The Phelps School 2016-2017 Course Catalog

Mission Statement

The Phelps School is dedicated to a personalized education for the boy who seeks success academically, personally, and socially. Our first obligation is to create a caring, sensitive climate which emphasizes the positive in every situation. The student's educational program is planned in terms of his individual capacity, ability, needs and interests. This philosophy of dedication to the total development of each boy is accentuated by the disciplined atmosphere, small classes, and daily tutorial support. The environment is consistent, supportive, structured and combined with challenge, care and honesty. The Phelps School is concerned with emphasizing the articulation and inculcation of personal moral values as an important part of our mission; educating the heart as well as the mind and body.

Affirmations of P.O.W.E.R.

I think…	Positively
I serve…	Others
I seek…	Wisdom
I pursue…	Excellence
I live…	Responsibly

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Graduation Requirements

A student will be eligible to graduate from The Phelps School when he has accumulated a minimum of 22 academic credits in the required fields/areas with a credit being given for one full year of satisfactory academic work in Grades 9 - 12. While the School encourages and advises all students to take four years of Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science, a student is required to complete four years of English and either Mathematics or Science.

Minimum Credits Required	
English	4
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	3 or 4
Science	3 or 4
Foreign Language	2
Physical Education	2
Non-Core	varies

GPA Scale			
Standard		**AP**	
A+	4	A+	4.3
A	4	A	4.3
A-	3.7	A-	4
B+	3.3	B+	3.7
B	3	B	3.3
B-	2.7	B-	3
C+	2.3	C+	2.7
C	2	C	2.3
C-	1.7	C-	2
D+	1.3	D+	1.7
D	1	D	1.3
D-	0.7	D-	1
F+	0	F+	0
F	0	F	0
F-	0	F-	0

Course Progression Table

Subject	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English	English	English	English 9	English 10	English 11 American AP Language & Composition	English 12 British AP Literature & Composition Vocabulary & Usage
ESL	See below					
Language	N/A	Spanish 1	Spanish 1 Spanish 2	Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Spanish 3	Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Spanish 3 AP Spanish Language & Culture	Spanish 2 Spanish 3 AP Spanish Language & Culture
Mathematics	General Math Pre-Algebra Algebra 1	General Math Pre-Algebra Algebra 1 Geometry	Pre-Algebra Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2	Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus	Geometry Algebra 2 Statistics Pre-Calculus AP Calculus AB	Algebra 2 Statistics Pre-Calculus AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC
Science	General Science Life Science	General Science Life Science	Physical Science Biology Health	Biology Environmental Science Chemistry Health	AP Biology AP Environmental Science Chemistry Physics Environmental Science Health	Earth Science Chemistry Physics AP Biology AP Environmental Science AP Chemistry AP Physics 1 Environmental Science
Social Studies	Geography World History I	Geography World History I	American History I World History II	American History I American History II World History II AP World History	American History II AP US History AP World History Psychology	Psychology AP US History AP World History AP Psychology Government / Sociology / Contemporary World Affairs
Non-Core	Fitness Study Skills	Fitness Study Skills	Physical Education/ Health Fitness Culinary Arts	Physical Education/ Health Fitness Culinary Arts Ethics / Graphic Arts / Writing Seminar	Physical Education/ Health Fitness Culinary Arts Art & Music/ SAT Prep/ Intro to Computer Programming	Fitness Culinary Arts Transition to College/ Personal Finance/ Public Speaking
Academic Support Program	ASP English ASP Reading ASP General Math ASP Pre-Algebra ASP Algebra 1	ASP English ASP Reading ASP General Math ASP Pre-Algebra ASP Algebra 1	ASP English ASP Reading ASP Pre-Algebra ASP Algebra 1 ASP Geometry	ASP English ASP Reading ASP Algebra 1 ASP Geometry ASP Algebra 2	ASP English ASP Reading ASP Algebra 1 ASP Geometry ASP Algebra 2	ASP English ASP Reading ASP Geometry ASP Algebra 2

English as a Second Language (ESL) placement is determined based on performance on the TOEFL Jr. test and teacher recommendation. Transitioning out of the ESL program and into mainstream classes requires a qualifying score on the TOEFL test.

	Level 1: Beginner	Level 2: Pre-Intermediate	Level 3: Intermediate	Level 4: Advanced
ESL Course Progression	ESL Reading and Writing 1 ESL Speaking and Listening 1 ESL Science 1 ESL History 1	ESL Reading and Writing 2 ESL Speaking and Listening 2 ESL Science 2 ESL History 2	ESL Literature 1 ESL Speaking and Listening 3 TOEFL Prep	ESL Literature 2 ESL Debate TOEFL Prep (teacher discretion)

Language Arts

Philosophy: Communication is the central idea underpinning all classes and lessons in the Language Arts department. Work in grammar and vocabulary provides the tools for expression, while compositions and oral presentations build the students' ability to express themselves clearly and coherently. Reading strategies and study skills assist students in understanding the thoughts and ideas of other writers. Literature exposes students to a multitude of diverse forms of expression, spanning centuries and the globe where critical thinking can be used in order to interpret messages within the text. Whether in English or another language, all work in the Language Arts department aims to improve students' ability to communicate comfortably and with confidence.

Spanish 1

The goal of the Spanish 1 course is to introduce the basics of Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and Spanish-speaking culture in order to establish a foundation for further study. Students will master memorization, recall, and linguistic skills in order to build their Spanish vocabulary. Additionally, they will learn Spanish morphology and syntax in order to understand Spanish grammar. Periodic insight into Spanish-speaking cultures from both Spain and the Americas will reinforce the importance of foreign language study in order to understand the global community. Besides Spanish specific skills, students will learn to organize their school materials and notes, participate in class discussion, and analyze sources of information.

Spanish 2

The goal of the Spanish 2 course is to expand upon the basics of Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and Spanish-speaking culture in order to segue to upper level language study. Students will continue to master memorization, recall, and linguistic skills in order to build their Spanish vocabulary. Additionally, they will be introduced to more advanced tenses, syntactic constructions, and idiomatic language. Students will engage in basic composition (short paragraphs and essays) in order to develop non-language specific writing and presentation skills while applying Spanish-specific concepts. Spanish 2 also introduces a heavier emphasis on translation and using aural/oral practice in class in preparation for further language study. Besides Spanish specific skills, students will learn to organize their school materials and notes, participate in class discussion, and analyze sources of information.

Spanish 3

The goal of the Spanish 3 course is to develop students' level of vocabulary and command of advanced concepts in Spanish grammar. Students will continue to master memorization and linguistic awareness while engaging in higher level analytical work in Spanish. The inclusion of varied texts, media, and native sources links the concepts learned in Spanish 1 and 2 with real-life application. Spanish 3 places heavy emphasis on student-generated language and thought both inside and outside of class. Additionally, students will engage in research in Spanish in preparation for the rigors of the college classroom.

Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture

AP Spanish Language and Culture follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. AP Spanish Language and Culture is a rigorous course taught almost exclusively in Spanish. Students are required to refrain from using English within the classroom and strongly encouraged to engage in conversation with native speakers outside of the classroom. Students will engage in three modes of communication in order to improve their spoken and written use of Spanish: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communication. The course involves both literary and non-literary texts as well as original source material in Spanish, such as newscasts, podcasts, movies, and music, among others. The course is designed to fully prepare students to take the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam, a rigorous assessment that gauges students' ability to interpret written texts, comprehend spoken Spanish, and write clearly and speak fluently on a variety of topics. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

English 7/8

English 7/8 lays the foundation for The Phelps School's English curriculum. It is a literature-centered course that focuses on the development of students' reading comprehension, critical thinking, analytical skills and writing ability. The coursework includes reading short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction, learning important literary terminology, developing grammar skills, writing in different rhetorical modes, building vocabulary in context, and completing other independent and group projects. The various assignment types will help to develop the students' reading and writing abilities while also fostering responsibility and time management skills. The instructor will work closely with each student, offering resources and guidance, providing feedback at different writing stages, demonstrating close reading, and leading discussions.

English 9

English 9 seeks to build a strong foundation in high school English by developing skills students already possess and by introducing new concepts, strategies, and expectations to the curriculum. This course is designed to give students an overview of the different literary genres. Students will examine various works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama throughout the course of the year. Additionally, students will strengthen their vocabulary as well as their knowledge of grammatical and literary terms. The students will continue to improve their writing skills through the composition of several essays with emphasis on diction, creative thought, and grammar. In order to develop their own unique voice, students will give occasional oral presentations and participate in daily class discussions. Finally, the course is designed to help develop organization and study skills throughout the school year.

English 10

English 10 is designed build upon much of the work that takes place in English 9. Through the examination of various works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama, students will develop a greater understanding of both the structure and meaning of each work studied. In addition to literature, students will strive to improve their writing ability through a thorough review of different rhetorical modes of writing. Additionally, they will spend time increasing vocabulary in preparation for the standardized tests taken in 11^{th} grade. Finally, the course will also help develop organization and study skills as the students begin the journey towards college.

English 11

English 11 will help students further develop their reading and writing skills while also introducing them to the research and critical thinking skills they will need in college. This course

is designed to give students an overview of the different time periods of American Literature: Native American Writing, Puritanism, Rationalism, American Romanticism, Realism, Regionalism and Naturalism, the Harlem Renaissance, Modernism, and Contemporary Literature. The students will examine American literature by studying the works of several important authors in various genres and linking literature to historical events and concepts in each literary age. Students will closely analyze these texts and use critical thinking to develop arguments and craft essays or create projects based on these works. Throughout the year students will strengthen their vocabulary along with their knowledge of grammatical and literary terms.

English 12

English 12 is designed to give students an overview of the different time periods of British Literature. Students will examine British Literature through the coverage of various genres of literature from six essential time periods: The Medieval Period, The Renaissance, the 17th and 18th centuries, The Romantic Period, The Victorian Period, and The Modern Era. As a course created with the intent of preparing students for college, there will be a heavy emphasis placed upon essay writing, beginning with the college essay and moving through various rhetorical modes that will be useful at the college level. There will be continued focus on vocabulary throughout the year in order to prepare the students for standardized tests and to give their writing the sophistication needed in college level courses. Finally, organization and note taking will be emphasized as the students prepare for college.

Advanced Placement Language and Composition

AP Language and Composition follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. The AP Language and Composition course will cover the topics of rhetorical reading, close analysis, argument, and materials synthesis. The readings for this course will be largely non-fiction in nature and will spark discussion and analysis. Each unit will require students to acquire and use rich vocabulary, to use Standard English grammar, and to understand the importance of diction and syntax in an author's style. Students are expected to develop a wide-ranging vocabulary used appropriately and effectively. They will employ a variety of sentence structures, logical organization and a balance of generalization and specific illustrative detail. Finally, students will be expected to demonstrate an effective use of rhetoric including controlling tone, establishing and maintaining voice, and achieving appropriate emphasis through diction and sentence structure. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

AP Literature and Composition follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed to increase the students' ability to understand, interpret, and write about literary texts in order to be successful on both the AP Exam and in college level English courses. By the end of the course, students will be able to write about literature of various genres and historical contexts in both timed and untimed essays. Additionally, they will understand works within significant literary movements and be able to identify both the historical and philosophical contexts of a work. Students will examine numerous texts from various genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. After examining literary texts, students will craft essays that demonstrate an ability to think critically about the literature encountered in the course. They will also study vocabulary in order to prepare for the AP exam. The AP Literature and Composition course is unique in that there is no strictly prescribed curriculum. There is little memorization of facts, but rather learning and

honing the skills necessary to analyze any piece of literature a student could potentially encounter on the AP Exam. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

Writing Seminar

Writing Seminar is a single trimester course designed to help students develop their academic writing skills. Using the standard five-paragraph essay format as our model, we will examine the essential elements of an academic essay: structure (introduction, body, conclusion), purpose (thesis, audience), cohesion (transitions, flow), depth (paragraph development, support), and clarity of expression (grammar, usage). Because this course is designed to emphasize the process of writing, and not just the final product, we will spend time on the various stages of writing: prewriting, outlining, drafting, editing, and revising. Additionally, we will be reading and analyzing examples of well-written academic essays.

Vocabulary and Usage

Vocabulary and Usage is an upper level course that focuses on the development of students' vocabulary for the purpose of advancing their speech, reading, and writing levels to a collegiate level. Lessons are designed to help students understand higher-level vocabulary in order to better comprehend college texts and to be able to use sophisticated language when writing essays. Students will learn to use several visual, auditory, and kinesthetic methods to make associations that will enhance their ability to memorize and recall this new vocabulary. Additionally, students will begin to focus on potential areas of study in college and be introduced to reading and analyzing different college-level texts.

ASP Language Arts

Philosophy: The Academic Support Program exists to support students in their areas of academic challenge and to provide modifications and accommodations where necessary or suggested by an IEP. The members of the ASP department consider the unique needs of the learners and in many cases, offer multiple attempts and repetitions in order for students to master material. ASP language arts is a program with a recursive focus. Practice and progress are the goals of this department through forward movement while always circling back to key concepts through foundational practice in writing, grammar, and literature.

ASP English (all grade levels)

ASP English follows the mainstream English goals and progression in a smaller class environment with structure and support for specific individual needs. The purpose of an ASP English course is to build and strengthen the written communication skills of all students. Students' progress is gauged through the use of writing portfolios. Through an instructive approach, students learn to write in a clear and meaningful way using different writing types. Grammar and syntax are taught and reviewed. As writing is a recursive process, students are grouped by skill level as opposed to strict chronological age grouping. American, British and world literature are read, discussed and analyzed in this course.

ASP Reading (all grade levels)

ASP reading is offered to students who can benefit from direct, systematic instruction in reading comprehension skills. ASP reading focuses on teaching students reading comprehension skills for both fiction reading and content area reading. As reading comprehension is the ultimate goal for any reader, learning *how to* read critically and *study* effectively are critical components of this course. Decoding, fluency and prosody are also practiced in this course as needed. Vocabulary development is also an integral part of this course as it further supports reading comprehension and higher order thinking skills.

Study Skills (6-9th grades)

Study Skills is designed to help students develop the learning and organizational skills necessary for academic success. In this course, students will discuss and practice the following: time management, organization, concentration and focus, active listening, note-taking, textbook reading strategies, and various methods of preparing for quizzes and exams. By the end of the school year, students should have a better understanding of their own strengths and needs as learners, and they should be able to meet the demands of their school work with more confidence and success.

ESL Department

Philosophy: Communication is the central idea underpinning all classes and lessons in the Language Arts department. Work in grammar and vocabulary provides the tools for expression, while compositions and oral presentations build the student's ability to express himself clearly and coherently. Reading strategies and study skills assist the student in understanding the thoughts and ideas of other writers. Literature exposes the student to a multitude of different ideas and forms of expression, spanning the centuries and the globe where critical thinking can be used in order to interpret messages within the text. Whether in English or another language, all work in the Language Arts department aims to improve the student's ability to communicate comfortably and with confidence.

ESL Reading and Writing 1

This course will develop all four of the English language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) with an emphasis on reading and writing skills. We use the Oxford Q: Skills for Success series with an individual workbook and online practice components for reading and writing practice as well as the Oxford Grammar Sense series. Over the course of eight units with relevant contemporary themes, students will practice reading actively for vocabulary development, grammar awareness, and comprehension. They will write original sentences and paragraphs of increasing complexity in accordance with their level and create theme-based projects to demonstrate mastery. At this early stage in their English development, students focus on learning basic vocabulary and grammatical structures to allow them to communicate and build a strong foundation for English learning as they advance through the ESL program.

ESL Reading and Writing 2

This course will develop all four of the English language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) with an emphasis on reading and writing skills. We use the Oxford Q: Skills for Success series with an individual workbook and online practice components for reading and writing practice as well as the Oxford Grammar Sense series. The course will begin with the introduction of core reading comprehension strategies that will be applied in various exercises from the textbook series and supplemental readings as students practice active reading for vocabulary development, grammar awareness, and comprehension. Over the course of eight units with relevant contemporary themes, students will also focus on the writing process and the development of their writing skills. Students have the opportunity to creatively express themselves through a variety of different genres of writing, including persuasive and descriptive pieces as well as poetry.

ESL Literature 1

This course will develop all four of the English language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) with an emphasis on reading comprehension as well as academic writing and analysis. At this level, students transition from a textbook-based course progression to engaging directly with literature at an appropriate Lexile level, progressing from short stories to plays and novels. Paired with the Oxford Grammar Sense series, these explorations into literature give students the opportunity to "think big" about the world and themselves while growing vocabulary with in-context study. Students build on their increasing confidence as readers to write creatively and analytically, attempting various genres of writing and creating theme-based

projects to demonstrate mastery. Frequent class discussions and read-alouds simultaneously reinforce speaking and listening skills.

ESL Literature 2

This course will develop all four of the English language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) with an emphasis on reading comprehension as well as academic writing and analysis. Students continue to engage with literature directly, reading novels, plays, and poetry of increasing length and complexity while simultaneously increasing their grammatical awareness using the Oxford Grammar Sense series. Students are expected to apply the various reading comprehension strategies presented to them in the beginning of the course to assist them in their reading development of texts throughout the year. By reading literature, students are able to increase their vocabulary and are encouraged to "think big" about the world and link literature to their personal experiences. Frequent class discussions and read-alouds simultaneously reinforce speaking and listening skills.

ESL Listening and Speaking 1

This course will develop all four of the English language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) with an emphasis on listening and speaking skills. Students build their speaking abilities daily by verbalizing answers to questions, listening to and responding to classmates, and preparing presentations. A strong emphasis is placed on spoken delivery, including a student's pronunciation, eye contact, and overall body language. Students also have the opportunity in each class to increase their auditory processing skills by listening to lectures and conversations as well as music and videos to establish a better understanding of the English language. Our textbook series, Oxford Q: Skills for Success, provides both spoken and listening practice through the use of a hard copy textbook and online practice components.

ESL Listening Speaking 2

This course will develop all four of the English language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) with an emphasis on listening and speaking skills. Students build their speaking abilities daily by verbalizing answers to questions, listening to and responding to classmates, and preparing presentations. Special attention is paid to some of the nuances and idiosyncrasies of English pronunciation and intonation to help students better process what they hear and sound more natural when they speak. Students also have the opportunity in each class to listen to lectures and conversations as well as music and videos to establish a better understanding of the English language. Our textbook series, Oxford Q: Skills for Success, provides both spoken and listening practice through the use of a hard copy textbook and online practice components.

ESL Listening and Speaking 3

This course will develop all four of the English language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) with an emphasis on listening and speaking skills. Students build their speaking abilities daily by verbalizing answers to questions, listening to and responding to classmates, and preparing presentations. A strong emphasis is placed not only on spoken delivery but also on the integration of advanced vocabulary used in class discussions. Students begin to explore the differences in speech for different audiences and purposes and model their own speech on examples of best practices provided through various examples. Our textbook series, Oxford Q: Skills for Success, provides both spoken and listening practice through the use of a hard copy textbook and online practice components.

ESL TOEFL Prep

This course will develop all four of the English language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) with an emphasis on test preparation for the TOEFL test. Students will receive an introduction to each of the four sections of the exam and learn preparation strategies and test-taking tips for each section. By taking practice tests throughout the year that are scored similarly to the TOEFL exam, students are able to self-assess their strengths and weaknesses and develop a personalized plan for maximizing their scores. In addition to test preparation, students engage with the English language using a variety of texts to increase their vocabulary and general knowledge so the test material is more accessible to them.

ESL Debate

This course will develop all four of the English language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) with an emphasis on extemporaneous speaking skills and presenting strong arguments in a logical and coherent way. Students will learn basic strategies for effective public speaking for various purposes, and will then focus on defining and building persuasive arguments. In order to support their arguments, students will learn research and citation skills and develop their writing skills by crafting position papers. They will also explore logical fallacies and attributes of weak arguments as a means of strengthening their own. Using various debate formats, students will have ample opportunity to practice speaking and listening by giving both prepared statements and extemporaneous rebuttals to the arguments of the opposing team. Students will explore contemporary issues and long-standing philosophical questions that will help them develop a better understanding of themselves and their world.

Social Studies Department

Philosophy: The Social Studies Department seeks to build the fundamental skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, by questioning, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Lessons are designed to develop the student's abilities to interpret different forms of information. The primary method of learning is student-centered with the goal of developing critical thinkers who will become active participants in an ever-changing, globalized society.

World Geography

In this course, students will study the physical aspects of the Earth as well as human systems such as culture, government, and economics, and develop skills to investigate regional conflicts around the world. Geography explores the world's cultural regions by examining location, physical characteristics, demographics, historical changes, economic activity, and land use. This year long course will enable all students to study the different regions of the world including North America, South America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Australia. For each region of the world, the class will examine the physical environment, the culture, and people of the regions, the economic activities of the regions, and the most important political issues associated with the regions. Lessons are designed to develop the student's abilities to question, read, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information.

World History I

This yearlong history course, the first of two which will continue next year, emphasizes the geographic regions and cultures of ancient civilizations, contact between different cultures, and how early cultures impacted later ones, including our present-day civilization. The course will cover a very broad period of time, mostly from the year 2000 BCE to the year 1500 CE. The main goal of this course is to enable students to gain insight into the early civilizations of different regions of the world so that they may better understand the people who live in those regions today. Along with the given curriculum, as a class, students will study and review current events in the contemporary world on a weekly basis. These newsworthy stories will be used to tie into different lessons throughout the syllabus. Throughout all three trimesters, each student will have the ability to break down both simple and complex ideas through higher order thinking. Boys will be assessed in a plethora of ways including but not limited to: tests, quizzes, essays, homework, oral presentations, notebook checks, research projects, reaction papers among various others.

World History II

World history involves the study of cross cultural events or phenomena. History may be defined as research into how cultures develop through time. World history is more general than traditional history and emphasizes the trends that may transcend cultural boundaries while stressing the treatment of interaction between societies. More specifically, students will focus on interactions beginning with the 1500's and continuing through the present. This class is also structured to give the student an understanding of current issues in many areas of political, economic, social, and technological. The course will emphasize research done by the student since the topics chosen will be very fluid in their nature; meaning that the topics and the amount of coverage on the topics will fluctuate on any given day, week, or month depending on topics current in the media.

Advanced Placement World History

AP World History follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. AP World History is a full year course that explores the expansive history of the human world. Students will learn factual information but also learn to use and build upon the critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to analyze historical evidence. Eight broad chronological divisions are used in our study of World History: The Emergence of Human Communities, The Formation of New Cultural Communities, Growth and Interaction of Cultural Communities, Interregional Patterns of Culture and Contact, The Globe Encompassed Revolutions Reshape the World, Global Diversity and Dominance, and Perils and Promises of a Global Community. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

American History I

American History I is a comprehensive view of America from the colonization period through the Civil War. Students will take an indepth look at the colonies, their relationships with one another, cause and effect, and how life in the colonies evolved. Next, students will transition into how the Colonies became a country, gained their independence, and operated as a sovereign nation. Students will look at factors which contributed to this cause. They will also glance at how the development of America impacted the world.

American History II

This yearlong history course deals with the Nation's internal evolution and development as an integral part of the world's nations. Students will focus on people, places, and events starting from the Civil War (1861) through World War II (1945). Along with the given curriculum, as a class, students will study and review current events in the contemporary world on a weekly basis. These newsworthy stories will be used to tie into different lessons throughout the syllabus. Throughout all three trimesters, each student will have the ability to break down both simple and complex ideas through higher order thinking.

Advanced Placement United States History

AP United States History follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. The AP U.S. History course focuses on developing students' understanding and comprehension of American history from 1492 to the present-day. By relying predominantly on primary and secondary sources, students will make historical comparisons through reasoning. Students will also develop critical thinking skills by questioning their learning, rather than accepting all information as fact. This course will study the following themes in depth: American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; American in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

Psychology

Psychology is designed to introduce students to the many different types psychology, including but not limited to: clinical, abnormal, adolescent, developmental, environmental, experimental, forensic, community, counseling, and organizational psychology. In addition, students will study the major principles of psychology. In this college preparatory course, students will also be exposed to the history of psychology. Topics discussed shall include: human development, abnormal behavior, research and development, perception, consciousness, cognition, and

motivation and emotion. The course's extensive nature separates itself from the AP Psychology course. Although Psychology is rigorous, its scope is far broader, and it briefly introduces students to a larger variety of topics.

Advanced Placement Psychology

AP Psychology follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. AP Psychology is a course designed to "introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behaviour and mental processes of human being and other animals." Students will study the science of behavior and demonstrate the principles of general psychology. In addition, students will learn to view behavior from the behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, and biological perspectives. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

American Government

American Government is a trimester-long, elective course where students will explore the foundation of American government and its fundamental principles. The student will learn concepts such as: the growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances. Students will learn how the government influence our everyday lives and interpret current events in a rapidly changing world. Much time will be taken to discuss the U.S. Constitution, the president, the Supreme Court, Congress, the making of domestic and foreign policy, and the state and local government. The branches of government, legislative, executive, and judicial, are also studied in depth. Activities in this course are created to develop the student's abilities to read, question, analyze, synthesize, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information.

Contemporary World Affairs

Contemporary World Affairs is a trimester-long, elective course where students will investigate current events; this will include significant events, behind-the-scenes causes, war, global sport, causes and effects, and future trends. It teaches students how to effectively gather accurate information by studying primary sources through both class and homework. Students will be required to conduct research which will culminate in a research project/paper to be presented at the end of the course.

Sociology

Introduction to Sociology is a trimester-long, elective course designed to provide students with a basic overview and understanding of the discipline of sociology. Through the use of the course's textbook, various projects and assignments, students will begin to see how society and the groups to which they belong have a profound impact on each one of them. Throughout the course, students will examine how different aspects of society and culture influence their everyday lives and behavior. By the end of the course students will be able to look at and understand the world from a new perspective, the sociological perspective.

Ethics

Ethics is part of our personal development curriculum. Tenth graders rotate through three different sections including Ethics, Writing Seminar and Information Technology.
In this section we use fables, storytelling, current events and historical research to develop an understanding of the ethical relevance of the Affirmations of P.O.W.E.R. Our goal is to gain a moral foothold on the future considering the persistence of universal ideas and awareness of the

timeless nature of ethical questions. Assessment is based on class participation, research, vocabulary, and thoughtful attention to the questions presented in classroom discussions.

ESL History

In this course, students will study the history of our nation from the "beginnings" to 1920. The course examines U.S. political, economic, and social history from a chronological point of view. Throughout the course, the student will make connections between historical events and their impact on the American people and landscape. The student will enhance their social studies skills by completing activities that teach understanding primary sources, reading time lines and graphs; comparing and contrasting, recognizing bias, and more. Lessons are designed to develop the students' abilities to question, read, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information. The student will also practice geography skills as they explore the evolution of America's geography and its historical impact.

Mathematics Department

Philosophy: The Phelps School Mathematics Department believes that growth and learning are best achieved by self-discovery. Students gain mathematical knowledge while working independently, cooperatively, and by utilizing technology to assist in problem-solving. Effective communication and collaboration are emphasized to prepare students for success in an ever-changing world. Our ASP mathematics classes are scaffolded to support the individual learning styles of each student. ASP mathematics teachers differentiate instruction and assessments to adhere to each individual student while covering the same content as mainstream courses.

General Math

General Math focuses on the fundamental operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals; ratio and proportion, percent, systems of measurement, and an introduction to geometry. Students explore topics through hands-on projects and real-world examples while using technology to assist in problem-solving.

Pre-Algebra

The purpose of Pre-Algebra is to provide students with the necessary skill set for Algebra I. Topics in this course include equations , inequalities, integers, rational numbers, plane figure and solid calculations, ratios, percents, data and probability. Students will explore these topics through projects that relate to real-world experiences while utilizing technology and online resources.

Algebra I

Linear functions are the primary focus of Algebra I. Students will represent linear functions graphically, algebraically, and numerically. Additional topics include linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, exponential functions, polynomials, factoring, and probability. Students will explore these topics through projects that relate to real-world experiences. Students will use technology and online resources to explore graphing and additional topics.

Geometry

Students in this course will apply both inductive and deductive reasoning to a variety of mathematical applications. Informal and formal proofs will include the properties of angles formed by a transversal through two lines and properties of plane figures. Angle relationships and segment lengths in circles involving tangents and chords will be explored. Perimeter, circumference, area, and similarity will be explored in a variety of plane figures leading into surface area, volume, and similarity for three-dimensional solids. This course also embeds algebraic concepts into geometric applications.

Algebra II

Algebra II focuses on the concepts of functions and relations with emphasis on linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, and rational functions. Students will apply algebraic concepts to a variety of real-world situations that can be modeled mathematically. All topics are approached through an exploration of numerical, algebraic, and graphical methods using a TI-84 graphing calculator.

Statistics

This course is an introduction to statistical reasoning. Emphasis is on concepts rather than in-depth coverage of traditional statistical methods. Students are required to use a TI-84 Plus calculator. Topics include sampling and experimentation, descriptive statistics, probability, binomial and normal distributions, estimation, and inference of single sample and two sample hypothesis tests for means and proportions. Additional topics will be selected as time permits.

Pre-Calculus

This course is designed to cover topics in Algebra ranging from polynomial, rational, and exponential functions to conic sections. Trigonometry concepts such as Law of Sines and Cosines will be introduced. Students will also begin analytic geometry and calculus concepts such as limits, continuity and end behavior. All topics are approached through an exploration of numerical, algebraic, and graphical methods utilizing a TI-89 graphing calculator. This course prepares students for an in-depth study of functions in calculus.

Advanced Placement Statistics

AP Statistics follows a syllabus approved by the College Board and is designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra II. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to construct an analysis of statistical data based on clear critical thinking. Students utilize a TI-84 Plus calculator and are expected to justify their answers and develop the ability to verbalize the statistical process. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

Advanced Placement Calculus AB

AP Calculus AB follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. Major topics include limits and continuity, derivatives, and integrals. Functions studied within these topics include logarithmic, exponential, logistic, trigonometric, and inverse trigonometric. Applications of derivatives include optimization, related rates, movement (position, velocity, acceleration). Applications of integration include slope fields, volume (cross sectional area, disk, washer) and accumulated rate of change. All topics are approached through an exploration of numerical, algebraic, and graphical methods utilizing a TI-89 graphing calculator. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

Advanced Placement Calculus BC

AP Calculus BC, designed as the continuation of AP Calculus AB, follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. Topics include derivatives of inverse trigonometric functions as well as parametric, polar and vector forms. Integration applications include volume by shell method, arc length (parametric and polar), surface area (parametric and polar), area enclosed by polar curves, and distance traveled (vector). Integration techniques include integration by parts, partial fractions, and improper integrals. Specific series studied include geometric, harmonic, alternating, power, Taylor, and Maclaurin. Tests in determining convergence or divergence include root, ratio, direct comparison, limit comparison, and integral. All topics are approached through an exploration of numerical, algebraic, and graphical methods utilizing a TI-89 graphing calculator. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

Science

Philosophy: The goal of the Phelps science department is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Teachers scaffold lessons in order to maximize learning based on the individual needs, abilities, and interests of each student. Students learn to identify and analyze real world problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine and create alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Courses emphasize the 21st century skills of collaboration, innovation and critical thinking. Students will engage in and master scientific principles, concepts, and skills to analyze and interpret information and experimental data including mathematical calculations. Laboratory and/or field investigation are fundamental components for each course. A minimum of one class period per week will be spent engaged in laboratory or inquiry-based exploration.

General Science

The goal of this required course is to introduce topics in the disciplines of physics, chemistry and Earth science. This is a survey course and therefore a strong emphasis will be placed on developing student's science skills in order to prepare them for laboratory investigations in high school. Inquiry and hands-on activities will support student learning and skill acquisition.

Life Science

The goal of this required course to introduce topics in the discipline of biology. Students will cover topics such as cells, genetics, plant and animal diversity, and human systems. This is a survey course and as such a strong emphasis will be placed on developing student's science skills in order to prepare them for laboratory investigations in high school. Inquiry and hands-on activities will support student learning and skill acquisition.

Physical Science

Studying the systems of Earth is a multi-disciplinary field. Our Physical Science course is an introduction to Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Earth, and space science. We will integrate physics and chemistry into studies of the exosphere (solar system and universe), hydrosphere, geosphere, and atmosphere. Students will investigate how each of these "spheres" interact with each other. We will see how the laws of physics and the intricacies of chemistry help strengthen our understanding of our own planet and its systems. This course will include hands on lab activities. There will be a focus on organizational skills, current events, research, and written responses.

Biology

The goal of this required course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the living world. Biology is a yearlong course that satisfies the life science graduation requirement. This course will prepare students to pursue higher-level life science courses. Themes that will be addressed in biology throughout the year are science as a way knowing, continuity and change, how advances in technology influences our world and understanding of the biosphere, the diversity and interdependence of living things, and the organization of living things. There is a significant amount of laboratory work in this course to support student learning and skill acquisition.

Chemistry

This required introductory course seeks to explain the basic concepts of Chemistry and is a prerequisite for AP Chemistry. It is recommended that students complete Algebra I prior to enrolling in the course. The course will cover the classification of matter, mixtures and pure substances, different properties used to describe matter and its changes. Next, the course will cover the scientific method and fundamental science concepts, such as energy, mass, and the mathematics of counting and the "mole". The course will then cover the periodic table and how the elements are classified, how they bond together and how to name them. The course will also cover the structure of the atom and the description and balancing of chemical equations. There is also a strong laboratory component with multiple inquiry-based assessments, a number of which include formal laboratory reports.

Physics

This elective introductory course seeks to explore the basic concepts of Physics and is a prerequisite for AP Physics. It is recommended that students have completed or are currently enrolled in Algebra II. This course will begin with a mathematical introduction to build a foundation to be able to discuss and use the formal mathematical definitions of position, velocity, acceleration, force, energy, work and momentum to describe linear and rotational motion. The course will also cover the introductory concepts of electromagnetism and wave mechanics. There is also a strong laboratory component with multiple inquiry-based assessments, a number of which include formal laboratory reports.

Environmental Science

The goal of this elective course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students will be able to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made; they will evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or presenting them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. The curriculum draws upon various scientific disciplines including biology, Earth science, and physical science. This course does not satisfy the laboratory science graduation requirement.

Earth Science

Earth Science is a yearlong elective course for students that are interesting in taking a science course their senior year but do not meet the math prerequisites for Physics. This is a survey course covering the topics of astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, geology, and environmental science. This is a college prep course that will teach and emphasize organizational, research, oral presentation and written skills. This course will include hands-on laboratory activities but does not satisfy the laboratory requirement required for high school graduation.

Advanced Placement Biology

AP Biology follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. This is an elective college-level course taught in a high school setting. As such, students will be required to do college-level work in order to be successful. In this demanding course we will cover the topic areas and four major themes found in the College Board *AP Biology* Curriculum Framework: science as a process, interactions of organisms, animal behavior, the diversity of life, classification of

organisms, biochemistry, evolution, cellular processes, plants, animals, bioenergetics, and genetics. This is a laboratory-based curriculum which will require students to conduct numerous investigations (many of which are student-designed) and report their findings by way of notebook entries, formal laboratory reports and peer-reviewed presentations. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

Advanced Placement Environmental Science

AP Environmental Science follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. The goal of this elective college-level course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students will be able to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made; they will evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or presenting them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. The curriculum draws upon various scientific disciplines including biology, Earth science, and physical science. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May. This course does not satisfy the laboratory science graduation requirement.

Advanced Placement Chemistry

AP Chemistry follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. This is an elective, rigorous, college-level class taught in a high school setting. The topics that students will master are Stoichiometry, Empirical Chemistry, Gas Laws, Chemical Kinetics, Molecular Orbitals and Bonding Theory, Reaction Classification and Construction, Equation Schematics, Thermochemistry, Periodicity, Equilibrium, Acid-Base Chemistry and Electrochemistry. There is significant laboratory work required in this course. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

Advanced Placement Physics I: Algebra-Based

AP Physics I follows a syllabus approved by the College Board. This is an elective, rigorous, college-level class taught in a high school setting. The course focuses on the conceptual basis of the material more than the mathematical aspects but still will require a mathematical comprehension of the formulae and theories. The topics students are required to master include Dimensional Analysis, Linear Mechanics, Vector Addition and Construction, Dynamics, Energy Type Classification, Work and Power Calculation, Linear Momentum, Rotational Motion, Gravitational Theory, Oscillation and Wave Mechanics, Circuits and Electric Force. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

ESL Science 1

ESL Science 1 is an introductory science course. This course rotates on a two year basis. The two courses offered are Physical sciences and Biological sciences. All topics are approached through exploration and inquiry of the material as the students focus on their reading, writing, and conventions in grammar.

Physical Science topics:
Scientific method and metric system conversions
Properties of matter including mass, volume, and density
Structure of matter – structure of an atom and how they make up elements and compounds

Periodic table – structure and organization
Newton's laws of motion and acceleration

Biological Sciences topics:
Scientific method and metric system conversions
Cells and microbiology – Cells and cellular structure
Kingdoms of life – Classification – simple to complex
Animal Kingdom – Invertebrates and Vertebrates
The human body systems

ESL Science 2

ESL Science 2 rotates on a two year basis. The two courses offered are physical sciences and biological sciences. All topics are approached through exploration and inquiry of the material as the students focus on their reading, writing, and conventions in grammar. This course will serve as a more rigorous experience than the introductory level ESL science 1 course. The students will demonstrate more in depth understanding of the concepts by performing more detailed presentations and projects as well as spend a great deal of time discussing and writing about current scientific event topics.

Physical Science topics:
Scientific method and metric system conversions
Properties of matter including mass, volume, and density
Structure of matter – structure of an atom and how they make up elements and compounds
Periodic table – structure and organization
Newton's laws of motion and acceleration

Biological Science topics:
Scientific method and metric system conversions
Cells and microbiology – Cells and cellular structure
Kingdoms of life – Classification – simple to complex
Animal kingdom – Invertebrates and Vertebrates
The human body systems

Non-Core

Health

This is a required course which will give students a better understanding of proper nutrition, human body systems, emotions and healthy relationships. These skills will help students become successful throughout the different phases of their lives.

Physical Education

Physical Education is a required class that embodies individual conditioning as well as team sports and contemporary activities. The individual conditioning aspect of the class consists of plyometrics, gymnastic movements, Olympic lifting, basic weight training, circuit training, timed runs; drop sets/supersets for overall body fitness. Team sports and contemporary activities consist of, but are not limited to, indoor/outdoor volleyball, street hockey, basketball, indoor/outdoor soccer, flag football, tennis, dodgeball, Ultimate Frisbee, and capture the flag.

Culinary Arts

The Culinary Arts course is designed to give the students an introduction to the multi-faceted world of the culinary industry. The students will learn basic knife skills and safety through work with the instructor. They will gain an introductory level understanding of basic food safety, including proper holding and cooking temperatures, in addition to skills to eliminate cross contamination through cleaning and sanitization. Finally, students will learn skills that will help them prepare several unique dishes from the food preparation stages through the cooking and plating of the meals.

Public Speaking

Public Speaking is designed to help students develop their public speaking skills. Throughout the term, we will focus on the following activities: analyzing examples of successful speeches to determine the essential components of effective public speaking, practicing writing short speeches that contain these essential elements, and delivering these speeches in class. Because delivery is an important part of public speaking, we will also discuss and practice aspects of effective delivery: voice, speed, posture, eye contact, and body language. By the end of the term, students should be able to speak in public (in both planned and impromptu situations) with more confidence and authority.

Art Appreciation

In this course, students will be exposed to a diverse genre of creative art. They will work on a range of different media including by not limited to: clay, paint, collage, and colored pencils. Students will explore the fundamentals of artwork by designing projects throughout the five-week course with emphasis placed on project based learning. The projects are student lead with an importance placed on self-expression. This is a non-lecture based course with hands on learning incorporated into the classroom. Completed projects are to be presented in class.

Music Appreciation

The course is designed to allow students the opportunity to explore the basic elements of music: melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, timbre, dynamics, and form. Students will be exposed to a

diverse range of music by working on three small projects over the five-week course including a music video analysis project, a song lyric analysis project, and the creation of a song project. This is a non-lecture based course with hands on learning incorporated into the classroom. Completed projects are to be presented in class.

Graphic Arts

This course introduces students to computer arts. In this course, students use Adobe software programs such as Photoshop, Indesign, and Illustrator. Graphic Arts allows students to be creative while learning the processes of photo editing, creating magazines, designing a logo, and creating a brand through these processes. Students are also challenged to create their own brand identity through marketing.

Introduction to Computer Programming

This course is designed for students who are new to computer programming. This course will introduce students to object-oriented computer programming through the use of drag and drop platforms Scratch and ALICE.

Computer Programming

This course is designed for students who are already familiar with computer programming. This course will apply the syntax of object-oriented computer programming by learning to program in Java. Independent studies in other programming languages, depending on previous study or interest, are also possible.

Personal Finance

This course focuses on the best practices for managing money and provides a foundational understanding for making informed fiscal decisions leading to financial independence. Students explore core skills in creating budgets, developing long-term financial plans, and making responsible choices about income and expenses. Real world topics include: opportunity costs, interview skills, establishing credit, entrepreneurism, frauds and scams, identity theft, insurance, taxes, and investing. Students will examine the pros and cons of credit and debit cards, purchasing and leasing, and paying rent versus a mortgage. The course culminates with a Personal Budget Project for which students forecast their occupation, income, and living expenses for when they become entirely self-sufficient.

Transition to College

During this course, students will explore a variety of topics related to the transition from high school to college. Time will be given to work on preparing and submitting college applications, as well as for exploring techniques in time management, goal setting, and relaxation. Students will discuss the skills and tools needed to learn more about themselves, how they can get the most from their strengths, and how best to improve upon their weaknesses in order to successfully navigate the academic world and beyond.

SAT Prep

Students will take SAT Prep during their 11th grade year. This course is designed to help students achieve the highest score possible on all sections of the SAT test. We will teach students the format of the test and provide both strategies and practice for questions on critical reading, sentence completion, grammar, usage, and writing. Students will be provided with

ample opportunities to practice writing essays in a step-by-step manner while receiving feedback from the instructor in order to improve their scores. Through this practice, students will become more confident in their writing ability. In addition to reviewing those topics, we will become familiar with strategies for pre-algebra, algebra, and geometry. Much time will be devoted to practice problems similar to those on the SAT.