

**McQueen High School
Freshman Course Guide
2021-2022**

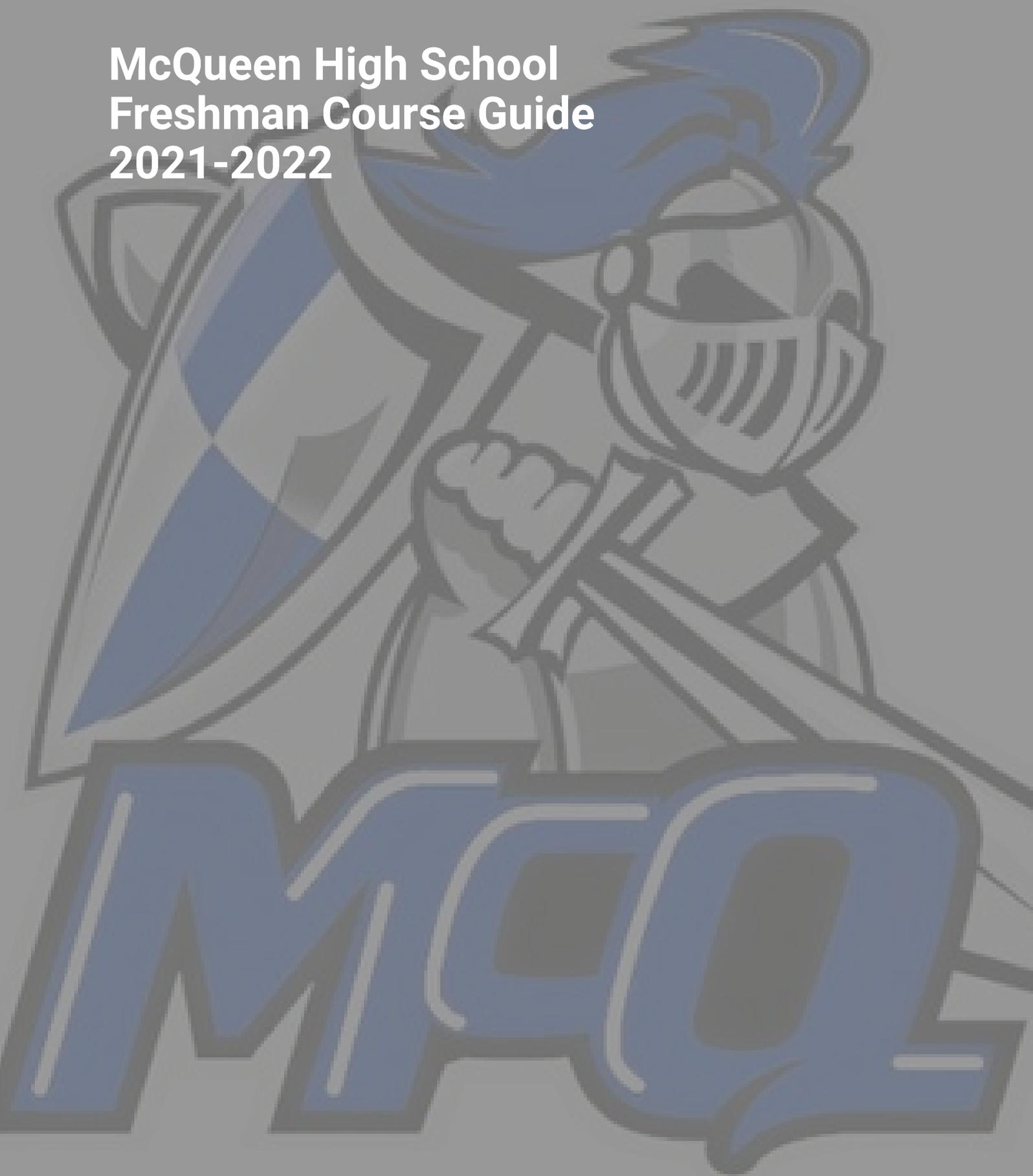


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meet the Administration	3
How to Graduate from High School	4
Honors & AP Classes	5
Course Descriptions for Grade 9 - Required Classes	
Personal and Academic Skills for Success (PASS)	6
Science	7
English	8
Math	10
Course Descriptions for Grade 9 - Elective Classes	
Social Studies Electives	11
PE/Health	12
Fine Arts	14
English Electives	19
Career and Technical Education	20
World Languages	22

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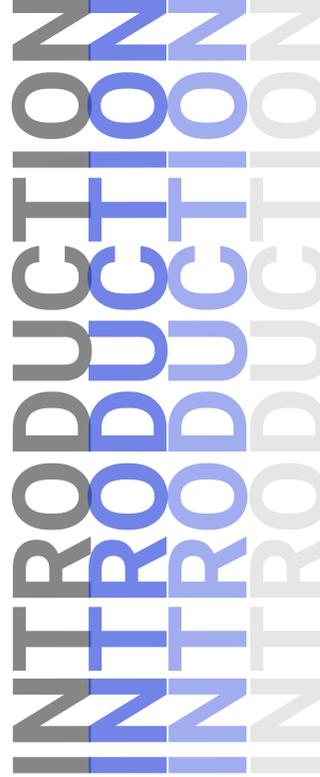
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MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

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 (2022 + grads)	State Advanced	State College and Career Ready	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 ^a
Science	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0 [†]
American Government	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
U.S. History	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
World History/World Geography	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
PE/HSROTC	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Arts/Humanities/CTE/HSROTC 5-6/7-8	1.0	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*
Electives	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.0
Flex Credit**	1.0	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTALS	23.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
# of Honors Courses				8
Required Cumulative GPA		3.25 on a 4.0 scale (no rounding)	3.25 on a 4.0 scale (no rounding)	3.40 on a 4.0 scale (no rounding)

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.

IT'S ACTUALLY NOT THAT HARD.

30%

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 order to earn credit in any course, you have to take the final exam. For most courses, the final exam is teacher-designed. The final exams for semester two of English 3-4, Algebra 1, Geometry and Formal Geometry have been prepared by the Nevada Department of Education and are called "End of Course Final Exams." If you are enrolled in these courses (and you will be because they are required classes - you learned that in step 1, right?) you will take these tests as your final exam.



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 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 and AP courses because advanced-level courses are worth the effort. **Studies show that students who take an AP course in high school are much better prepared for the challenging work in college, regardless of how they do on the AP test.**

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

PASS

Personal and Academic Skills for Success (PASS) is a full-year required course for all Freshmen. 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
- Attitude
- Character Education
- Leadership

Class Format

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 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!
- Wednesdays will consist of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and school success lessons
- Lancers Excel: Students in Algebra 1 and English 1-2 may be pulled out of PASS to receive support. The student's teacher will stamp their planner letting them know that they need to go to Lancers Excel.

Social & Emotional Learning Core Competencies



Cell Phones in PASS

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, PASS 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.

make the most of PASS

Freshman teachers use PASS to help students. They send make-up work, missed quizzes and tests, and missing work to the PASS teacher for completion during PASS. The object is to make learning mandatory, not optional!

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 science catalog.

Biology 1-2

Course #3141-3142

Course Fee: \$13

Full Year = 1 credit

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. A common district final exam will be administered at the end of both semesters.

Biology 1-2 - Honors

Course #3143-3144

Course Fee: \$20

Full Year = 1 credit (Honors)

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. A common district final exam will be administered at the end of both semesters. In addition, students will take a constructed response assessment designed specifically for honors biology near the end of both semesters.

ADVICE FROM MCQUEEN BIOLOGY TEACHERS



Pay attention during class. Be respectful and courteous to your teacher and your classmates.

Always ask for make-up work when you have been absent. Ask for make-up work before an absence if you know ahead of time that you will be absent.

If you are having difficulty, ask your teacher for help. Tutoring is available if needed.

Complete every assignment.

Always try your best for all work.

Accept responsibility for your grade.

The midterm grade is a snapshot of your grade at that time. You can always improve that grade.

The semester final is comprehensive. This means that it covers everything from the whole semester.

MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

Required Classes



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

Course Fee: \$5

Grade: 9
Full Year = 1 credit

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 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.

English 1-2 - Honors

Course #1203-1204

Course Fee: \$5

Grade: 9
Full Year = 1 credit (honors)

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. This course will be taught by a Special Education teacher who is HQ in English.

ADVICE FROM MCQUEEN FRESHMAN ENGLISH TEACHERS

Come to school every day. Communicate with your teacher and the attendance office when you are absent.

Turn in all assignments, even if they are late.

Focus on learning as well as grades.

Use PASS time well.

Be honest, trustworthy and kind.

Be brave and talk with your teachers.





Most Freshmen begin with Algebra 1. To support students with Algebra 1, we have Lancers Excel. 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 PASS (on a study day) and will get help with the math you aren't understanding. You can also retake Algebra tests if you don't do well on them. 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.

Algebra 1 Foundations in Algebra 1

Algebra 1 Course #2201-2202
Foundations in Algebra 1 Course #7769-7770 (for Special Education Students only - no course fee)

Course Fee: \$5

Prerequisite: Successful completion of all semesters of Math 7 and Math 8 or Math 7/8.

Full Year = 1 math credit

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. As a part of this course, students are required to take the Nevada End Of Course Final for Math I (Algebra 1) as the semester 2 final exam.

Formal Geometry (Honors)

Course #2215-2216

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.

Full Year = 1 math credit (Honors)

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. As a part of this course, students are required to take the Nevada End Of Course Final for Math II (Geometry) as the semester 2 final exam.

ADVICE FROM MCQUEEN FRESHMAN MATH TEACHERS



You will be expected to participate and experiment, share in class, and show your learning publically - at the board, on posters, etc.

Be open to thinking outside the box...math is NOT about following steps, it is about solving problems!

Check Infinite Campus several times a week.

Do homework.

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), one year of Humanities/Arts/CTE/JROTC 5-6, 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!

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

World Geography

Course #4117-4118

Grade: 9, 10
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.

World Geography - Honors

Course #4119-4120

Grade: 9
Full Year = 1 credit (Honors)

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. The honors course focuses heavily on the development of academic writing and discourse.

MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9

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 every day, 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, blue, grey, or white. Shorts must be mid-thigh or longer in length. Students may purchase shorts for \$8. 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 \$6. 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).



Success in PE classes is all about showing up, dressing out, and working hard. If you are absent, you'll be expected to make up that absence by participating in a physical activity or attending a game.

PE (for 9th graders)

Course #5101-5102
One Semester = 0.5 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 on a daily basis.

Basketball Conditioning

Course #5203-5204
One Semester = 0.5 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.

Power Spinning

Course #5234-5235
One Semester = 0.5 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.

Introduction to Yoga

Course #5252-5255
One Semester = 0.5 credit

Course Fee: \$10
Optional Yoga Mat: \$12

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.

Weight Training/Conditioning

Course #5217-5218
One Semester = 0.5 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
One Semester = 0.5 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.

Team Sports - Baseball/Softball

Course #5171-5172
One Semester = 0.5 credit

Course Fee: \$10

Team Sports is designed for student/athletes to increase skills in their respective sport and/or fitness levels. Our mission is to help direct student athletes to focus on their individual sports goals, improve intrinsic motivation, and to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle. Lastly, our goal is to give our students the knowledge and experience to make informed decisions about proper nutrition and exercise outside the school walls.

Volleyball

Course #5191-5192
One Semester = 0.5 credit

Course Fee: \$10

This course will include the basic skills of volleyball: passing, setting, serving, attaching, 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.

Health

Course #5311
One Semester = 0.5 credit

Health is a one-semester course covering: body structure and function; physical and emotional development; drugs, alcohol, tobacco; disease and disorders; fitness and exercise; nutrition; consumer health; safety, CPR, and emergency care; family health, growth, and development; environmental health and related fields; community health; health careers; human sexuality and HIV. The health classes at McQueen High School will introduce, develop, and practice selected skills which are associated with improved personal health. These goals should lead to a sound mind in a sound body. Students must spend some time each day outside of class on coursework in order to successfully pass this course. This course fulfills the one-semester health requirement for graduation.



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 - Foundations in Art

Course #6111-6112

Full Year = 1 elective credit

Course Fee: \$25

Materials: Image making device
(phone camera, DSLR camera, etc)

This course is open to students in all grades.

Art 1-2 is an introductory class designed to give students the foundational knowledge of understanding and creating 2D art which may include some or all of the following methods: drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, photography and graphic design using Adobe software. This class follows a rigorous, comprehensive curriculum, as mandated by the Nevada State Standards for the Visual Arts. Projects focus on the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design with concentration on the 2D study of drawing. Art History is woven throughout the units to enrich our visual and cultural literacy.

Exhibiting one's art work is encouraged. Students receive the necessary foundation for all other McQueen 2D art courses. This course will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement. It is recommended that students considering a creative career enroll in a beginning art class as a freshman or sophomore in order to develop the skills and portfolio needed for advanced art studies like Honors, AP Studio Art (2D, 3D, and Drawing,) and college entry application.

Ceramics 1-2

Course #6131-6132

Full Year = 1 elective credit

Course Fee: \$70

This course is open to students in all grade levels.

Ceramics 1-2 is a beginning course designed to instruct the student in the use of the potter's wheel, hand-building techniques, basic glazing methods, ceramics history, and contemporary artists' work in ceramic sculpture. Visits to the Nevada Museum of Art are required. This class follows the curriculum as mandated by the Nevada Department of Education standards for the visual arts. This course will fulfill the Arts/ Humanities graduation requirement.

Theater 1-2

Course #6501-6502

Course Fee: \$38

Full Year = 1 elective credit

This course is open to students in all grades.

This course is designed for the beginning drama student who is interested in learning the fundamentals and history of acting and theater. Instruction in acting will include improvisations, pantomime, voice, script work, and script analysis. Additional course work will include written critical analysis of live theater performance, and playwriting activities. Students will perform on stage during class and will be expected to complete extra-curricular drama assignments, as well as attending McQueen productions. Students will develop a working theatrical vocabulary, an awareness of various theater styles through a survey of theatrical history, and its impact on performance and style. Students will work on becoming proficient in acting techniques as well as gaining heightened self-awareness and self-confidence. This course will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement.



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.

Beginning/Intermediate Guitar

Course #6719-6720

Course Fee: \$25

Full Year = 1 elective credit

This course is open to students in all grade levels

This course is the first level guitar course at McQueen High School. This is a year-long co-curricular course designed for students with no previous or very limited 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. Regular at home practice is essential for success in this course. There will be at least two public performances during the school year as well which will count toward the semester grade. Information will be given about these in the fall. There will also be after school rehearsals close to performances as well which will count toward the semester grade. Dates will be given at the beginning of each semester. This course will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement and may be repeated for credit.

This class is instructed using nylon-string classical guitars. Instruments with steel strings will not be used regularly in class. If a student already owns their own instrument, they must have instructor approval to ensure it is in proper condition for success in the course. If a student wishes, they may easily purchase their own instrument. Students may also choose to rent a guitar from McQueen for a non-refundable rental fee of \$25 for the year.

Concert Choir

Course #6801-6802

Course Fee: \$45

Full Year = 1 elective credit

This course is open to students in all grade levels

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 expressions. Students are required to participate in extra-curricular performances in order to receive class credit. Concerts, rehearsals, and sectionals are required outside of class time (e.g. lunch, after school, evening, weekends.) This course may be repeated for credit and will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement. No audition is required.



Concert Choir is a co-curricular class. Choir students spend time outside of the school day rehearsing and performances can be on the weekend and in the evening. Missing these activities will negatively impact your grade.

Concert Orchestra

Course #6641-6642

Course Fee: \$65

Prerequisite: Participation in an 8th Grade orchestra program, or by instructor's approval.

Full Year = 1 elective credit

This course is open to students in all grade level. This course is required for all freshmen wishing to participate in the McQueen High School Orchestra Program. This course provides instruction in a string orchestra and small group setting on violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students develop knowledge required to be successful in the Sinfonia Orchestra. Emphasis will be on: introducing advanced scales, shifting, multi meters, improvisation, professionalism, basic music theory, music appreciation, interpreting and playing various styles and genres of music, and other music activities aligned with state and national music standards. School-owned instruments are available for student rental as available. Extra rehearsals and public performances are required as part of the class. Students enrolled in this class may participate in the WCSD Solo and Ensemble Festival. This course will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement and may not be repeated for credit.

Eclectic Styles Ensemble

Course #6625-6626

Course Fee: \$100

Prerequisite: Participation in an 8th Grade orchestra program, or by instructor's approval. 9th Grade who wish to participate in this course MUST be enrolled in Concert Orchestra as well.

Full Year = 1 elective credit (Honors credit available for 10th-12th graders who complete additional requirements)

This ensemble is for students who wish to advance their musical knowledge and skill through the study of Eclectic Styles such as (but not limited to) jazz, fiddle, American Roots, World Music (non-Western European), and other non-traditional music. The music performed will have an emphasis on the use of musical creation through improvisation. The Eclectic Styles Ensemble will perform at various concerts, festivals, and competitions as opportunities arise. Students in this course will be required to participate in Solo & Ensemble Festival. This course will fulfill the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement and may be repeated for credit.



Concert Orchestra and Eclectic Styles Ensemble are co-curricular classes. Orchestra students spend time outside of the school day rehearsing, and performances can be on the weekends and evenings. Missing these activities will negatively impact your grade.

Concert Band

Course #6703-6704

Course Fee: \$150

Full Year = 1 elective credit

This course will provide fundamental instruction, theory, and practice in wind instruments. Students will be taught the principles of individual and group achievement through practice and performance with their instruments. Group unity and performance are the primary goals of this course. Instruction and performance during the first nine to 10 weeks of the school year will focus on Marching Band; during the rest of the year the focus will be on concert literature. **STUDENTS WILL BE MEMBERS OF THE MARCHING BAND** when enrolled in this course. Students enrolled in this course are required to participate in all performances and rehearsals that occur during the summer, after school, some weeknights, and weekends. Students will also be required to attend band camp at the school prior to the beginning of the school year. There are a limited number of school-owned instruments available for student use. One-half credit Physical Education (PE) requirement may be waived for successful completion of fall semester of this course (marching band). Concert Band meets the Fine Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement. This course may be repeated for elective credit.

Wind Ensemble

Course #6711-6712

Course Fee: \$150

Full Year = 1 elective credit

Prerequisite: **By audition only** and instructor approval.

This course will provide advanced instruction, theory, and practice in wind and percussion instruments. All elements of the course content/goals for concert band apply to Wind Ensemble; please read the descriptions under Concert Band carefully! Students are required to audition for the WCSD Honor Band (there is no penalty if students are not selected.) One-half credit Physical Education (PE) requirement may be waived for successful completion of fall semester of this course (marching band). Wind Ensemble meets the Fine Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education graduation requirement. This course may be repeated for elective credit.

Color Guard

Course #6751-6752

Course Fee: \$500

Full Year = 1 elective credit

Prerequisite: By audition only. Prior experience in dance, gymnastics, or flags is preferred but not required

This course is designed to introduce and extend the student's knowledge and skills in dance and flag techniques with an emphasis on performance. Both males and females are encouraged to audition. Students will be taught the principles of individual and group achievement through practice and performance. Individual achievement, group unity, and performance will be the primary goals and basis for evaluation of this course. During the first nine to ten weeks of the semester members of the guard will participate as a part of the McQueen High School Marching Band. **STUDENTS WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE MARCHING BAND** when enrolled in this course. Students are required to rehearse the marching program at scheduled rehearsals beyond the normal school day. Students enrolled in this course are required to participate in all performances and rehearsals that occur during the summer, after school, some weeknights, and weekends. Students will also be required to attend camp at the school prior to the beginning of the school year. In addition, after marching season, students will perform in color guard competitions and shows separately from the band, but in conjunction with Percussion Ensemble. One-half PE requirement will be waived for successful completion of each semester of this class. It may also meet the Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education requirement for graduation if the PE requirement has already been met. The course may not count for a PE waiver and Arts/Humanities/Occupational Education credit in the same semester. This course may be repeated for credit.

Jazz Band

Course #6707-6708

Course Fee: \$100

Full Year = 1 elective credit

Prerequisite: By audition only.

This course provides group instruction for band students who may or may not have previously been enrolled in an instrumental jazz music program. Theory and practice in the various jazz genres are provided. Students will further develop and enrich their knowledge and level of performance on his/her individual instrument. Students enrolled in this course are required to participate in all performances and rehearsals that occur during or after the normal school day. There are a limited number of school-owned instruments available for student use. This course may be repeated for elective credit. Students are required to audition for the WCSD Honor Band (there is no penalty if students are not selected.)

Percussion Ensemble

Course #6713-6714

Course Fee: \$450

Full Year = 1 elective credit

Students who play percussion instruments should sign up for Percussion Ensemble. They should only sign up for Concert Band or Wind Ensemble if they also play a wind instrument.

This course is designed for students who wish to develop individual and group skills in the performance and study of percussion instruments. Students are expected to participate in performances outside of school time. Both marching and concert percussion idioms will be addressed in this course. The marching idiom is addressed through March of every year with concert ensemble being the primary focus throughout the latter part of the year. Students are required to audition for the WCSD Honor Band (there is no penalty if students are not selected.) Students are required to participate in Winter Percussion.



All Band classes are co-curricular classes. During Marching Season in the Fall, band students are expected to practice after school each day. Practices and performances often take place on the weekend or in the evening. You'll be expected to travel to competitions as well. Missing these activities will negatively impact your grade.

INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS FOR STUDENTS OF THE BAND PROGRAM:

- The band program at McQueen consists of Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Color Guard/Winter Guard, Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble.
- Students must be enrolled in any of the above courses for the *entire year*.
- **All members of the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Percussion and Color Guard merge to form the McQueen High School Marching Band. Marching Band is a required addendum to these course offerings; it meets for 10 to 12 weeks in the first quarter of the school year outside of the normal school day.**
- The Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble will be filled by audition only.
- Students enrolled in Color Guard may also be enrolled in Wind Ensemble or Concert Band, but during the Marching Band season will be expected to perform in all concerts and competitions with the Color Guard. Students may NOT be simultaneously enrolled in Color Guard and Percussion Ensemble.
- Students playing percussion instruments should sign up for Percussion Ensemble. These students should only sign up for Concert Band or Wind Ensemble if they also play a wind instrument.
- Students auditioning for Wind Ensemble or the Jazz Band MUST currently be a member of a McQueen performance music ensemble (i.e. Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Orchestra, or any of the Choir ensembles), or be an incoming Freshman. The only exception to this guideline would be if, after auditions, specific instrumentation is required and no qualified member is available. In this instance, a student who is **not** currently enrolled in another McQueen music performance group may fill the vacancy.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Music Theory is not a part of the Band program and thus students in Music Theory may choose to be part of a music performance ensemble or not.
- **FEES:** Fees in addition to what is listed for each course may be assessed. Band fees vary from year-to-year based on travel, uniform and other factors, fees usually are \$500-\$600 per year. These fees apply to students enrolled in Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Color Guard and Percussion (marching band required). Concert dress is formal.
- Students must have their own instrument or use an available school instrument upon payment of a \$50 rental fee.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Reading for Pleasure

Course #1361-1362

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Full Year = 1 elective 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.

Creative Writing

Course #1323-1324

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Full Year = 1 elective credit

This course is open to students in grades 9-12 who are serious about writing and have a sincere desire to write for and produce a literary magazine. The course will focus on creative writing using a workshop approach. Students will receive instruction on various writing techniques and produce, edit, and revise their own pieces of writing. Students will learn to accept constructive criticism through an extensive peer editing/evaluation process. Emphasis will be on individual improvement. One significant project is required each semester in addition to ongoing individual effort. The creative writing class is also involved in the publication of the school’s literary magazine, The Chrysalis. Students will read submissions, select material for inclusion in the magazine, and prepare material to go to the printer. Students earn elective credit for this course; it does not fulfill one of the English credits required for graduation. Students may earn humanities credit for the course.

Speech and Debate

Course #6411-6412

Course Fee: \$75
\$35 Transportation Fee

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Full Year = 1 elective credit

Prerequisite: An application is required and is available in room 102 and on the McQueen website

Course Content: This course will provide students with basic knowledge of academic debate and competitive speaking. The course will include instruction in ten types of formal speeches, three categories of debate, and Student Congress. Students will review and analyze famous speeches of the past, as well as write and analyze speeches of today. 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.

Course Goals: Students will develop a knowledge of debate theory and competitive speaking, and will participate in interscholastic competition. Students will learn logical structure, reasoning, and analysis of argumentation.



Speech & Debate is a co-curricular class. Debate tournaments are often on weekends and evenings. Missing these activities will negatively impact your grade.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

AP Computer Science Principles (Level 1 Computer Science Course)

Course #10927-10928

Course Fee: \$5
\$95 for AP Exam

1 Year = 1 credit (Advanced Placement)
Satisfies Computer Science & Applications Requirement

This course follows The College Board Advanced Placement curriculum and prepares students for the AP Computer Science Principles exam. This course will introduce students to the essential ideas of computer science and show how computing and technology can influence the world. This course focuses on technology and programming as a means to solve computational problems and find creative solutions. Students will creatively address real-world issues and concerns while using the same processes and tools as artists, writers, computer scientists, and engineers to bring ideas to life. The appropriate use of technology and industry-standard equipment is an integral part of this course.



Even though this is an AP class, it is designed so that all students can be successful. Don't be afraid to take it just because it's an AP class!

Computer Science & Applications

Course #8344

1 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.



Computer Science & Applications 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 Computer Science & Applications, you will also need to sign up for one of the other three one-semester courses.

Human Development I

Course #10885-10886

Course Fee: \$10

1 Year = 1 credit

This course introduces the topic of Human Development. Areas of study include the stages of human growth and development throughout the lifespan with a focus on conception through childhood. Topics include developmental stages and influences on physical, intellectual, social and emotional growth.

District Common Semester Final

Culinary Arts I (Level 1)

Course #10313-10314

Course Fee: \$60

Prerequisite:None
1 Year = 1 credit

This course provides students with an introduction to the principles and techniques of commercial food production. The classroom is patterned after industry with emphasis on the standards of food service occupations. 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.

District Common Semester Final

Automotive Technology I (Level 1)

Course #10713-10714

Course Fee: \$40

1 Year = 1 credit

This course will introduce students to the operational and scientific nature of the automotive component systems including fuel, intake, exhaust, ignition, lubrication, braking, cooling, and suspension systems. Practical application of safe work habits and the correct use of tools and precision test instruments will be emphasized throughout the course.

District Common Semester Final

Manufacturing Technology I (Level 1)

Course #10913-10914

Course Fee: \$40

1 Year = 1 credit

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of manufacturing technologies. Areas of emphasis include lab safety, print reading, measuring techniques, power systems, basic mechanical systems, and basic electricity. Students will gain experience in technical processes associated with metal, wood, and composites.

District Common Semester Final

Military Science I

Course #10413-10414

1 Year = 1 credit
Level 1

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.



Military Science, formerly JROTC, is a co-curricular class. You will be expected to attend parades, marches, and other events outside of the school day.

WORLD LANGUAGES

World Language Level 1-2 Courses

French 1-2 – Course #4551-4552
Spanish 1-2 – Course #4611-4612
German 1-2 – Course #4681-4682

Full Year = 1 credit

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

French 3-4 – Course #4553-4554
Spanish 3-4 – Course #4613-4614
German 3-4 – Course # 4683-4684

Full Year = 1 credit

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 3-4

Course #4653-4654

Prerequisite: Native/heritage Spanish.

Full Year = 1 credit

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.