking and writing interactions, and to express their thoughts and opinions in more formal spoken and written contexts.

[Course Description Video](#)

[Sample Lesson](#)

FRENCH I

Students begin their introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of world language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar.

[Course Description Video](#)

FRENCH II

Students continue their study of French by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. By semester 2, the course is conducted almost entirely in French.

[Course Description Video](#)

FRENCH III

Students further deepen their understanding of French by focusing on the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Each unit consists of a variety of activities which teach the students how to understand more difficult written and spoken passages, to communicate with others through informal speaking and writing interactions, and to express their thoughts and opinions in both formal and Informal spoken and written contexts.

[Course Description Video](#)

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES CONTINUED

All world languages are year-long.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I

Did you know that American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most commonly used language in North America? American Sign Language: Introduction will introduce you to vocabulary and simple sentences, so that you can start communicating right away. Importantly, you will explore Deaf culture – social beliefs, traditions, history, values and communities influenced by deafness.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II

American Sign Language 2 goes beyond introductory ASL signs. This course helps students form structured sentences and explores how expressions can enhance signs to have meaningful conversations. Students will learn to communicate in everyday situations while learning vocabulary for descriptions, directions, shopping, and dealing with emergency situations. Furthermore, the course will teach students about the Deaf Community, culture, and language. Students will learn about sequencing, transitions, future tenses, and will be able to tell a story, and ask questions.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

ART APPRECIATION– Year long

In this course students learn about the various forms of visual art such as painting, sculpture, architecture, and film. Students will engage in hands-on activities, discussion, research, and writing assignments as they gain a greater understanding of art in its various forms. Students will garner a sense of the value of art across different cultures.

[Course Description Video](#)

[Sample Lesson](#)

AP® ART HISTORY– Year Long

Students explore a wide range of art, from the earliest works made by prehistoric ancestors in caves to the soaring cathedrals of the Gothic era and beyond. As they study painting, sculpture, architecture, and other artwork across cultures, students acquire tools for careful observation and analysis of visual expression. This course provides opportunities for students to practice new visual vocabulary and concepts through engaging discussions, relevant research, and reports about museum experiences. Course learning objectives and enduring understanding statements that support the three big ideas for AP Art History are integrated into each unit. Instructional activities build student skills to ensure that they master the essential knowledge statements. Students will build on these foundations as they explore works of art, scholarly resources, primary and secondary source documents, videos, museums, and virtual museum visits.

Prerequisites: Grade of “A” in English and Art Appreciation or previous art course. Grades 10-12 only.

[Course Description Video](#)

[Sample Lesson](#)

MUSIC APPRECIATION– Year Long

This course introduces students to the history, theory, and genres of music. The first semester covers basic music theory concepts as well as early musical forms, classical music, patriotic and nationalistic music, and 20th century music. The second semester presents modern traditions, including American jazz, gospel, folk, soul, blues, Latin rhythms, rock and roll, and hip hop. The course explores the history of music, from the surviving examples of rudimentary musical forms through to contemporary pieces from around the world.

To comply with certain state standards for the arts, a student “performance practicum” is required for full credit each semester. The performance practicum requirement can be met through participation in supervised instrumental or vocal lessons, church or community choirs, community musical performances, or any other structured program that meets at regular intervals and provides opportunities for students to build vocal and/or instrumental skills. Parents or guardians will be required to present their pro- posed practicum to the students’ teachers for approval and validate their children’s regular participation in the chosen performance practicum.

[Course Description Video](#)

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) ELECTIVES

All CTE courses are year-long.

PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS & MARKETING

This course provides complete instruction in business concepts and skills students need in today's competitive environment. This course offers extensive coverage in major business concepts, such as finance, marketing, operations, and management. Students gain valuable information and skills for the workplace. Topics explored include economic systems and activity, social responsibility, entrepreneur-ship, leadership as well as career planning and development.

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12 only

Sequential if Taken With: Computer Information Systems and Design, Multimedia, and Web Technologies.

ENGINEERING EXPLORATIONS

This course guides students through an investigation of engineering careers. Students are introduced to the basics of engineering, learn how to turn problems into ideas, and develop a basic understanding of civil, mechanical, chemical, and biological engineering. This course includes advanced mathematical concepts and is taught using curriculum that can be considered early college-level.

Prerequisites: Grades 11-12 only, Completed or currently enrolled in Algebra 2.

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Students will explore computer concepts, operating systems, networks, telecommunications, emerging technologies, and career opportunities related to the information technology field. Students will apply problem-solving skills in real life situations through word processing, spreadsheets, databases, multimedia presentations, and integrated software activities.

Sequential if Taken With: Principles of Business and Marketing, Computer Network Operations, and Design, Multimedia, and Web Technologies.

[Course Description Video](#)

DESIGN, MULTIMEDIA, AND WEB TECHNOLOGIES

Students apply creativity and technology to create visual design, multimedia, and web projects, using industry- standard software. Work-based learning experiences allow students to apply layout and design techniques in real-world situations.

Sequential if Taken With: Principles of Business and Marketing, Computer Network Operations, and Computer Information Systems.

[Course Description Video](#)

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) ELECTIVES CONTINUED

All CTE courses are year-long.

COMPUTER NETWORK SOFTWARE OPERATIONS

Computer Network Software Operations covers computer support and network administration topics. Students learn networking concepts, from usage to components. Students will learn to install operating systems, set up and manage accounts, load software, and establish and implement security plans.

Prerequisites: Grades 10-12 only.

Sequential if Taken with: Computer Information Systems and Design, Multimedia, and Web Technologies.

[Course Description Video](#)

GENERAL ELECTIVES

PSYCHOLOGY (Fall Semester)

In this course, students investigate why human beings think and act the way they do. This is an introductory course that broadly covers several areas of psychology. Instructional material presents theories and current research for students to critically evaluate and understand. Each unit introduces terminology, theories, and research that are critical to the understanding of psychology and includes tutorials and interactive exercises. Students learn how to define and use key terms of psychology and how to apply psychological principles to their own lives. Unit topics include: Methods of Study, Biological Basis for Behavior, Learning and Memory, Development and Individual Differences, and Psychological Disorders.

Course Length: 1 Semester

AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY (Year Long)

This course is the equivalent of an introductory college-level course. Students receive an overview of current psychological research methods and theories. They explore the therapies used by professional counselors and clinical psychologists and examine the reasons for normal human reactions: how people learn and think, the process of human development and human aggression, altruism, intimacy, and self-reflection. They study core psychological concepts, such as the brain and sensory functions, and learn to gauge human reactions, gather information, and form meaningful syntheses. Students prepare for the AP[®] Exam and for further studies in psychology and life sciences.

Course Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisites: Grade of "A" in English and Psychology or previous social studies course. Grades 10-12 only.

SOCIOLOGY I: THE STUDY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

The world is becoming more complex. How do your beliefs, values, and behavior affect the people around you and the world in which you live? Students examine social problems in the increasingly connected world and learn how human relationships can strongly influence and impact their lives. Exciting online video journeys to an array of areas in the sociological world are an important component of this relevant and engaging course.

Course Length: 1 Semester

SOCIOLOGY II: YOUR SOCIAL LIFE

Sociology is the study of people, social life, and society. By developing a "sociological imagination," students examine how society itself shapes human action and beliefs—and how in turn these factors reshape society itself. Fascinating online video journeys inform students and motivate them to seek more knowledge on their own.

Course Length: 1 Semester

FORENSIC SCIENCE (Spring Semester)

This course surveys key topics in forensic science, including the application of the scientific process to forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, physical and trace evidence, and the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist. Through online lessons, laboratories, and analysis of fictional crime scenarios, students learn about forensic tools, technical resources, forming and testing hypotheses, proper data collection, and responsible conclusions.

Course Length: 1 Semester

GENERAL ELECTIVES CONTINUED

CREATIVE WRITING (Year long)

In this course, students explore a range of creative writing genres, including fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, drama, and multimedia writing. They study examples of classic and contemporary selections, apply what they learn to their own writing, and develop proficiency in the writing process. They learn to evaluate the writings of others and apply evaluation criteria to their own work.

Course Length: 2 Semesters

[Course Description Video](#)

JOURNALISM (Spring Semester)

Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications.

Course Length: 1 Semester

[Course Description Video](#)

PUBLIC SPEAKING (Fall Semester)

Students create original essays, poems, and short stories in this course which focuses on the four-step process writing model. They study public speaking occasions and develop skills as fair and critical listeners, or consumers, of spoken information and persuasion. Students study types of speeches (informative, persuasive, dramatic, and special occasion), read and listen to models of speeches, and prepare and present their own speeches to

diverse audiences. They study how to incorporate well-designed visual and multimedia aids in presentations and how to maintain a credible presence in the digital world. Students also learn about the ethics of public speaking and about techniques for managing communication anxiety.

Course Length: 1 Semester

[Course Description Video](#)

GAME DESIGN (Spring Semester)

With this course, students will learn about different video game software and hardware, various gaming platforms, the technical skills necessary to design games, troubleshooting and Internet safety techniques, and the history of gaming. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own plan for a 2D video game! With the knowledge and skills students will gain in this course, they can take their hobby and turn it into a potential career.

Course Length: 1 Semester

[Course Description Video](#)

AP[®] Macroeconomics (Spring Semester)

This course is the equivalent of an introductory college-level course. Students explore the behavior of individuals and businesses as they exchange goods and services in the marketplace. Students learn why the same product can post different amounts at different stores, in different cities, and at different times. Students also learn to spot patterns in economic behavior and learn how to use those patterns to explain buyer and seller behavior under various conditions.

Course Length: 1 Semester

GENERAL ELECTIVES CONTINUED

CRIMINOLOGY (Spring Semester)

In the modern world, many citizens share a concern about criminal behaviors and intent. This course introduces students to the field of criminology, the study of crime. Students look at possible explanations for crime from psychological, biological, and sociological perspectives; explore the categories and social consequences of crime; and investigate how the criminal justice system handles criminals and their misdeeds. The course explores some key questions: Why do some individuals commit crimes while others do not? What aspects of culture and society promote crime? Why are different punishments given for the same crime? What factors—from arrest to punishment—help shape the criminal case process?

Course Length: 1 Semester

WEB DESIGN (Fall Semester)

Web design is a course that teaches students how to build their own web pages. Students will learn the languages HTML and CSS and will create their own live homepages to serve as portfolios of their creations. By the end of this course, students will be able to explain how web pages are developed and viewed on the internet, analyze and fix errors in existing websites, and create their very own multipage websites.

Each unit of the course is broken down into lessons consisting of video tutorials, short quizzes, example web pages to explore, and web design exercises in which students develop and publish their own websites. Each lesson includes at least one formative short multiple choice unit quiz that assesses their knowledge of the concepts covered in the unit.

Course Length: 1 Semester

[Course Description Video](#)

AP[®] Microeconomics (Fall Semester)

This course is the equivalent of an introductory college-level course. Students explore the behavior of individuals and businesses as they exchange goods and services in the marketplace. Students learn why the same product can cost different amounts at different stores, in different cities, and at different times. Students also learn to spot patterns in economic behavior and learn how to use those patterns to explain buyer and seller behavior under various conditions. Lessons promote an understanding of the nature and function of markets, the role of scarcity and competition, the influence of factors such as interest rates on business decisions, and the role of government in the economy. Students prepare for the AP Exam and for further study in business, history, and political science.

Course Length: 1 Semester