

9TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES 2009-2010

FRESHMEN ENGLISH GRADE NINE: FULL YEAR (TWO SEMESTERS) This class provides ample instruction and practice in a broad range of reading, speaking, and writing skills. Students study a variety of literary genres, including works representing the nations of East Asia and the Americas. A minimum of three major books studies will be completed, choosing from titles such as *The Odyssey*, *Red Scarf Girl*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Writing assignments include a business letter, a compare/contrast paper, literary analysis, and a persuasive essay. These writings are designed to strengthen students' use of the five-paragraph format and will be evaluated using district rubrics. Through these assignments and related skill-building drills, including WASL techniques and practice, students will improve their mastery of conventions, sentence structure, and vocabulary. Students will have several opportunities for individual or small group research and for self-reflection. Exams will include a variety of selected response, short response, and essay questions. The semester culminates with a final exam. Honors credit may be earned by arrangement with the teacher.

WORLD STUDIES I GRADE NINE: FULL YEAR (TWO SEMESTERS) Ninth grade students will examine the history, culture, religion, government, and economics of nations of East Asia and the Americas. World trade and economics are explored within each sub-region, and Internet technology is utilized to discover the rapidly-growing changes of the world's cultures. The course also includes an extensive classroom-based research project. Further emphasis is placed on the concept of global citizenship and the evolution of interdependence among nations in history. Honors credit may be earned by arrangement with the teacher.

HONORS FRESHMAN ENGLISH/WORLD STUDIES I GRADE NINE: FULL YEAR (TWO SEMESTERS)

Ninth grade students investigate the history, culture, religions, government and economics of nations of East Asia and the Americas. Special attention is given to unique roles in the evolution of trade and international relations among countries. Emphasis is placed on the historical development of global citizenship and the evolution of interdependence among nations in history. The course also includes an extensive classroom-based research project. Support for the integrated block is complemented by a wide range of literary genres plus literature representing nations of East Asia and the Americas. A minimum of four major book studies will be completed, choosing from titles such as *The Odyssey*, *Red Scarf Girl*, *The Good Earth*, *Hiroshima*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Additionally, students are required to read literature outside of class choosing books from a selected list. Four multi-paragraph writings will be completed including a business letter, a compare/contrast paper, literary analysis, and a persuasive essay. Assignments and related skill-building drills, including WASL techniques and practice will improve student mastery of conventions, sentence structure, and vocabulary. Students will have opportunities for individual or small group research and for self-reflection. A comprehensive exam is offered at the end of the semester.

MATHEMATICS

The Kirkland Junior High math curriculum is comprised of the following courses: Connected Math 7, Safety Net 7, 8 and 9, Connected Math 8, Discovering Algebra, Discovering Geometry, and Discovering Advanced Algebra. These courses are consistent with the Lake Washington School District adopted curriculum and align with LWSD Curriculum Frameworks document and the Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements. Math is sequential and mastery of basic skills and concepts are essential to success in the next course. Consequently, appropriate placement is important for success and will be determined by multiple measures including: previous math course, state assessment scores, and teacher recommendation.

NOTE: All Lake Washington Junior High mathematics courses are designed to teach and assess: 1) reading and writing of mathematical materials, procedures and explanations, (including: reading and understanding directions, labeling all answer appropriately, and showing all work); 2) analyzing, displaying, reading, and interpreting data sets using graphs, charts, tables, and equations, 3) responding to short answer and extended response questions using WASL-like scoring guides, 4) and using calculators appropriate for each course.

DISCOVERING ALGEBRA FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)

Prerequisites: *Discovering Algebra* provides a practical blend of technology-related and paper-and-pencil problem solving tools. Explorations and investigations emphasize symbol sense, algebraic manipulations, and conceptual understandings. Students make sense of important algebraic concepts, learn essential algebraic skills, and discover how to use algebra. This course allows students to experience algebra as an activity and a process that encourages the use of multiple representations—numerical, graphic, symbolic, and verbal. Topics in this course include: Graphing, Linear Equations, Quadratic Equations, Functions, Exponents, Data Analysis, Proportional Reasoning, Probability, Systems of Equations and Inequalities. This class requires proficiency, commitment, responsibility, and self-discipline. Students should plan for up to thirty minutes of homework each day as well as scheduled time for special projects. *Students will best be served if they have access to a TI-84 calculator at home.*

DISCOVERING GEOMETRY FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)

Prerequisite: *Discovering Geometry* provides an opportunity for students to explore geometric relationships with a wide variety of tools, including compasses, computers, and graphing calculators. Students perform constructions, measure figures, observe patterns, discuss their findings, write their own definitions, and formulate and prove geometric conjectures. Topics include properties of triangles, polygons, circles, transformations and tessellations, area and volume, the Pythagorean Theorem, congruence and similarity. Students should expect up to forty minutes of homework per day to reinforce the skills and concepts taught in class. *Students will best be served if they have access to a TI-84 calculator at home.*

DISCOVERING ADVANCED ALGEBRA FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)

Prerequisite: *Discovering Advanced Algebra* provides an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of challenging topics in mathematics including recursion, transformations, matrices, series, probability and applications of statistics. A major focus is on a variety of functions including exponential, power, logarithmic, trigonometric, rational, and quadratic and

other polynomial functions. The text provides a balanced mix of data-analysis and pure-algebra techniques in a hands-on investigative approach. Students practice, reason, apply, and review as they progress through the curriculum. Algebraic techniques equip students with multiple problem-solving strategies and prepare them for higher-level courses that may be algebra intensive. Students should expect up to forty minutes of homework per day to reinforce the skills taught in the classroom. *Students will best be served if they have access to a TI-84 calculator at home.*

SAFETY NET 9 FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)

Students will be placed in this support class based on WASL test scores. This course is designed to support students in their regularly scheduled Discovering Algebra class using materials that develop the concepts presented in algebra. *Students will need to have a scientific calculator.*

SCIENCE

INTEGRATED SCIENCE III- GRADES 8, 9: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS) 9th grade

Conceptual Physical Science: Physics, Chemistry, Earth Science and Astronomy

Prerequisite: 9th grade students: Standard path. 8th grade students: Requires teacher recommendation, successful completion of 7th Grade Math with an “A”, and an “A” in 7th grade science, and a signed letter of understanding and acknowledgement for appropriate placement available from your Science teacher.

Conceptual Physical Science is a year-long inquiry-based **High School level** lab science class focused on exploring chemistry, physics, earth science, and astronomy. The emphasis for physics is on qualitative analysis helping students to understand concepts and differentiating among scientific ideas. Chemistry focuses on the foundational concepts of the structure of the atom and the organization of the periodic table of the elements and introduces the basics of chemical reactions. Earth science uses the geological concepts of plate tectonics and the structure of the Earth to understand the geological phenomena particular to the Pacific Northwest. We then expand from the earth to the universe, looking at its origins, size, and contents, such as stars, galaxies, black holes, supernovae, and neutron stars. Students read, write and use technology to gather and process scientific information from a wide range of print and electronic sources. Students communicate their understanding through the following forms of writing: procedure, explanation, and lab reports. Specific writing instruction emphasizes proper methods for formulating hypotheses, collecting and analyzing data, and writing conclusions.

BIOLOGY GRADE 9: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of two years of science. Students are required to have received a “B” or higher in 8th grade math and received a “B” or higher in 9th grade science. This class meets one of the high school graduation requirements. This is a laboratory science course that studies biological earth as a system of many interacting parts and focuses on the changes within and between these parts. We will focus on the flow of materials and energy as they relate to the biosphere. We will study processes and interactions within and between organisms and their environment. Course topics include: Ecology, cell structure, genetics, biodiversity, bacteria, viruses and disease and human systems. Through hands-on lab activities, class discussions, and individual and group projects, students will investigate science topics relevant to their own lives

and build understandings for the Washington State Science Essential Academic Learning Requirements. **Level V (QSR) Life Science Lab Report** will be taught and administered.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is designed to promote a level of fitness and appreciation for our physical potential. Physical Education classes are designed on a co-ed basis with each activities taught in a three-week unit. At some time during the three years, each student will be exposed to as many sports and activities as we can possibly provide.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADES 8, 9: HALF YEAR (1 SEMESTER)

Physical Education is a one semester class in which effort, positive attitude, sportsmanship, and cooperation are taught through participation in team and individual sports. Specific Health topics will also be covered on an every other day basis during our weight training/body conditioning unit. Each student's grade will reflect his/her ability to meet specific individual goals and corresponding point values. This method of evaluation allows each student to have control of his/her grade regardless of physical ability. 8th and 9th grade P.E. includes the following: Flag Football, Soccer, Badminton Basketball, Frisbee, Pickle Ball, Archery, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Body Conditioning / Weight Training. Students are required to dress appropriately and participate in class each day. The required uniform includes a KJH Physical Education T-shirt (which can be purchased from the ASB window in the main office for \$5.00 each), shorts, socks, and tennis or athletic shoes. Students are provided a combination lock and basket to secure clothing during the class period. All personal belongings should be clearly marked for identification. Special athletic equipment is provided by the school.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

In order to sign up for Special Education courses a student must currently be on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and be identified with a learning disability or handicapping condition in any of the following areas- Language Arts, Reading, Written Language, and or Math. These courses will follow the general education curriculum with modifications and adaptations.

SPECIAL EDUCATION LANGUAGE ARTS /READING

Grades 7, 8, 9: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)

FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY ON AN IEP

Prerequisite: Must be on an IEP, and identified with a learning disability or handicapping condition in the area of reading and written language. The course will follow the general education curriculum with modifications and adaptations. The class uses various programs that aid in increasing vocabulary, comprehension, and reading fluency. In addition, this course takes students through the writing process using the six traits of writing. Students will focus on the organization and conventions of their writing.

SPECIAL EDUCATION WRITING

Grade 7, 8, 9: Full Year (2 SEMESTERS)

FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY ON AN IEP

Prerequisite: Must be on an IEP, and identified with a learning disability or handicapping condition in the area of written language. Using the step -up- to writing approach, the class will analyze writing tasks, break these into small steps, teach the steps one at a time, and provide practice to become proficient writers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION MATH

Grade 7, 8, 9: Full Year (2 SEMESTERS)

FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY ON AN IEP

Prerequisite: Must be on an IEP, and identified with a learning disability or handicapping condition in the area of Math. The curriculum focuses on fundamental calculation and reasoning as well as problem solving concepts, skills and strategies.