

**McQueen High School  
Freshman Course Guide  
2024-2025**

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## WHAT FRESHMEN NEED TO KNOW...

### How to Graduate from High School

#### 1 Take the right classes

There are 4 diploma types: Standard, Advanced, College and Career Ready, and Honors. The classes you need to take are listed below, along with how many credits you have to earn in each area. When you take a class for a semester and pass it, you earn 1/2 credit. Pass both semesters of a full year course, you earn 1.0 credit. That means you have to take English all four years of high school and earn 4.0 credits in English. Three years of math are required, and so forth.

Course Title	WCSD Standard (2028-beyond)	State Advanced	College and Career Ready with Endorsement	WCSD Honors
English	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Math (Must include Algebra 1, Geometry & Algebra 2 or equivalent)	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0 <sup>Δ</sup>
Science	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0 <sup>†</sup>
American Government	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Economics and Personal Finance	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
U.S. History	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
World History/World Geography	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
PE	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Arts/Humanities/CTE	-0-	1.0	1.0	1.0
Computer Literacy	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
World Language	-0-	-0-	-0-	2.0 <sup>*</sup>
Electives	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.0
Flex Credit	2.0 <sup>**</sup>	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>
# of Honors Credits				8
Required Cumulative GPA		3.25 on a 4.0 scale ( <u>no</u> rounding)	3.25 on a 4.0 scale ( <u>no</u> rounding)	3.40 on a 4.0 scale (no rounding)

Δ Algebra 1; Geometry; Algebra 2 (or their equivalents); plus 1 or more math classes beyond Algebra 2  
 † Two credits must be in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics  
 \*Two credits in the same world language  
 \*\* Flex credit must be one full credit of the same course of any one of the following: Level II or above CTE course in one program of study provided the prerequisite course was passed, a 4th year of mathematics Algebra 2 or higher, a 3rd year of science or a 4th year of social studies  
 + This diploma also requires additional coursework and either a college or career endorsement to earn the diploma

#### 2 Pass the right classes

Which means all of them. GO TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY. Do your classwork and homework. TURN IN your classwork and homework. If you miss school, contact your teachers by email or talk to them as soon as you get back to school. Do your make up work. TURN IN your make work. Ask for help when you need it.



**One “F” in a year-long course in the ninth grade decreases the probability of eventually graduating by 30 percentage points (Gates Foundation, 2007)**

#### 3 Take the right tests

Participate in the College and Career Readiness Assessment (currently the ACT) when you are a junior. Take the Civics Exam when you are a senior.



**In high school, your final grade each semester is based on the entire semester of work. It is not an average of two quarters like it is in middle school.**

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## WHAT FRESHMEN NEED TO KNOW...

### ...About Honors, AP, and Dual Credit Classes

Participating in honors-level programs clearly demonstrates to colleges your academic "chops." The classes proceed at a faster pace and cover material in more depth than regular classes. McQueen encourages students to challenge themselves with Honors, AP, and Dual Credit courses because advanced-level courses are worth the effort. Studies show that students who take advanced-level courses in high school are much better prepared for the challenging work in college.

However, the College Board advises, "Students should take a balanced load, one that allows them to devote the necessary time to each course. Colleges look for quality, not quantity."

#### Don't get in over your head!

**Taking a lot of honors courses can backfire.** Over-committing to honors courses leads to extreme stress, and your grades may suffer. If you have heavy extracurricular commitments or other obligations, think twice before taking on a heavy honors course load. Colleges will understand if you explain the situation in your application.

**You'll have less time for other activities.** Time spent on honors classes will take time away from other priorities. You may have to choose between your Honors English course and playing basketball.



Students and families must understand that the master schedule is designed to ensure that, as much as possible, students can be placed in the courses they choose in the spring. Dropping an AP or Honors course is not permitted. You can file to appeal this rule in extreme circumstances. Dropping an AP or Honors class should be a last resort, so students will be required to meet with their teacher to make a plan for success in the class, try interventions, and do everything that can be done to help you stay in the class. Appeals will not be reviewed until after the first week of school.

Students who are granted an appeal may not be guaranteed a spot in another class at McQueen. We will not overload a class to put in a student dropping an AP or Honors course. This may mean the student may have to take the class by correspondence or some other avenue at his/her own expense.

Students are advised to carefully consider their course selections in the spring.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Required Classes



Freshman Seminar is a full-year required course for all 9th graders. This course focuses on the skills and strategies necessary for students to be successful in high school and beyond. The primary objective is to increase students' self-management, self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills, and decision-making abilities.

### Course Topics

- Goal Setting
- Academic Organization
- Positive Student Strategies
- Self-Understanding
- Proactive Behavior
- Time Management
- Career Exploration
- Character Education
- Leadership

### Class Format

- Three days a week, students will have a period of silent reading, and then will be given a chance to work on assignments for their classes. Students **MUST** have something to work on quietly!
- One day a week will consist of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and school success lessons
- Seminar Support: Students in Algebra 1 may be pulled out of Seminar to receive support.

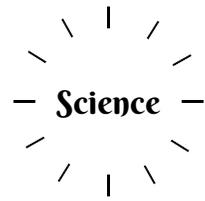
### Cell Phones in Seminar

Cell phones and other electronic devices are a huge distraction for students. In fact, a recent study found that students who had access to their phones (even if phones were not allowed in the class) scored a minimum of a half a letter grade lower on all assessments than their counterparts who did not have access to phones. Even if the student was not the one on the phone, the fact that her neighbor was on his phone was enough of a distraction to cause this effect. Therefore, Seminar is a phone-free zone! Students will be asked at the beginning of class to put phones and ear buds away. If students need to access the internet for an assignment, they will need to gain permission from their teacher and put the phone away as soon as they are done with it.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Required Classes



For science, most Freshmen start in Biology, either honors or regular. A few 9th graders take Biology in Middle School and are ready for Chemistry. The course description and number for Chem can be found in the full catalog.

Biology 1-2  
Course #3141-3142

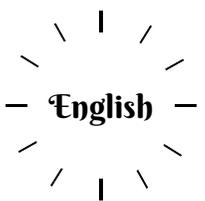
Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$13

This one-year laboratory science course is intended to develop an understanding of the fundamental concepts of biological science. This course meets the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Science. The course is organized into five main topics: 1) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems; 2) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems; 3) Structure and Function; 4) Inheritance and Variation of Traits; 5) Natural Selection and Evolution. The performance expectations for high school life science blend Disciplinary Core Ideas with both Science and Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts to support students in developing an understanding of life science. In this course, students will use basic mathematical computations and read and write critically to analyze biological investigations.

Biology 1-2 (H)  
Course # 3143-3144

Full Year = 1 credit (Honors)  
Course Fee: \$20

This one-year laboratory science course is intended to build a deeper understanding of the fundamental concepts of biological science. Emphasis is placed on developing critical-thinking skills through greater analysis, more complete explanations, using multiple sources when engaging in argument from evidence, and planning and carrying out advanced laboratory investigations. This course meets the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Science. The course is organized into five main topics: 1) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems; 2) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems; 3) Structure and Function; 4) Inheritance and Variation of Traits; 5) Natural Selection and Evolution. The performance expectations for high school life science blend Disciplinary Core Ideas with both Science and Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts to support students in developing an understanding of life science. Students will use advanced mathematical computations, critically read and analyze biological text, and learn from complex biological investigations. To be successful in this rigorous and challenging course, students should be able to work independently on activities and projects as well as read advanced text.



All Freshmen start with English 1-2. Honors English 1-2 is for Freshmen with strong reading skills, high test scores in ELA, and good attendance. Foundations in English 1-2 is for Special Education students who can handle the regular curriculum, but need a smaller group setting. Placement in Foundations is made by the IEP team.

English 1-2  
Course #1201-1202

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$5

This one-year course will provide the fundamentals of communication skills – reading, writing, speaking, and listening-- using the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) to guide and focus instruction. Through the reading of a variety of high-quality contemporary works, classical literature, and literary nonfiction, students will continue to develop the reading comprehension skills and reading strategies required to be highly literate individuals. Students will engage in both short and long-term writing assignments in three main genres--argument, informative/explanatory, and narrative--as well as use writing to comprehend text. Language instruction will focus on the balance between rules and manipulating language for the purpose of craft. Research and technology will be embedded throughout the course. The course will be taught using a variety of teaching techniques from direct instruction to small group work with a focus on meaningful student discussion.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Required Classes

English 1-2 (Honors)  
Course #1203-1204

Full Year = 1 credit (Honors)  
Course Fee: \$5

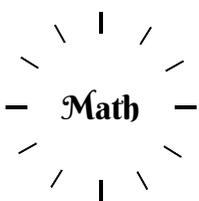
Prerequisite: Admission into English 1-2 (H) will be based on the student's previous performance in both reading and writing. Teacher recommendation, current reading level, writing samples, and standardized test scores may be considered; however, a student's motivation and desire to participate in upper-level English courses should be the primary consideration.

This one-year course, designed for the highly motivated student, has strong compositional and critical thinking demands. The course will focus on reading for greater comprehension and pleasure, writing clearly and concisely for different purposes, refining grammar and fluency skills, and developing formal vocabulary. Basic skills in grammar and composition are assumed. Emphasis will also be placed on demonstrating presentation, research, and problem-solving skills through unit projects. Literature will include short text from a variety of sources as well as novels. The class stresses the writing process: writing for different purposes and audiences; grammar and sentence structure as tools for individual writing skills development; language usage; literary terms and genres; library research; vocabulary improvement; encouragement of creativity; and the development of critical thinking. Students are expected to demonstrate an above average maturity level, demonstrate a positive attitude toward education and work tasks, and be cooperative in group learning situations.

Foundations in English 1-2  
Course #7751-7752

Full Year = 1 credit

This course is designed for Special Education students who have the skills to complete English 1-2 but need to be in a smaller class environment. This one-year course using the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) will provide the fundamentals of communication skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening-- necessary for college and career readiness in a twenty-first century, globally competitive society. Through close reading of a variety of high-quality contemporary works, classical literature, and literary nonfiction, students will continue to develop the reading comprehension skills and reading strategies required to be highly literate individuals. Students will engage in both short and long-term writing assignments in three main genres--argument, informative/explanatory, and narrative--as well as using writing as a way to comprehend text. Language instruction will focus on the balance between rules and manipulating language for the purpose of craft. Research and technology will be embedded throughout the course. The course will be taught using a variety of teaching techniques from direct instruction to small group work with a focus on meaningful student discussion.



Most Freshmen begin with Algebra 1. To support students with Algebra 1, we have Lancers Excel and Seminar Support. Throughout a unit, the Algebra 1 teachers check to make sure that their students are getting the math. If you're struggling, you'll be pulled out of Seminar and will get help with the math you aren't understanding. Some students take Algebra 1 in Middle School and do really well. These students are ready for Formal Geometry. If you took Algebra 1 in Middle School, but don't feel confident about your Algebra skills, it's probably best to take Algebra 1 over again. We put 9th graders who are repeating Algebra 1 in the same class (we call it Algebra 1X.) The teacher helps the students fill gaps in their Algebra skills, and gets them ready for Formal Geometry their sophomore year.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Required Classes

Algebra 1  
Course #2201-2202

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$5

This is a one-year course designed to teach the fundamentals of elementary algebra. This course lays the foundation of knowledge and skills to meet the Nevada Academic Content Standards in Mathematics (NVACS) for high school students. A strong foundation in algebra is needed for subsequent mathematics courses. The NVACS studied include all 5 Domains: Relationships between Quantities and Reasoning with Equations, Linear and Exponential Relationships, Descriptive Statistics, Expressions and Equations and Quadratic Functions and Modeling. Throughout the year, students will be expected to develop the ability to reason and communicate mathematically, apply learned concepts to new problem-solving situations and exhibit increased confidence in their ability to solve mathematical problems.

Formal Geometry  
Course #2215-2216

Full Year = 1 credit (Honors)  
Course Fee: \$5

Prerequisite: Successful completion of all semesters of Algebra 1. Admission into Formal Geometry will be based on the student's previous performance in addition to teacher recommendation, student's desire to learn and work ethic.

This is a one-year course that will cover the following topics through emphasis on basic geometric proofs, axioms, postulates and theorems, plane geometric figures, right triangles with trigonometry (Law of Sine and Cosine), constructions, congruence and similarity, circles, coordinate and transformational geometry, inductive and deductive reasoning, three-dimensional geometry, and probability. Emphasis is on the development of deductive reasoning skills. Students will also review algebraic techniques, and work on realistic problems. An ability to think abstractly is critical for successful completion of this course.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

Electives can be a great way to explore the fine arts, career and technical education, physical education, etc. As you pick your classes, keep in mind that during your four years of high school, you have to take two years of physical education (read about PE waivers in the PE/Health catalog), Health and Computer Literacy. There are a lot of ways to fulfill these requirements, and you can choose from various courses. Once you've completed a requirement, any additional courses you take in that area count as electives.

When you complete your course selection form, you'll be choosing three electives that would be your first choices, then listing three additional electives as alternates. There are some electives at McQueen that are very popular, like Culinary, and have limited enrollment. You may not get your first choice electives, so make sure that you list alternates that will work for you. If for some reason we cannot get a student into a first or alternate choice, we often place the student into PE or Health/Computers because we know the student will need to take these courses at some point during high school.

It's also REALLY important that you and your family understand the time required outside of the school day for some co-curricular classes. Students who participate in Marching Band, for example, spend as much as ten additional hours a week rehearsing and often travel to competitions on the weekends. Drama students are required to attend performances and rehearsals in the afternoon and evening. Choir and orchestra have required performances and rehearsals as well. All of these activities are required and count towards your grade. If you can't attend these after-school and evening activities, you shouldn't sign up for that course. Read the course descriptions carefully so that you understand what you're signing up for!

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

#### Social Studies Electives

World Geography  
Course #4117-4118

Full Year = 1 credit

This course is an integrative discipline that brings together the physical and human dimensions of the world in the study of people, places, and environments. Designed within the guidelines set forth in the National Geography Standards, its subject matter is Earth's surface and the processes that shape it, the relationships between people and environments, and the connections between people and places. Students will analyze significant events, individuals, developments and demographics across the world from the perspective of multiple and varied voices for a vivid and complex picture of cultural geography. Students will be encouraged to examine and understand the inter-connectedness of the world around them. The course will focus on major world regions, including: the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the former Soviet Union, Asia, Africa and Oceania. The content of this course meets the World History requirement for graduation.

#### PE/Health

PE classes are open to students in all grade levels. Students are expected to run in all PE classes, as cardiovascular endurance is a crucial aspect of health.

##### FITNESS CLASS CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS:

Students in physical education classes held at McQueen High School will receive a class t-shirt upon payment of the lab fee. Students are expected to be prepared to dress for cold weather when appropriate. In addition to wearing the McQueen PE shirt everyday, students must have a pair of shorts, sweats, a sweatshirt, socks, and tennis shoes with non-marking soles in their lockers at all times. Shorts, sweat pants, and the sweat shirt must be dress code appropriate and in black or blue. Shorts must be mid-thigh or longer in length. Students may purchase shorts for \$10. It is recommended that each student have a towel in their locker. In order to register and use a gym locker, students must supply their own combination lock or purchase one from their teacher for \$10. Locks that are put on a locker that have not been registered with the teacher will be removed and the contents of the locker will also be removed. Some specialized classes may require additional uniforms (see course descriptions).

Freshman PE  
Course #5101-5102

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$10

This course is designed for all grade levels in which students are introduced to a variety of sports in three to five-week units. These sports are divided into three categories: lifetime, team, and individual. Activities may include aerobics, badminton, basketball, flag football, jogging, pickle ball, soccer, softball, tennis, track, volleyball, and weight training. Emphasis is on the teaching of rules, skills, and strategies in the instructional sports as well as the recreational aspects of team sports. There are daily warm-up activities, which include cardiovascular runs and calisthenics. Students are expected to dress out in the required PE uniform daily.

Power Walking  
Course #5141-5142

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$10

This course is designed to introduce the student to walking as a lifetime aerobic activity. Walking will be done throughout the semester with appropriate dress required for both hot and cold temperatures. Students are responsible for walking at a sufficient pace, staying with the class and following school rules/community laws at all times. Note: A variety of walking courses are used throughout the semester, they range from 2 miles to 4.5 miles in a class period. Students and parents will also be required to sign and return a "class rules and liability form" the first week of school.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

Basketball Conditioning  
Course #5203-5204

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$10

This course is designed for students who want to play the game of basketball to the best of their ability. The class will include in-depth instruction on the fundamental aspects of the game (shooting, dribbling, passing, defense, etc.). It is also designed to teach various team concepts, such as person-to-person defense, zone defense, offensive strategies, historical basketball facts and rules that govern the game.

Volleyball  
Course #5191-5192

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$10

This course will include the basic skills of volleyball: passing, setting, serving, attacking, and rules of the game. Also, other net sports will be included such as tennis, badminton, and volley-tennis. Emphasis will be on team and skill-building techniques.

Power Spinning  
Course #5234-5235

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$20

This course is designed to introduce the student to spinning as a lifetime aerobic activity. A typical class will include stretching warm up, cool down and a 40-minute spinning session. Topics relating to total fitness, such as target heart rate, metabolism, and nutrition will be discussed throughout the course. Additional activities will include strength training and various activities.

Soccer & Conditioning  
Course #5236-5237

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$10

This course introduces the student to the fundamental skills and philosophy of soccer. Students considering this class should be able to execute the fundamentals of the game and it is recommended that they have some prior experience. Soccer drills will be used to enhance dribbling, passing, shooting on goal, defensive play and overall game strategy. Emphasis will be placed on team play, individual skill improvement and developing a greater understanding of the game. Students should also be aware that sports conditioning will be focused on while participating in this class both indoors and outdoors throughout the semester. The curriculum of this course is aligned with state academic standards.

Introduction to Yoga  
Course #5252-5255

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$10

This is an introduction to Yoga and the Pilates dynamic system of muscle conditioning. The course will provide a rejuvenating workout for your brain as well as for your body. The class will focus on fundamental practices of awareness, relaxation and conscious breathing which include the practice of postures, breath control, relaxation, light meditation, self-discipline and training of the mind body and concentration. Students will develop body awareness, increase vitality and peace of mind. Students will learn the names of Yoga postures and Pilates exercises. Students will be required to name postures and write their own workout. This class is combined with Power Walking, along with weight training, body strength workouts, a variety of aerobic, and functional fitness training. Writing assignments will be given to better understand the benefits of life-long wellness. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase their own yoga mats. Students are responsible for cleaning the yoga mat.

Beginning Dance  
Course #5245-5246

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$10

This class is designed for students who have limited experience with dance. The introduction of basic dance technique, proper warm ups, vocabulary, performance presentation and choreography will be presented through various dance styles including jazz, ballet, hip hop, lyrical, musical theater and cultural. All choreography and material presented will be at the skill and interest level of the students. The curriculum of this course is aligned with Nevada Academic Content Standards for Physical Education.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

Conditioning/ Weight Training  
Course #5217-5218

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$20

This course is designed for students who have a serious interest in beginning, intermediate and advanced weight training as well as physical conditioning. Students will learn to demonstrate safe and proper lifting techniques in a variety of lifting exercises that emphasize strength and power training. Emphasis will be placed on total body development through strength training, running, and speed and agility drills. Students interested in this course should have achieved above average grades in previous physical education courses as this course will be more physically demanding. The curriculum of this course is aligned with Nevada Academic Content Standards.

Athletic Conditioning/Weight Training  
Course #5215-5216

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$20

This course is designed for those competitive athletes with previous weight training experience. This class will focus specifically on the physical and psychological needs of the competitive athlete in the areas of weight training, flexibility, plyometrics, and performance enhancement skills (i.e., relaxation, visual imagery, and goal setting). Students, with the help of the instructor, will develop and follow an individualized sport specific computerized strength-training program. Instructor approval recommended.

Health  
Course #5311

One Semester = 0.5 credit

This course is a one semester course which covers the following topics: body function; physical and emotional development; drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; disease and disorders; fitness and exercise; nutrition; consumer health, safety, first aid, and emergency care; family health, growth and development; environmental health and related fields; community health; health careers; human sexuality and HIV/AIDS. \*\*Topics related to human sexuality and HIV/AIDS education are provided through the Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (S.H.A.R.E.) program - parent permission required.



**Health is only one semester. That means that you'll have to also select another one-semester class so that you'll have a class both fall and spring semesters. McQueen has very few classes that can be taken for only one semester: Health, Computer Science & Applications, PE, or Reading for Pleasure. If you sign up for Health, you will also need to sign up for one of the other three semester-long courses.**

## Fine Arts

Art 1-2  
Course # 6111-6112

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$25

Art is an introductory class designed to give students a background for both understanding and producing quality visual art. This class follows a rigorous, comprehensive curriculum, as mandated by the Nevada Department of Education Standards for visual arts. Units in drawing on the right side of the brain, elements and principles of design, color theory, painting and multi-media may be explored. In Art 2 technical skills will be refined by working from observation, judging proportion using sighting and referencing. Artwork will incorporate basic composition and perspective. Students will demonstrate the use of the elements and principles of design, study the historical context of art, and develop their critiquing skills. Various drawing and painting materials and techniques will be used.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

Ceramics 1-2  
Course # 6131-6132

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$70

This introductory course focuses on the skills and knowledge that students need to create ceramic sculpture and pottery. Students will become familiar with the entire ceramic process from making clay to firing and glazing their work as well as the geology and chemistry of clay and glazes. Several important hand-building techniques will be taught including pinch building, coil building, slab building, and a brief introduction to wheel thrown pottery. Students will also become familiar with the elements and principles of art, as well as the work of some important ceramists and other modern sculptors.

Theatre Arts 1-2  
Course #6501-6502

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$25

This course is designed for the beginning theatre student who is interested in learning the fundamentals of theatre arts. Instruction will include theatre etiquette, script analysis and critical response, improvisation, pantomime & movement, voice, interpretation, scene work, solo acting, and theatrical production. Course work will also include written critical analysis, playwriting, careers in theatre, theatre history, and performance projects. Student participation in co-curricular performances is required for successful completion of the course.



**Theater 1-2 is a co-curricular class. That means you'll be expected to spend time outside of the school day on class activities. Missing these activities will negatively impact your grade.**

Music in Society  
Course #6597-6598

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$50

This class is for students who wish to advance their musical knowledge and skill through the exploration of music in diverse world cultures. This course examines the role of music in society through a study of musical works and performances within a cultural and historical context. Representative cultural bearers along with required attendance at live performances provide the experiential component so crucial to the understanding and enjoyment of music.

Music Theory  
Course #6601-6602

Full Year = 1 credit

Students will study the fundamentals of music as well as music analysis, construction, form, music technology, and the beginnings of music composition. This class is for the music student who wants to better prepare for entrance into a music program at the college level, or professional level. It is recommended for the advanced students in Orchestra, Choir and Band to take music theory. This class is also open to any student wishing to learn more about the workings and theory of music.

Beginning/Intermediate Guitar  
Course #6719-6720

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$25

This semester course is designed for students with no previous guitar experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on a beginning level and will learn many of the different styles, skills, and techniques required to become a successful musician. Areas of concentration include correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, bass playing, finger picking styles, melody construction, musical forms, tablature notation, improvisation, and performing experiences.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

Please see the full course catalog for more information regarding Band, Choir, and Orchestra requirements. Students wishing to audition for ensembles other than those listed here should contact the director of that musical program.

Marching Band: Concert Band  
Course #6889-6890

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$600

This course is designed to encompass all facets of today's accepted standards of Marching Band and Concert Band. It will focus on the development of musical technique, sight-reading, and ensemble performance. There are many co-curricular activities that make up a band program. Students may be required to attend practices and performances outside of the regular school day in order to receive credit for the class. Performances may take place throughout the entire school year. Students in the Marching Band may be required to attend a band camp held in the summer prior to school starting. Students earning credit in the course may also earn a .5 credit PE waiver during the fall semester.

Concert Band  
Course #6703-6704

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$100

This course is designed to provide instrumentalists with an experience in all aspects of the modern wind band technique. The Concert Band will consist of students who are at a playing level of beginner to intermediate and will perform appropriate standard wind band repertoire. Most rehearsal will take place during required classroom time. There may be after school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year. All members of the Concert Band are eligible to audition and participate in the Washoe County Honor Band, Nevada All-State Honor Band, and Solo and Ensemble Festivals.

Marching Band: Percussion  
Course #6715-6716

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$550

This class will provide the percussion students with a comprehensive study of all aspects of percussion music and performance. Studies will include snare drum, mallets, drum set, auxiliary instruments, and styles of percussion from world music to jazz. There may be required after school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year. All members of the Percussion Ensemble are members of the band program and are expected to perform at all band performances. All members of the Percussion Ensemble may be required to participate in marching band. Students in the Marching Band may be required to attend a band camp held in the summer prior to school starting. This is an intermediate to advanced level band class. Students earning credit in the course may also earn a .5 credit PE waiver during the fall semester.

Marching Band: Color Guard  
Course #6751-6752

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$500

This class will provide color guard students with a comprehensive study of all aspects of color guard technique and performance. Studies will include dance, flag, and other appropriate equipment technique. There may be required after school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year. All members of the Color Guard are members of the band program and are expected to perform at all Marching Band performances. All members of the Color Guard may be required to participate in Marching Band. Students in the Marching Band may be required to attend a band camp held in the summer prior to school starting. Students earning credit in the course may also earn a .5 credit PE waiver during the fall semester.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

Concert Orchestra  
Course #6641-6642

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$35

Prerequisite: Middle School Advanced Orchestra or instructor approval

Concert Orchestra offers progressing level instruction for 9th grade students on violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Students who are in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade may enroll and repeat this course for credit. Students will solidify their understanding of the elements of music through performance and identifying relationships between music, other disciplines, and daily life. Emphasis will be placed on expanding technique through musical community. Students will be required to perform in concerts during and/or after school wearing the ensemble's designated attire. Out of school rehearsals may be required. Other events such as honor ensembles, Solo & Ensemble Festival, and All-State Orchestra may be required per teacher's directive. For an annual rental fee, school instruments are available for students who qualify.

Concert Choir  
Course #6801-6802

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$75

Concert Choir is a course open to all students interested in vocal performance. This course involves the study of and participation in vocal performance, training in proper vocal technique, and refinement of musicianship skills such as sight-reading, ear training, musical interpretation and expression. Students are required to participate in co-curricular rehearsals and performances beyond the school day to receive class credit. Class performances will include but are not limited to Fall, Winter, Zone, Spring, and Festival. This class may qualify for Honors credit. See the instructor for Honors requirements.



**All Band, Choir and Orchestra classes are co-curricular. That means you'll be expected to spend time outside of the school day on class activities. Missing these activities will negatively impact your grade.**

## English Electives

Creative Writing  
Course #1323-1324

Full Year = 1 credit

In this course students will read widely and deeply from among a broad range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational texts to analyze key details and author's purpose. Through the study of craft and structure, students will produce clear and coherent writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

Reading for Pleasure  
Course #1361-1362

Full Year = 1 credit

"Reading for Pleasure" is an elective and does NOT meet English course requirements for graduation. Students will read and write reviews for texts in a variety of genres and give short presentations. Minimum page counts must be read for certain grade expectations (e.g., 1500 pages per quarter for an "A"). An average of four days per week of silent sustained reading is required (attendance is mandatory). Students may not read books/texts that are required for other classes as credit for this class (no double-dipping). Students must have a parent/guardian's written permission to read each book, as many books will not have been reviewed by your teacher. Students may check out books from local libraries or purchase their own texts. Students may repeat this course once for credit upon successful completion the prior year.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

Speech & Debate  
Course #6411-6412  
Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Full Year = 1 elective credit  
Course Fee: \$75 + Transportation Fee

This course will provide students with basic knowledge of academic debate theory and competitive speaking. Students will learn logical structure, reasoning, and analysis of argumentation. The course will include instruction in ten types of formal speeches, three categories of debate, and Student Congress. The main goal of this class is to compete against other Northern Nevada students independently and as a team. Students will evaluate modern speakers and will study current events. Participation in speech and debate tournaments, outside of school hours, is required. Students who enroll in Speech and Debate must have two teachers sign a recommendation form.

## Career & Technical Education

Building Trades in Construction Technology I  
Course #31601-31602

Full year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$100

This course will introduce students to the construction industry. Through a hands-on approach, each student will develop basic understanding in the areas of construction: safety, blueprint reading, finish carpentry, framing, fundamental design techniques, identifying material properties and hardware, and applying basic principles of plumbing, electrical and manufacturing processes. Practical application of safe work habits and the correct use of tools and equipment will be emphasized throughout this course. The appropriate use of technology and industry-standard equipment is an integral part of this course.

Principles of Health Science  
Course #34201-34202

Full year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$10

This course will introduce students to human structure and function. Areas of study include anatomy, healthcare delivery systems, medical terminology, emergency management, health information technology, and legal practices. The appropriate use of technology and industry-standard equipment is an integral part of this course.

Culinary Arts I  
Course #34601-34602

Full year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$60

Note: Culinary Arts is McQueen's Signature Program. Students who are admitted to the program will be given priority for placement in the course.

This course provides students with an introduction to the principles and techniques of commercial food production and the exploration of career and technical student organizations. The classroom is patterned after industry with emphasis on food related careers. Students acquire basic skills in food handling, food and nutritional science, equipment technology, cooking methods, kitchen safety, sanitation procedures, and employability skills. The appropriate use of technology and industry standard equipment is an integral part of this course.

Advanced Computer Science I  
Course #36101-36102

Full year = 1 credit

This course will introduce students to the essential concepts of computer science and show how computing and technology can influence the world. This course focuses on using technology and programming to solve computational problems and find creative solutions that reduce bias and equity deficits. Topics include classic algorithmic design, control structures, decomposition, modularity, abstraction, hardware and software, data analysis, developing programs, and troubleshooting. The appropriate use of technology and industry-standard equipment is an integral part of this course.

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

Engineering Foundations I  
Course #37701-37702

Full year = 1 credit

This course is the entry-level course of the Engineering curriculum. The major focus of this course is the design process and its application. Through hands-on projects, students apply engineering standards and document their work. Students use industry-standard 3D modeling software to help them design solutions to solve proposed problems, document their work using an engineer's notebook, and communicate solutions to peers and members of the professional community.

Computer Science & Applications  
Course #8344

One Semester = 0.5 credit

This course is an introduction to computer science and applications intended to "prepare young learners to become computational thinkers who understand how today's digital tools can help solve tomorrow's problems." (ISTE, 2018). CS & A will include at least 50% computer science principles and computational thinking. The balance of the course will integrate skills in digital and media literacy and digital citizenship.



**Health is only one semester. That means that you'll have to also select another one-semester class so that you'll have a class both fall and spring semesters. McQueen has very few classes that can be taken for only one semester: Health, Computer Science & Applications, PE, or Reading for Pleasure. If you sign up for Health, you will also need to sign up for one of the other three semester-long courses.**

## JROTC

Military Science I Full year = 1 credit  
Course #33901-33902 Course Fee: \$38

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of Military Science. Areas of emphasis include introduction to JROTC, foundation of leadership, citizenship, wellness, physical fitness, and first aid. Students will also gain experience in specific branch topics related to their program (Air Force/Space Force, Army, Marine Corps, or Navy).

Additional Information: JROTC prepares students for life after high school in civilian and military careers. Employers look for the skills and individual attributes of leadership, ability to work well with small groups, and personal discipline developed through JROTC. Areas of emphasis include foundation of leadership, citizenship, wellness, and physical fitness. JROTC students can also choose to compete on several teams at the district, state, or national level. Teams include Air Rifle, Cyber Security, Military Drill, and Physical Fitness.

JROTC Robotics  
Course #7115-7116

Full Year = 1 credit  
Course Fee: \$25

Prerequisite: Any McQueen student can enroll but priority will be given to JROTC Cadets.

The instructional program for Robotics introduces high school students to building and basic programming of robots, as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building, and programming of robots. Students will work in teams to design, build, program, compete in competitions, and document their progress. Topics may include sensors, decision-making, computer programming concepts and languages. The objective of this course is to use a hands-on approach to introduce the basic concepts in robotics focusing on mobile robots. Students who successfully complete this course will have learned: fundamentals of programming concepts, physical science concepts, programming concepts related to robotics, fundamentals of engineering concepts related to robotics, teamwork and collaboration, robotics competitions and the robotics industry.



**All JROTC classes are co-curricular. That means you'll be expected to spend time outside of the school day on class activities. Missing these activities will negatively impact your grade.**

# MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

### Elective Classes

### World Languages

World Language Level 1-2 Courses

Full Year = 1 credit

French 1-2 – Course #4551-4552

Spanish 1-2 – Course #4611-4612

German 1-2 – Course #4681-4682

This course is an introductory level to world language learning. An eclectic approach to language teaching will be used and will include the Core Practices of Language Learning: 90% target language instruction, true interpersonal activities, interpretive tasks using authentic resources, teaching grammar in context, using a backwards design planning model, and providing meaningful and effective feedback. As suggested within the Nevada Academic Content Standards for World Languages Framework, this course integrates the three modes of communication for world language education: Interpretive Listening and Reading, Interpersonal Communication, and Presentational Speaking and Writing. Students will be engaged in activities that stimulate communication, promote critical thinking, and enhance their literacy skills as well as their global cultural awareness. All world languages are performance based and align with the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency scale (Novice-Low to Novice-Mid Range).

World Language Level 3-4 Courses

Full Year = 1 credit

French 3-4 – Course #4553-4554

Spanish 3-4 – Course #4613-4614

German 3-4 – Course # 4683-4684

This course is a continuation of world language level 1-2. An eclectic approach to language teaching will be used and will include the Core Practices of Language Learning: 90% target language instruction, true interpersonal activities, interpretive tasks using authentic resources, teaching grammar in context, using a backwards design planning model, and providing meaningful and effective feedback. As suggested within the Nevada Academic Content Standards for World Languages Framework, this course integrates the three modes of communication for world language education: Interpretive Listening and Reading, Interpersonal Communication, and Presentational Speaking and Writing. Students will be engaged in activities that stimulate communication, promote critical thinking, and enhance their literacy skills as well as their global cultural awareness. All world languages are performance based and align with the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency scale (Novice-High to Intermediate-Low Range).

#### Spanish Literacy (Spanish for Spanish Speakers)

Spanish Literacy is an opportunity for students whose heritage language is Spanish to be taught the Spanish language in Spanish. The courses will count towards the two-year world language requirement for the Honors Diploma.

Spanish Literacy 3-4

Full Year = 1 credit

Course #4653-4654

The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to become bilingual; develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in their heritage language. The emphasis of this class will be on grammar, speaking, listening, reading and writing. This class will provide students detailed grammar explanation and practical exercises as well as new vocabulary that will teach them standard Spanish and make them aware of certain dialects and other variations from standard Spanish. In addition, this class will improve students' ability to express themselves in written Spanish by reviewing and practicing verb forms and tense usage. Spanish for Spanish Speakers 3-4 qualifies for World Language Credit.

Student Name (print) Student B. Sample Due Date Jan 19  
 Student ID # 123456 Parent Completed Online Registration (Office Use Only) \_\_\_\_\_

### Freshman Course Requests for the 2024-2025 School Year

- Parent **must complete** online registration through Infinite Campus before course selections can be input by counselor. <https://www.washoeschools.net/register>
- The courses listed will be used to create your class schedule. Please make your choices carefully as changes will NOT be made unless placement level is incorrect. Remember – you are selecting courses, not teachers.
- **Use the Course Catalog in planning your classes, pay attention to requirements you have not yet fulfilled** (PE, Health, Computer Science & Apps). Full year courses have 2 course numbers: the first is for first semester, the second number is for second semester. Please list both numbers. Students must choose enough classes to fill a total of **SEVEN** periods.
- Please select three alternate courses in case you do not receive your first choice. If left blank, courses will be chosen for you.

#### Required Courses

<b>English</b> (full year class) – You must choose one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (1201-1202) English 1-2 <input type="checkbox"/> (1203-1204) Honors English 1-2* <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Course # _____	<b>Math</b> (full year class) - You must choose one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (2201-2202) Algebra 1 S1-S-2 <input type="checkbox"/> (2215-2216) Formal Geometry 1-2 (Honors)* <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Course # _____
<b>Science</b> (full year class) – You must choose one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (3141-3142) Biology 1-2 <input type="checkbox"/> (3143-3144) Honors Biology 1-2* <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Course # _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Freshman Seminar Required for all 9 <sup>th</sup> graders

#### Elective and other Required Courses

<b>First Semester: Arts/Humanities/CTE/Health/PE/ROTC</b> <b>EXAMPLE: Fall (6 1 1 1) Art 1</b>	<b>Second Semester: Arts/Humanities/CTE/Health/PE/ROTC</b> <b>Spring (6 1 1 2) Art 2</b>
<b>First Semester: Arts/Humanities/CTE/Health/PE/ROTC</b> Fall (5311) <u>Health</u>	<b>Second Semester: Arts/Humanities/CTE/Health/PE/ROTC</b> Spring (8344) <u>Comp. Science + Apps</u>
Fall (455) <u>French 1</u>	Spring (4552) <u>French 2</u>
Fall (6501) <u>Theater 1</u>	Spring (6502) <u>Theater 2</u>

#### Alternate Courses

Alternate 1 : Fall (5141) <u>Power Walking</u>	Spring (5142) <u>Power Walking</u>
Alternate 2 : Fall (10313) <u>Culinary Arts</u>	Spring (10314) <u>Culinary Arts</u>
Alternate 3 : Fall (6801) <u>Concert Choir</u>	Spring (6802) <u>Concert Choir</u>

Indicating a career path and diploma option assist in the planning process. Please complete these below.

Career Path <u>Engineer</u>	Diploma Option <u>Advanced</u>
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By signing below, I attest that I have read and understand the prerequisites, course descriptions, and possible out of class time requirements of the selected courses.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature B. Sample