



**CATS Academy Boston**

# Program of Studies

**2025-26**





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## **Our Mission Statement**

CATS Academy Boston offers an American co-educational college preparatory boarding and day program (grades 8 - Postgraduate) for domestic and international students who are linguistically, culturally, and academically diverse.

Focusing on the needs of everyone, the Academy helps students realize their full potential and attain admission to the college choice that is right for them. CATS Academy provides a supportive learning community where all students receive the necessary guidance to achieve their goals, aided by a personalized learning plan.

CATS Academy Boston prepares talented, globally minded students to realize their full potential through a personalized education that strengthens English fluency, cultivates critical and creative thinking, and supports each student's path to college and beyond. Within a diverse and supportive community, our students grow into confident learners, compassionate peers, and ethical leaders ready for a global future.

CATS Academy Boston works to empower every student to discover their strengths, embrace challenges, and shape their future with clarity, purpose, and confidence—starting here, going anywhere.



## **Graduation Requirements**

CATS Academy Boston's academic program is arranged around required core courses and a range of electives. In order to graduate, students will be expected to have completed the following at minimum:

- English Literature - 4 years
- Mathematics - 4 years (including Algebra II)
- ESL (English as a Second Language) - up to 4 years (for non-native speakers)
- World Languages - 3 years (for all native English speakers)
- Science - 3 years (including 2 years of a lab science)
- Social Sciences/History - 3 years (including one year of US History)
- Arts - 1 year

### **Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses**

Honors courses offer highly motivated students an opportunity to study a specific course in greater depth and at a faster pace. Students in Honors courses are expected to produce more work and to develop higher level critical thinking skills.

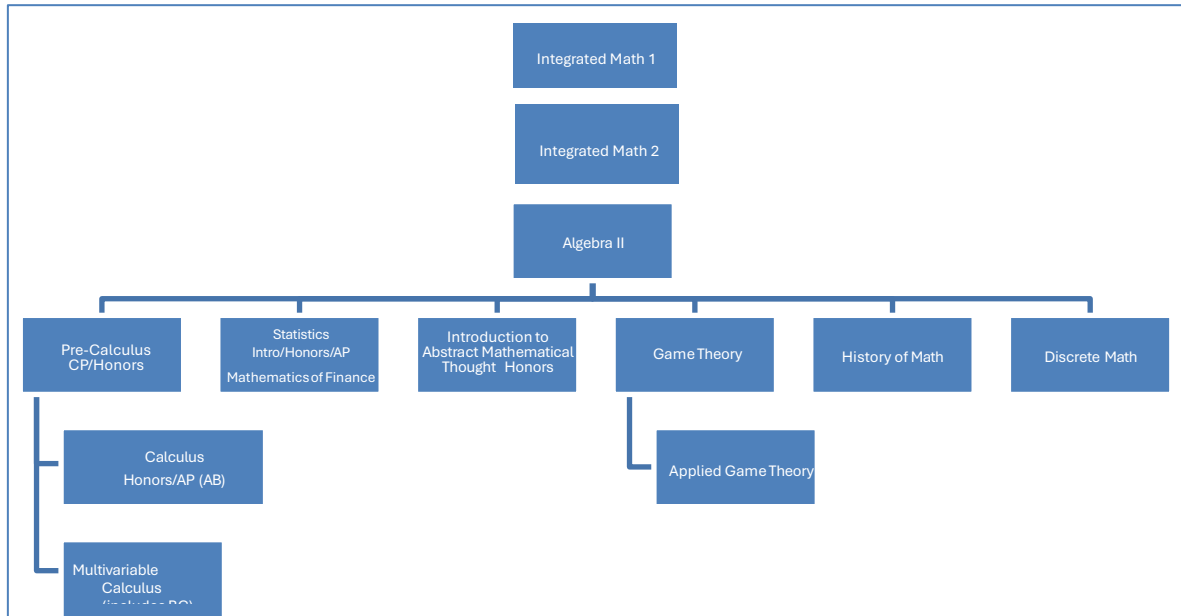
Advanced Placement courses are college level courses that prepare students to take College Board exams in May to establish advanced placement in college courses or credit toward a college degree. Department approval is required for enrollment in Advanced Placement courses. Most American universities take AP results into consideration in the admissions process. Course offerings are subject to change.

### **CATS Academy offers the following Advanced Placement courses:**

- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Computer Science A
- AP United States History
- AP World History
- AP Macroeconomics
- AP Microeconomics



## Progression Chart



### Notes:

- All students must take four years of mathematics.
- Students must complete Algebra II as a graduation requirement.
- Once they have completed Algebra II, they can choose from the six elective strands, in any order or simultaneously.

## Academic Course Selection & Scheduling Process

### February/March

- Department Chairs and teachers discuss placement for returning students in core courses: English, Social Science, Science, Mathematics, ESL/World Language

### April

- Students review core academic placement with Advisors
- Students choose electives for the upcoming fall/spring semester with Advisors

### May

- Requirement review of core courses completed by Academic Office

### June

- Master Schedule designed by Academic Office

### July/August

- New students interview with Faculty/Department Chairs regarding course placement & electives (electives are based on seniority & schedule availability)
- All student schedules are created

### September

- Class schedules finalized by beginning of school year

## **Courses 2025-2026**

### **Arts**

#### **Performing Arts**

##### **Drama**

##### **Acting (semester course fall/ spring or both) BN/ART/ACT**

Transform into new characters in this wild and whimsical class. Acting exercises and games are played to introduce theatre vocabulary, etiquette, stage presence, line delivery, observation, and characterization of body and voice. Techniques practiced stem from methods by Konstantin Stanislavski and Uta Hagen. Each student will actively participate in analyzing, rehearsing, and performing an assortment of scenes, monologues, and/or one short play. All experience levels welcome.

##### **Cinema Studies (semester course fall/ spring) BN/ART/CS**

Cinema Studies introduces students to the art, history, and cultural impact of film. Through the analysis of classic, contemporary, and international films, students will explore cinematic techniques, storytelling structures, genre conventions, and the evolution of filmmaking. The course emphasizes critical thinking, visual literacy, and effective communication through class discussions, film reviews, and creative projects. Students will learn to “read” films as complex texts and consider the social, historical, and political contexts in which they were made.

##### **Dance (semester course fall/ spring) BN/ART/DAN**

This course offers students a foundation in dance through the study of movement, technique, choreography, and performance. Students will explore a variety of dance styles including contemporary, jazz, ballet, hip-hop, and cultural dance forms. Emphasis is placed on physical conditioning, body alignment, rhythm, spatial awareness, and expressive movement. Students will also study the history of dance, influential choreographers, and the role of dance in different cultures.

The course encourages creativity, collaboration, and personal expression, while building discipline and confidence through rehearsals and performance opportunities. No previous dance experience is required—just a willingness to move, learn, and grow.

## **Music**

### **Piano 1 (semester course fall and spring)**

**BN/ARAT/PIA1** - No pre-requisite

Students learn the basics of playing piano and develop their musicianship. Reading music notation, ear training, music theory, piano exercises, and sight reading at an introductory level are all important elements of the Piano 1 course. Students play from a repertoire of varying styles and eras. Class sizes are small to maximize individual instruction, and students play in both an individual and group setting. Performance is optional but encouraged for Piano 1 students.

### **Piano 2 (semester course spring)**

**BN/ART/PIA2** - Pre-requisite: Piano 1 or Audition with the Instructor

Students build on their pre-existing piano skills and continue to develop their musicianship. Reading music notation, ear training, music theory, piano exercises, and sight reading at an intermediate level are all important elements of the Piano 2 course. The repertoire for this course is partially based on student interest, including pieces from varying styles and eras. Class sizes are small to maximize individual instruction, and students play in both an individual and group setting. Performance is optional, but encouraged, for Piano 2 students.

### **Advanced Piano (semester course fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/APIA** - Prerequisite: Piano 2 or Audition with the Instructor

Students work towards an advanced level of proficiency in piano and become well-rounded musicians. Students play advanced repertoire of their choosing and begin composing their own music, building on previous theory knowledge. Students will sight read and perform keyboard exercises proficiently. This course is designed around the interests of each student and includes a high level of one-to-one instruction. Performance is required for Piano 4 students.

### **Guitar (semester course fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/GUI** - No pre-requisite

Guitar is a course designed to teach students how to use the guitar to study and learn music through learning guitar-specific techniques, notation, and common practices. In doing so, students will tap into and strengthen their inherent musicality via a deeply visual instrument that is heavily utilized in popular music currently and historically. The course will use Nancy Lee Marsters' Hands-On Training: First Year Guitar as the textbook. It

includes fundamental topics of guitar notation and execution. Alongside the textbook, the class together will study and engage with practical skills that guitarists need to perform popular styles, and the students will be responsible for having 3 songs performable as a personal repertoire list by the end of the semester.

### **Music Technology and Production (Fall and Spring)**

**BN/ART/MTP** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher

Students learn to compose and produce music using the same programs that are used in the music industry. From EDM, to jazz, to rock and roll, we pick apart many different genres and learn how to recreate some of the greatest hits of all time. The class also teaches composition skills. Previous piano experience is a plus, as much of this class is based around the keyboard.

### **Instrumental Ensemble (Fall and Spring)**

**BN/ART/IE** - Pre-requisites: Instrumental Audition and Instructor approval

Student instrumentalists play in groups to study some of the greatest composers in history and enhance their musicality. This course explores music spanning the past 300 years, covering music icons from Bach, to Mozart, to Gershwin, and more. There are multiple opportunities for the students to share their work with the school through performances throughout the year.



## **Visual Arts**

### **Illustration (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/ILL** - Pre-requisite: Basic drawing and painting skills encouraged

An illustrator's job is to provide visual imagery and to convey the meaning or emotion of a text or concept. Some examples of illustration include children's books, advertisements, and video game concepts. In this course you will learn how to effectively tell a story in a single image. Through strong design, the use of color, and captivating compositions, you will create art that demands attention.

### **Creating Comics - (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/COM** - No pre-requisite

This course is an introduction to creating comics. Students learn effective visual storytelling techniques, how to compose a comic page, and how to create a visually entertaining story. Traditional materials such as pencil and ink are used to develop comic illustrations. Students work from assigned scripts, as well as write and draw their own five-page comic. Creative writing, composition, anatomy, and fine art drawing skills are developed as students explore the art of creating comics.

### **Graphic Design - (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/GD** - No pre-requisite

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to elements of graphic design. Students utilize computer programs from the Adobe Creative Cloud suite such as Photoshop and Illustrator. Class projects include poster design, photo manipulation, logo design, and creating a business identity. Students learn valuable skills in color, composition, and typography and the importance these have on creating eye-catching design.

### **Introduction to Drawing (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/DRA** - No pre-requisite

Introduction to Drawing is a studio course that introduces students to the comprehensive visual language of drawing. Various projects and presentations expose students to numerous drawing approaches, including ways of structuring the picture plane, creating believable space with linear perspective, and modelling form with shading. Students apply these skills to idea generation, form development, experimental variations on a design, investigative studies of creative problem-solving, and expressions of movement and spatial illusion. Using a variety of media, students draw from observation and are introduced to the processes involved in planning, researching, and actualizing a major

drawing project. Critiques and lectures help students develop an understanding of the critical issues of drawing and of its context within the history of art. PowerPoint and video presentations support student learning. Each student submits a final portfolio of work developed throughout the semester to fulfill the course requirements. Suggested readings include *The Language of Drawing* by Edward Hill, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain and Color* by Betty Edwards, *The Natural Way to Draw* by Kimon Nicolaides, and *The Art of Drawing* by Bernard Chaet.

### **Introduction to Painting (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/PAI** - No pre-requisite

The purpose of the course is for students to explore, experiment, and become familiar with the medium of paint; to build skills of observation; and to learn to create form and materiality of simple and complex objects through paint. Students build an understanding of the properties of color, composition, and perspective and develop an understanding of basic design terminology used to express visual ideas and concepts. Students are introduced to examples of historic and contemporary painting through PowerPoint, reproductions in books, and the Internet. Midterm and final portfolios of work produced throughout the semester are required of all students to successfully fulfill course requirements. The portfolio is evaluated on the effort and the quality of the work completed. Suggested readings include *The*

*Language of Drawing* by Edward Hill, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain and Color* by Betty Edwards, *The Natural Way to Draw* by Kimon Nicolaides, and *The Art of Drawing* by Bernard Chaet.

### **Video Production and Editing (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/VP** - No pre-requisite

Students will engage in the Pre-production, production, and post-production process of video making. Students will learn how to develop a storyline, record an event, or promote an idea using the media of film. Skills in editing are learned in Adobe Premiere. In addition, students learn about the history of film. Student produced films are presented at the end of the semester.

### **Printmaking (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/PM** - No pre-requisite

In printmaking techniques, students learn a variety of print methods, including monotype, collagraph, relief, screen-printing, and photoetching. From painterly prints to linocuts to original designs on tee shirts, students gain a well-rounded understanding of some of the most popular methods of making prints. Through these studio processes, they learn how to combine techniques, use studio equipment, and develop new, original creative content.

Independent final projects demonstrate these skills, with which students will create a suite of prints suitable for inclusion in college application portfolios.

**Introduction to Sculpture (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/ART/SCU** - No pre-requisite

Sculpture is a studio course that introduces students to the comprehensive visual language of the sculptural form. Various projects and presentations expose students to numerous sculptural approaches, including ways of structuring space, choosing, and working with a variety of materials, and handling tools. Students apply these skills to idea generation, form development, experimental variations on a design, investigative studies of creative problem-solving, and expressions of movement and spatial relationships.

## **Fashion**

### **Introduction to Fashion (semester course offered fall, spring or both)**

**BN/ART/FAS** - No pre-requisite

This one semester course introduces students to the basic techniques of fashion. Students will learn the process of design and sewing from concept, sketching, textile development all culminating in the construction of one of their original designs. Themes of sociological and ecological sustainability will be woven into the course content.

### **Costume Design (semester course offered fall, spring or both)**

**BN/ART/CD** - No pre-requisite

Costume Design introduces students to the creative and technical aspects of designing costumes for stage and screen. Students will explore the fundamentals of costume history, character analysis, fabric and material selection, sketching, sewing, and collaboration with directors and production teams. Through hands-on projects, students will learn how costume choices support storytelling, define character, reflect historical periods, and contribute to the overall visual style of a production.

The course includes opportunities to design for actual school productions or create original designs inspired by literature, history, or contemporary concepts. No prior sewing experience is necessary.

### **CSVPA: Fashion Portfolio (Yearlong)**

CSVPA BOSTON requirement for fashion majors\*

**BN/ART/FP** - Pre-requisite: CSVPA Boston Student

Fashion Portfolio is for the student who is strongly considering fashion design as their major in college. This class is an immersive experience in the process of fashion design from sketchbook development to garment construction, to collection editing and presentation. Underclassmen will focus on the process of fashion design, while all senior students will utilize the skills they've learned to build a portfolio worthy of application to any top fashion school. CSVPA Boston students will have the option of taking this class their junior *and* senior year.

## English Literature

### **English Skills (Yearlong)**

**BN/ENG/ES** - No pre-requisite

The English Skills course introduces students to literary terms and practices, enabling them to succeed in their future study of English Literature. The class builds a foundation for approaching academic writing and the close reading of texts. Texts may include *Brown Girl Dreaming* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*, as well as fables, folktales, various short stories, and poetry from authors such as Neil Gaiman, Richard Connell, Annie Proulx, Ethel Rohan, Raymond Carver, and Shel Silverstein.

Society and the Individual, Journeys, Independence, and Critical Lenses are offered at both the College Prep and Honors levels. Honors sections assume more background knowledge, move at a quicker pace, cover additional material, and expect students to work at a higher level relative to College Prep sections.

### **Literature 1: Society and the Individual (Yearlong)**

**BN/ENG/LIT1 BN/ENG/LIT1/H**

The course provides freshmen students with a comprehensive introduction to academic writing and literary analysis, beginning with a full review of syntax and grammar rules. The literary component of the class examines texts and identifies themes, which address the role of individual responsibility, and teaches students how to use literature as a lens through which they may better understand society and their roles within the global community. Possible texts may include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *Lord of the Flies*, *The House on Mango Street*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

### **Literature 2: Journeys (Yearlong)**

**BN/ENG/LIT2 BN/ENG/LIT2/H-**

This course examines characters' physical, emotional, and spiritual journeys in literature. The course begins with essential vocabulary and a review of grammatical rules, then progresses to comprehension and textual analysis. Public speaking assignments give students the opportunity to practice their English-speaking skills and develop confidence in their ability to engage a crowd of peers. Texts for this course include the *Odyssey*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *Persepolis*, and various short stories and poems.

### **Literature 3: Independence (Yearlong)**

**BN/ENG/LIT3 BN/ENG/LIT3/H** - Pre-requisite:

This course examines the theme of independence by looking at universal ideas which incited The American Revolution or inspired Transcendentalism. Students work to create

their own independence in writing projects, while developing critical thinking and analytical skills. Texts studied in this course may include *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Crucible*, and a variety of shorter works by authors such as Dickinson, Thoreau, Emerson, and Poe.

#### **Literature 4: Critical Lenses (Yearlong)**

**BN/ENG/LIT4 BN/ENG/LIT4/H** - Pre-requisite:

This course focuses on analyzing literature through the critical lenses of feminism, Marxism, and psychoanalysis. Students work on identifying and analyzing the reasons for an author's choices and the effectiveness of various means of persuasion and on understanding how critical lenses are employed to interpret texts. Students work towards mastering the critical reading and writing skills necessary for university. Texts studied in this course may include *Macbeth*, *Frankenstein*, and *Cat's Cradle* and shorter works by authors such as Keats, Shelley, Blake, and Orwell.

#### **AP Language and Composition (Yearlong)**

**BN/ENG/LCO/AP** – Pre-requisites: Returning students: A- or higher in Literature 3: Independence Honors; a sample of analytical writing submitted to the English Department Chair; completion of significant summer assignment; approval of the previous instructor. New students: approval of English Department Chair based upon placement test scores and previous English grades.

The Advanced Placement (AP) course in English Language and Composition teaches students to become skilled readers of prose and skilled writers, who compose literature for a variety of purposes. They develop an awareness of a writer's purpose, audience expectations, and genre conventions.

#### **AP Literature and Composition (Yearlong)**

**BN/ENG/LCU/AP** – Pre-requisites: Returning students: A- or higher in Literature 3: Independence Honors; a sample of analytical writing submitted to the English Department Chair; completion of significant summer assignment; approval of the previous instructor. New students: approval of English Department Chair based upon placement test scores and previous English grades.

The AP English Literature and Composition course teaches students how to read, analyze and write about fiction. Students engage with novels, plays, and poetry to determine the author's purpose through the work's structure, style, and themes, while also analyzing figurative language, imagery, and symbolism.



## **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

### **English Conversation (Yearlong)**

**BN/ESL/EC** - Prerequisites: Test results for ESL Level 2 using a secure placement test administered by CATS Academy Boston.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Level 2 course is specifically designed for international students who are at a HIGH BEGINNING comprehension level of the English Language and who plan to continue with their education in a US/UK university/college, where English is the medium of instruction. Using the latest technology, the students focus on learning English for communication purposes including vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, reading, and listening comprehension, writing, and speaking.

Students use an on-line application, Membean, to address individual learning needs in mastering vocabulary. They practice new vocabulary while interacting in class or working on individual or group research projects. The course uses the textbook "Q: Skills for Success 2" (Listening and Speaking and Reading and Writing) with the on-line component by Oxford University Press. It is supplemented by original streaming news, authentic audio and video resources, and publications that relate to topics covered in the textbook and reflect everyday life and cultural events in the US and worldwide. There is required reading, listening, and writing homework, including work on-line, and there are tests and quizzes in class to work on test-taking strategies.

### **English Grammar (Yearlong)**

**BN/ESL/EG** - Pre-requisites: Test results for ESL Level 3 using a secure placement test administered by CATS Academy Boston (new students only) or successful completion of the ESL Level 2 course at CATS.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Level 3 course is specifically designed for international students who are at an INTERMEDIATE comprehension level of the English Language and who plan to continue with their education in a US/UK university/college where English is the medium of instruction. It focuses on improving and further developing students' ability in English for Academic Purposes (EAP), with the emphasis on grammar, reading, writing, speaking, listening comprehension skills, academic English vocabulary, researching, and applying those skills to students' own subjects.

Students work on understanding spoken and written English and on developing the ability to speak and write clearly and effectively. Students learn vocabulary and presentation skills, increase writing and thinking skills developed in English, and apply critical thinking and writing skills to a variety of academic assignments, including analyzing texts. They work on grammar and academic vocabulary development. In addition, the course includes extended work on academic English, pronunciation skills, conversational English, and the use of idiomatic expressions.

There is required reading and writing homework, including work on-line, and there are tests and quizzes in class to work on test-taking strategies. The course is built on the Focus on Grammar (FOG) Level 3 Student Book textbook (Pearson) and an on-line application, Membean, to address students' individual learning needs in expanding their vocabulary. It prepares students for future TOEFL examination and is based on using the latest technology. It may include various individual and group activities, original streaming news, authentic audio and video materials, and publications that relate to topics covered in the textbook and reflect everyday life and cultural events in the US and worldwide. There is required reading and writing homework, including work on-line, and there are tests and quizzes in class to work on test-taking strategies.

### **Advanced English Grammar (Yearlong)**

**BN/ESL/AE** - Prerequisites: Test results for ESL Level 4 using a secure placement test administered by CATS Academy Boston (new students only) or successful completion of ESL Level 3 course at CATS.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Level 4 course is specifically designed for international students who are at the HIGH INTERMEDIATE comprehension level of the English Language and who plan to continue with their education in a US/UK university/college where English is the medium of instruction. It helps students to build confidence in the proper use of academic English grammar, enrich their academic English vocabulary, and practice the command of academic English. While the main focus of the ESL Level 4 course is to work on English grammar and vocabulary, the course is also aimed at further developing and mastering students' advanced skills in English for Academic Purposes (EAP): writing, reading, speaking, listening comprehension, researching, and applying those skills to the students' own subjects.

Students continue working on understanding spoken and written English and the ability to speak and write clearly and effectively. Students acquire more sophisticated academic English vocabulary and presentation skills, improve writing and thinking skills developed in English, and apply critical thinking and writing skills to a variety of academic assignments, including analyzing complex texts. In addition, the course prepares for the TOEFL examination, includes extended work on academic English and TOEFL vocabulary, pronunciation skills, conversational English, and the use of idiomatic expressions.

There is required reading and writing homework, including work on-line, and there are tests and quizzes in class to work on testing-taking strategies. The course is built on Focus on Grammar (FOG) Level 4 with My English Lab textbook (Pearson) and an on-line application, Membean, to address students' individual learning needs in mastering their vocabulary and NoRedInk to improve grammar use. It further prepares students for future TOEFL examination and may include various individual and group activities, original streaming news, authentic audio and video materials, and publications that relate to topics in the textbook and reflect everyday life and cultural events in the US and worldwide.

### **Writing & Research (Yearlong)**

**BN/ESL/WR -** Prerequisites: Test results for ESL Level 5 using a secure placement test administered by CATS Academy Boston (new students only) or successful completion of ESL Level 4 course at CATS.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Level 5 course is specifically designed for international students who are at an ADVANCED comprehension level of the English language and who plan in the future to continue with their education in a university or college where English is the medium of instruction. It helps students to build confidence in academic writing and master the command of academic English.

While the focus of the ESL Level 5 course is mastering academic writing using proper English grammar along with academic English vocabulary, the course is also aimed at developing and enhancing other skills in English for Academic Purposes (EAP): writing, reading, speaking, listening comprehension, researching skills, and applying those skills to students' own subjects. Students master their understanding of spoken and written English and the ability to speak and write clearly and effectively. Students enrich their academic vocabulary and presentation skills, increase critical thinking skills developed in English, and apply critical thinking and writing skills to a variety of academic assignments, including analyzing complex texts. In addition, the course prepares for the TOEFL examination including extended work on academic English and TOEFL vocabulary, pronunciation skills, conversational English, and the use of idiomatic expressions.

There is required reading and writing homework, including work on-line, and there are tests and quizzes in class to work on test-taking strategies. The course is built on the "Longman Academic Writing Series" Level 4 textbook (Pearson) and on-line applications, Membean to address students' individual learning needs in mastering their vocabulary and NoRedInk to improve grammar use. The course prepares students for future TOEFL examination and may include various individual and group activities, original streaming news, authentic audio and video materials, and publications that relate to topics in the textbook and reflect everyday life and cultural events in the US and worldwide. There is required reading and writing homework, including work on-line, and there are tests and quizzes in class to work on test-taking strategies.

## Mathematics

### **Integrated Mathematics I (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/IM1** - No Pre-Requisite

In this course, students study the foundations of Algebra and Geometry. Students build an understanding of variables, expressions, and equations. They learn to write and solve linear equations and then apply equations to angles, triangles, and polygons in Geometry. Students learn to work with equations of lines and segments on the coordinate plane, as well as solve systems of equations using various methods. Students also explore basic statistics.

### **Integrated Mathematics II (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/IM2** - Pre-requisites: Integrated Math I or Placement Interview.

In this course, students continue their study of Algebra and Geometry, completing the second semester of each subject. Students study similarity, right triangles, trigonometry, area, and volume. They also study exponents, quadratic functions, and polynomials. Students continue their study of statistics, including probability, and explore patterns and sequences as well.

### **Algebra II (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/ALG2** - Pre-requisites: Successful completion of Integrated Math 1 and 2 or Placement Interview.

This course builds on what students have learned in Integrated Math. Students in the course develop advanced algebra skills such as solving systems of equations, factoring advanced polynomials, and understanding imaginary and complex numbers. Students also study rational functions and conic sections. The focus for all the topics is on problem-solving and developing formal mathematical language in English. The mathematical training in this course is important as preparation for the ACT and SAT, as well as future courses in Precalculus and Calculus. The text for the course is Big Ideas Math: Algebra II, and the course makes use of the TI-84 graphing calculator.

### **Algebra II Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/ALG2/H** - Pre-requisite: Returning students: Recommendation of current math teacher; New students: Placement Interview.

The Honors Algebra II course covers the same material as Algebra II class but moves at a faster pace and covers additional topics. The Honors class will cover the additional unit about matrices and applications of matrices. Honors students also receive more challenging assignments and projects with the goal of developing their critical thinking skills and formal mathematical thought processes.

### **Pre-Calculus (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/PCAL** - Pre-requisite: Successful completion of Algebra II.

This course provides students with the skills they need to study calculus. It highlights the key methods from algebra, trigonometry, and geometry that are needed for further study. The central unifying concept is the mathematical function. The course focuses on both conceptual understanding and problem-solving ability and provides students with a deep understanding of exponential, logarithmic, polynomial, rational, and inverse functions. It also offers an introduction to sequences and series. The textbook for the course is Functions Modeling Change: A Preparation for Calculus 5th ed. by Connally et. al., and the course makes extensive use of the TI-84 graphing calculator.

### **Pre-Calculus Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/PCAL/H** - Pre-requisites: Returning students: A- or higher in Algebra II College Prep; B or higher in Algebra II Honors; ESL Level 3 or higher; recommendation of previous instructor. New students: ESL Level 3; successful completion of Algebra II; placement interview.

The Honors Pre-Calculus class covers the same material as the College Prep class but moves at a faster pace and covers additional material as a preview of calculus. Some additional topics include polar functions, sequences and series, and an introduction to limits and derivatives. Honors students also receive more challenging assignments and projects with the goal of further developing their critical thinking and logic skills and keeping them fully engaged.

### **Calculus Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/CAL/H** - Pre-requisites: Returning students: Recommendation of previous instructor. New students: ESL Level 3; placement interview.

Calculus Honors is an introduction to differential and integral calculus with a single variable. Students are introduced to limits, derivatives, integrals, the fundamental theorem of calculus, the mean value theorem, differential equations, optimization problems, and a variety of other topics and their applications to real-world problems. The course includes most of the material in AP Calculus but at a more relaxed pace, and the AP exam is not a component of this course.

### **AP Calculus AB (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/CAL/AP** - Pre-requisites: Returning students: ESL Level 4 or higher; A- or higher in previous course; recommendation of previous instructor. New students: ESL Level 4; placement test results.

Students prepare for the Advanced Placement Test in order to gain college credit while learning topics in Single Variable Calculus. Students are introduced to limits, differential equations, the derivative, points of tangency, slope fields, optimization problems, the

fundamental theorem of calculus, mean value theorem, integration, application of calculus, and a variety of other topics that will provide real world examples as to the importance of calculus. The textbook for the course is Rogawski's Calculus for AP. Taking the Advanced Placement test is a mandatory component of this course. Upon completing this course, students are eligible to take Multivariable Calculus or an independent study in mathematics.

### **Multivariable Calculus Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/MCAL/H** - Prerequisite: Successful Completion of AP Calculus AB and recommendation of Calculus Instructor.

Students in this course continue their study of calculus begun in AP Calculus AB and complete their preparation for the BC level of the Advanced Placement examination in calculus to be taken in the spring. Coverage includes integration by parts and by partial fractions, improper integrals, first order separable differential equations, infinite series and power series, and parametric and polar coordinates. Students continue their study of mathematics by extending their knowledge to the calculus of three-dimensional space. Partial differentiation and multiple integration are the main areas of study. Students must have a TI-84 Plus graphing calculator and must take the College Board BC Calculus exam at the end of the year.

### **Statistics (Yearlong)**

**BN/MAT/STAT** - Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II.

This course provides a basic introduction to statistics. It is recommended for students who are interested in business, social science, human resources, and criminal justice, and it provides an excellent preparation for any career. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability, probability distribution, normal distribution, hypothesis testing, estimates and sample sizes, the chi square distribution, correlation, and regression. The course is a critical thinking course as well as an analytical one, where students do many projects. This course also provides an overview on how to collect, analyze, interpret, and display data from various real-life sources and topics.

### **Differential Equations (Honors)**

**BN/MAT/DE/H** - Pre-requisites: A 4 or higher on the Calculus BC exam or permission from instructor.

This is a course for students who have already completed Calculus BC and would like to study more calculus. This course is equivalent to a college-level semester of Differential Equations. Topics covered are first order differential equations, second order linear equations, higher order linear equations and series solutions of second order linear equations. This independent study course will focus on problem-solving and project-based applications of differential equations.



## Science

### **Integrated Science (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/GS** - Requirement: Enrollment in ESL Level 2.

This course is a broad survey of science topics. During the course of the year, students look at three broad units on the fundamental concepts and vocabulary of chemistry, physics, and biology. In addition to reading conducting exercises from our textbook, students are engaged in using and developing the skills of science. These include, but are not limited to, making observations, forming questions and hypotheses, conducting experiments and research, analyzing results, and presenting conclusions in both written and oral formats.

### **Biology (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/BIO** - Pre-requisites: Returning students: recommendation of previous instructor. New students: placement test.

Biology gives a general overview of topics in biology as well as the practice of science in general. Through coursework students learn classical biology content as well as recent developments in the field. Instructors integrate hands-on/minds-on activities, seminar-style discussions, group work, and direct instruction to reach these goals. The course also focuses on questions of how science is performed and how scientists make discoveries by including topics in the history of biology and by encouraging students to develop a scientific mind frame and to continue as lifelong science learners. Topics include Inquiry and the Scientific Method, Life Fundamentals and Biochemistry, Cell Structure and Function, Heredity, Molecular Genetics, The Human Body and Homeostasis, Human Reproduction and Development, Evolution, and Ecology.

### **Biology Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/BIO/H** - Pre-requisites: ESL level 3 or higher. Returning students: recommendation of previous teacher. New students: placement test.

In Honors Biology as a one-year course, we take a hands-on collaborative approach to doing projects and experiments in biology. Topics include, but are not limited to, cellular structure and functions, genetic materials and regulation, ecosystems, energy cycles and habitat conservation, and evolution of organisms and their physiology. Although we utilize a textbook as a primary source, current topics from scientific literature are used in research and discussions. By the conclusion of this course, students should not only be able to understand processes of biology but to think like a scientist, design experiments, and problem solve as a group.

### **AP Biology (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/BIO/AP** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher; A- or higher in CP Biology or Honors Biology at CATS or another American school. Returning students: recommendation of current or previous instructor. New Students: placement test.

AP Biology is a one-year intensive course designed to mirror a college-level introductory biology course. Students learn a wide range of biological concepts, principles, and skills that prepare them for future learning in biology and the sciences in general. Students also prepare to take the AP Biology exam at the end of the year. The AP Biology curriculum is based on four big ideas called "enduring understandings." These big ideas can be distilled down to evolution, energy flow, genetics and heredity, and interactions and ecology. Throughout the course, these big ideas permeate all topics and serve to connect all concepts. Students spend about 30 percent of class time performing labs. There are 13 inquiry-based labs that are emphasized for AP Biology. Labs require a large amount of autonomy from students and are student driven. These labs give students experience with everything from animal behavior to mathematical modelling to advanced biotechnology techniques and help to reinforce the four big ideas of the course. By the end of the year, students are not only equipped to perform well on the AP Biology exam but will have a very solid foundation in their biology and science education as they continue through high school and into college.

### **Chemistry (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/CHE** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher. Returning students: recommendation of previous instructor. New Students: placement test.

This class is an introduction to chemistry and problem solving and is offered for students with rudimentary English. Students gain a good understanding of the methods and principles of modern chemistry and develop strong analytical problem-solving skills. Course topics include states of matter, atomic theory, periodicity of elements, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, intermolecular forces and physical changes in matter, gas laws, thermodynamics, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases, and oxidation-reduction.

### **Chemistry Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/CHE/H** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher; previous Algebra experience. Returning students: recommendation of previous instructor. New Students: placement test.

Chemistry Honors is a challenging college-preparatory course that studies the physical structure of matter, its interactions through chemical reactions, and the role of energy in these interactions. Classroom discussions, group activities, demonstrations, practice in analytical problem-solving, and laboratory investigations are emphasized throughout this course. Course topics include states of matter, atomic theory, periodicity of elements, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, intermolecular forces and physical changes in matter, gas laws, thermodynamics, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases, and oxidation-

reduction. Students gain a good understanding of the methods and principles of modern chemistry and develop strong analytical problem-solving skills. In addition, students are eligible to take AP Chemistry or Biology and the SAT II subject test in Chemistry.

### **AP Chemistry (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/CHE/AP** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher; A- or above in CP Chemistry or B+ or higher in Honors Chemistry; concurrent enrollment in Pre-Calculus or above. Returning students: recommendation of previous instructor. New students: placement test.

AP Chemistry is the equivalent of a first-year college level chemistry class. This course builds on concepts developed in Chemistry or Honors Chemistry by going into greater depth and detail in such areas as chemical reaction mechanisms, chemical equilibrium, reaction rates, acid-base chemistry, and electrochemistry. Class discussions, laboratory investigations, and analytical problem-solving are emphasized throughout the course. The laboratory portion of AP Chemistry introduces students to a variety of analytic chemistry techniques and makes use of the Vernier LabQuest Data collection system for plotting and analyzing data. All students are required to take the AP Chemistry exam in May.

### **Physics (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/PHY** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher and current enrollment in Algebra II or higher. Returning students: recommendation of previous instructor. New students: placement test.

This class is an introductory physics course taught at the high school level for students at the Intermediate level of English as a Second Language. Physics College Prep includes kinematics, forces, work, energy, power, circular motion and orbits, momentum, torque, and possibly an introduction to advanced topics as well. By the end of this course, students can interpret word problems and real-life situations and make quantitative statements relating physical quantities like location, velocity, acceleration, energy, and force to each other. Students can exercise independent thought in carrying out and devising laboratory experiments that confirm these relationships. Skills to be learned include the ability to solve word-based problems involving physical quantities, using techniques from geometry, trigonometry, and algebra and the ability to infer from primary data in laboratory experiments various physical constants and experimental parameters. Students are assigned individual work to be completed outside of class, as well as quizzes and exams.

### **Physics Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/PHY/H** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher; current enrollment in Pre-calculus or higher Returning students: recommendation of previous instructor. New students: placement test.

Honors Physics is a challenging introduction to physical reasoning. In this course, students study concepts including momentum, energy, forces, simple harmonic motion, and waves, along with how these concepts are related to one another. Although these topics overlap with those in College Prep Physics, the Honors class goes at a faster pace and in greater depth, so that students take away a deeper understanding of the material. Students also have an opportunity to research notable scientists who contributed to the development of the field and, time permitting, are introduced to ideas from relativity and quantum physics. In the laboratory component of the class, students learn about experimental design and data analysis while studying physical systems.

### **AP Physics C Mechanics (Yearlong)**

**BN/SCI/PHY/CM/API** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher; A- or higher in CP Physics or B+ in Honors Physics at CATS or another American school; previously completed or currently enrolled in Calculus. Returning students: recommendation of previous instructor. New students: placement test.

AP Physics C: Mechanics is an Advanced Placement course taught at a college level and includes the use of calculus to study topics of physics. The level and use of calculus in this class necessitates that students have already taken a year of physics and either have completed a year of calculus or are taking calculus at the same time as Physics AP C. This is a laboratory-based course, and students are expected to spend about a quarter of their time on laboratory experiments. Topics that are covered in Physics AP C include kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; circular motion and rotation; and oscillations and gravitation. By the conclusion of this course, students are able to solve mathematical, word-based, and real-life problems in physics.

## **Social Science**

### **American Studies (Yearlong)**

**BN/SS/AS** - Requirement: Enrollment in ESL 2

American Studies is a one-year course in American history for students who test at ESL Level 2. After passing two semesters of American Studies, students are required to take US History and fulfill any additional requirements in order to graduate. American Studies has a more basic text than the college prep courses, and its reading and writing assignments are not as advanced. Like the US History Survey courses, American Studies focuses on themes and relevance.

### **World History I (Yearlong)**

**BN/SS/WH1** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher; placement test results.

World History is a one-year social science course. Over two semesters, it examines cultural and historical issues that are relevant in the world today. This course emphasizes academic skills, especially reading, writing, and note-taking. Students use statistics, maps, primary sources, images, and reference materials. Content includes an introduction to Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and the history of the Middle East. Activities may include visits to local churches, mosques, and temples. This course helps students see how individuals like themselves shape history and community.

### **World History I Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/WH1/H** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 4 or higher; placement test results; A- or higher in CP or B+ in Honors level history course at CATS or another American school; recommendation of instructor and Social Science department chair.

World History Honors is a one-year social science course. Over two semesters, it examines cultural and historical issues that are relevant in the world today. This course emphasizes academic skills, especially reading, writing, and note-taking. Students explore the relationship between themes and details, relevance, sequence, and investigation. They use statistics, maps, primary sources, images, and reference materials. In addition, World History Honors students do more advanced reading and writing assignments. Content includes an introduction to Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and the history of the Middle East. Activities may include visits to local churches, mosques, and temples. This course helps students see how individuals like themselves shape history and community.

### **United States History (Yearlong)**

**BN/SS/USHIS** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher.

United States History is a one-year social science course. This course is required for all CATS Academy Boston students as part of their three-year social science requirement for graduation. It helps students be successful in college-level social science courses or AP United States History. US History takes a thematic approach to US history, surveying topics like immigration, reform, civil rights, national government, race, and gender in United States history. Events are studied for relevance to today's issues. Excerpts from films, books, and primary sources present different perspectives on the past. United States History students develop skills of note taking, analytical reading, writing, and research.

### **United States History Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/SS/USHIS/H** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 4 or higher; placement test results; A- or higher in CP or B+ in Honors level history course at CATS or another American school; recommendation of instructor and Social Science department chair.

United States History Honors is a one-year honors social science course that meets the US history graduation requirement from CATS. This course helps students be successful in college-level social science courses or AP United States History. United States History Honors takes a thematic approach to US history, examining topics like immigration, race, gender, reform, civil rights, national government, imperialism, and overseas commitments in US history. Events are studied for relevance to today's issues. Excerpts from films, books, and primary sources present different perspectives on the past. Students develop skills of notetaking, analytical reading, writing, and research. In addition, United States History Honors students read more primary and secondary sources and make more presentations.

### **World History II: Global Conflicts (Yearlong)**

**BN/SS/WH2** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3 or higher.

Events throughout the history of humanity have shown us that there lies a dark side to human nature. This course examines specific case studies of events in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe during the 20th Century. An examination of social and political history and geography provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the events that occurred in the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. Students view events through a multicultural lens in an attempt to understand the unfolding of events through a multiplicity of cultural identities involved in those events. The skills of interpreting charts, primary sources, political cartoons, and other historical documents are also developed.

### **World History II: Global Conflicts Honors (Yearlong)**

**BN/SS/WH2/H** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 4 or higher; placement test results; A- or higher in CP or B+ in Honors level history course at CATS or another American school; recommendation of instructor and Social Science department chair.



Events throughout the history of humanity have shown us that there lies a dark side to human nature. This course examines specific case studies of events in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe during the 20th Century. An examination of social and political history and geography provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the events that occurred in the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. Students view events through a multicultural lens in an attempt to understand the unfolding of events through a multiplicity of cultural identities involved in those events. The skills of interpreting charts, primary sources, political cartoons, and other historical documents are also developed.

In addition to more rigorous assignments and academic readings, students will complete a research paper as part of their course requirements.

### **Legal Concepts and Practice Honors (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/SS/LAW/A** - Prerequisites: ESL Level 4 or higher; placement test results; A- or higher in CP or B+ in Honors level history course at CATS or another American school; recommendation of instructor and Social Science department chair.

The legal profession is practiced worldwide, and attorneys are valued for their ability to analyze and solve complex problems. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn and practice problem solving skills and legal analysis. Students utilize case studies, mock trial, projects, and activities to gain an understanding of the legal process, how attorneys analyze and litigate cases as well as how courts determine outcomes. Students practice what they learn by working with a team to prepare and present a legal case in a mock trial. In this course, students sharpen their critical thinking and oral presentation skills as well as gain an understanding about what it is like to practice law or work with lawyers in a corporate setting or law firm.

### **Introduction to Philosophy (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/SS/PHIL** - Pre-requisite: ESL Level 3 or higher.

This course is a survey of Philosophy that challenges students to see how philosophy has been used in history as a way for humans to understand themselves and the nature of reality. The course examines both Eastern and Western philosophical traditions. Students also have the opportunity to examine their own philosophy and goals. This is a course that develops students' powers of analysis, reading, writing, and speaking.

**Macroeconomics (semester course offered fall)**

**BN/SS/MAC** - Pre-requisite: ESL Level 3 or higher.

This one-semester Social Science elective (fall only) is paired with one semester of Microeconomics CP to make a one-year college prep course in Economics. These courses are part of the CATS Innovation Program and prepare students to succeed in college-level or AP Economics. In Macroeconomics CP, students learn how economic decisions are made at the national and international level. They examine economic systems around the world and economic policymaking in the United States. Students learn about markets, industries, trade, banking, finance, economic indicators, economic policy, and the Federal Reserve. Students also learn about the new economy, management, and entrepreneurship.

**Microeconomics (semester course offered spring)**

**BN/SS/MIC** - Pre-requisite: ESL Level 3 or higher.

This one-semester Social Science elective (spring only) is paired with one semester of Macroeconomics CP to make a one-year college prep course in Economics. These courses are part of the CATS Innovation Program and prepare students to succeed in college-level or AP Economics. Microeconomics CP focuses on industries and companies at the local and regional level. Students learn about start-ups and Boston's high-tech and R-and-D (research and development) fields. Each student presents a term project about a company from these or traditional New England industries like defense, paper and logging, fishing, food processing, farming, retail sales, wholesale distribution, transportation, tourism, education, and telecommunications. Students may also choose a company from the financial sector: banking, real estate, venture capital, investment banking, consulting, insurance, securities, and mutual funds. As part of Microeconomics CP, students visit companies and meet professionals from business and government.

**AP United States History (Yearlong)**

**BN/SS/USHIS/AP** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 4 (ESL Level 5 preferred); placement test results; A- or higher in Honors level history course at CATS or another American school; recommendation of instructor and Social Science department chair.

This is a one-year Social Science elective that prepares students for the AP United States History exam. Students have usually had at least one year of American history before taking this course. AP United States History is a college-level course with potential for college credit. AP United States History helps prepare students for social science courses in college. Students examine historical documents and argue about social, political, and economic history from 1600 to the present. In order to manage the large number of facts, students must have a good grounding in the themes of American history. This class helps students understand evidence, relevance, cause and effect, and points of view. Students will prepare a research paper in the fall semester. In the spring semester, after the AP exam, students present an American history research project on a topic of their choice.

**AP Macroeconomics & AP Microeconomics (Yearlong - offered alternative years)**

**BN/SS/MAC/AP** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 4 (ESL Level 5 preferred); placement test results; A- or higher in Honors level history course at CATS or another American school; recommendation of instructor and Social Science department chair.

**AP Macroeconomics** is an introductory college-level macroeconomics course. Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like economic measurements, markets, macroeconomic models, and macroeconomic policies.

**AP Microeconomics** is an introductory college-level microeconomics course. Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like scarcity and markets; costs, benefits, and marginal analysis; production choices and behavior; and market inefficiency and public policy.

**AP World History (Yearlong)**

**BN/SS/WH/AP** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 4 (ESL Level 5 preferred); placement test results; A- or higher in Honors level history course at CATS or another American school; recommendation of instructor and Social Science department chair.

This is a one-year Social Science elective that prepares students for the AP World History exam. Students study ancient civilizations, world religions, the Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution, global imperialism, and world conflicts. AP World History is a college-level course with potential for college credit. AP World History helps prepare students for social science courses in college. Students are assessed through rigorous quizzes and tests, oral presentations, and midterm and final examinations. In addition, students write a ten-page research paper and present their findings in a public setting. The course requires seven hours of homework per week and is open to juniors and seniors.

## **Technology**

### **AP Computer Science A (Yearlong)**

**BN/TECH/CS/AP** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 4 and completion of Algebra II or instructor approval.

The Advanced Placement Computer Science A course is taught using the Java programming language. The course objectives are to understand object-oriented software design, to gain fluency in Java, to improve proficiency in selecting appropriate algorithms and data structures, to understand algorithm efficiency especially regarding sorting, and perhaps most importantly to prepare for the AP Computer Science A exam. There are a variety of exercises, labs, and case studies in this course.

### **Introduction to Programming (Yearlong)**

**BN/TECH/PRO** - Pre-requisites: Completed Algebra 1. ESL 3 or above.

Introduction to Programming is an exciting course where students will learn the basics of Web Design, and Java. The course will give students the chance to do hands on work to learn through experience. They will be given the chance to explore the amazing world of website creation in ways that focus on both functionality and aesthetics. In the fall the students will learn HTML, CSS, and JavaScript then we will switch to Object Orientated Programming while using Java. By the end of the year each student will have a diverse portfolio of completed projects.

### **3D Printing and Laser Cutting Design (semester course offered fall and spring)**

**BN/TECH/PLC** - No-Prerequisite

Students will learn how to plan, design, and build 2-D and 3-D objects fabricated with a 3-D printer and laser cutter through multiple design challenges. Students will use CAD software.

### **Fundamentals of Electronics (semester course offered in fall and spring)**

**BN/TECH/ELE** - No-Prerequisite

Students will gain an understanding of the basic principles, theories and laws of electronics and will learn how to create electric circuits, measure voltage, make a battery, use a breadboard, solder, create switches and sensors and use microcontrollers to control circuits.

**Robotics (semester course offered fall and spring)****BN/TECH/ROB** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3

This class introduces students to the exciting world of robots. Students learn to identify what a robot is and what it is not. They study the myths that surround robots, examine how robots are used in popular media and stories, and consider applications of robotics in many aspects of technology and human experience. Through hands-on design and construction work, students explore how robots are constructed, how they operate, and what their limitations are. The class greatly benefits from lectures by experts in the field of robotics to expose students to the commercial uses of robots as well as future trends. There are field trips to local robotics companies as well as to robotics events and competitions.

Students focus on the origins, applications, and latest trends in robotics and learn how robots are built and controlled. There is individual as well as team-based projects for students to test their ideas and compete with each other as well as with outside teams.

## World Languages

### **French Level I (Yearlong)**

**BN/WL/FRE1** - Pre-requisite: ESL Level 3; instructor approval.

French I is a year-long general introduction to the French language for beginning students and follows the rigor as well as the scope and sequence of a regular ACTFL-based high school language course. Students communicate across the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening using basic French vocabulary and simple grammatical structures within the cultural norms of French-speaking societies. Some vocabulary themes are numbers, school, shopping, food, family, and the home. The major grammatical concepts are present tense verbs and gender. Activities and assignments utilize interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive modes of communication. Assessments include, but are not limited to, class participation, homework, comprehensive unit tests, short compositions, a variety of projects, and final exams. Students are frequently given assignments to be completed outside of class, as well as nightly homework. By the end of French I, students achieve a proficiency level of Novice High in all four communicative skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening) as described by the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

### **French Level II (Yearlong)**

**BN/WL/FRE2** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3; successful completion of French I or instructor approval.

French II, a year-long course, is a continuation of French I. Students communicate across the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communicative modes within the cultural context of French-speaking societies. This course is based on the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards and requires nightly homework.

### **French Level III (Yearlong)**

**BN/WL/FRE3** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3; successful completion of French II or instructor approval.

French III, a year-long course, is a continuation of French II. Students communicate across the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communicative modes within the cultural contexts of France and the other Francophone countries. This course is based on the ACTFL standards and requires nightly homework and assignments to be completed outside of class. Topics studied include vocabulary related to health, technology, art and culture, and the environment, as well as the imperative and subjunctive modes. Assessments include class participation, homework, projects, compositions, and final exams. By the end of French III, students are expected to demonstrate an ACTFL Mid-Intermediate level of proficiency in all four skills.



**French Level IV (Yearlong)**

**BN/WL/FRE4** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3; successful completion of French III or instructor approval.

French IV, a year-long course, is a continuation of French III. Students communicate across the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communicative modes within the cultural contexts of France and the other Francophone countries. This course is based on the ACTFL standards and requires nightly homework and assignments to be completed outside of class. Topics studied include vocabulary related to relationships, social issues, politics, government, history, and work, as well as the past subjunctive and conditional modes. This course also explores authentic literature, film, and the histories of French-speaking countries. Assessments include class participation, homework, projects, compositions, and final exams. By the end of French IV, students achieve an ACTFL Intermediate-High level of proficiency in all four skills.

**Spanish Level I (Yearlong)**

**BN/WL/SPA1** - Pre-requisite: ESL Level 3; instructor approval.

Spanish I is a year-long general introduction to the Spanish language for beginning students and follows the rigor as well as the scope and sequence of a regular ACTFL-based high school language course. Students communicate across the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening using basic Spanish

**Spanish Level II (Yearlong)**

**BN/WL/SPA2** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3; successful completion of Spanish I or instructor approval.

Spanish II, a year-long course, is a continuation of Spanish I. Students communicate across the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communicative modes within the cultural context of Latin America or Spain. This course is based on the ACTFL standards and requires nightly homework and assignments to be completed outside of class. Topics to be studied include vocabulary related to health, hobbies, and travel and the past tenses. Assessments include class participation, homework, projects, compositions, and final exams. By the end of Spanish II, students are expected to demonstrate a Low-Intermediate level of proficiency in all four skills as characterized by the American Council of Foreign Language.

**Spanish Level III (Yearlong)**

**BN/WL/SPA3** - Pre-requisites: ESL Level 3; Spanish II or instructor approval.

Spanish III is designed for students who have successfully completed Spanish II or who can demonstrate that they have achieved the Intermediate-Low level of proficiency in all four skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening) according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Students communicate about topics that are meaningful to them such as friendship, relationships, life goals, jobs, finances, politics, social issues, and entertainment, as well as popular culture and the fine arts. These topics, as well as Latin American and Spanish history and culture, are the contexts for analysis, comparison, conversation, interpretation, and much of the vocabulary at this level. Students use a textbook and online video to participate in listening and practice activities. They begin to read literary fragments and watch and listen to native speakers from recordings and films. Students also research and present about the arts and social issues. Any major gaps in knowledge of thematic vocabulary and grammar study are addressed. Students are assessed through exams, tests, projects, compositions, homework, and skits.