



KANSAS



**2023-24**  
**High School Course Planning Guide**

**A USD 497 Lawrence Public School District School**



This book describes courses of study and enrollment procedures for students in grades 9-12. The purpose is to assist students and their parents/guardians in planning a high school program and choosing specific courses.

Please use this book as a resource for enrollment and keep it for future reference. The administrative personnel are happy to assist in interpreting the provisions set forth and in suggesting how individual needs and interests can be accommodated. If assistance is needed, please contact school counselors Lisa Lyke, Mickey Overton, or the school office.

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## Enrollment

Enrollment for a new school year is an exciting and important time for students and their families. This handbook describes courses and enrollment procedures for students in grades 9-12. Its purpose is to assist students and their parents/guardians in choosing specific courses. The procedures outlined below are designed to ensure successful completion of the enrollment process.

## Enrollment Guidelines

### Freshmen

- Must enroll in seven classes per semester; one of those must be grade-level advisory
- Must enroll in English 9
- Must enroll in a Mathematics course
- Must enroll in Physical Science or Biology
- Must enroll in PE and health / HOPE
- Must enroll in two semesters of fine art
- Must enroll in Critical Thinking and Study Skills
- Must enroll in one semester elective

### Sophomores

- Must enroll in seven classes per semester; one of those must be grade-level advisory
- Must enroll in English 10
- Must enroll in a Mathematics course
- Must enroll in a Science course
- Must enroll in World History
- Must enroll in four semesters of electives

### Juniors

- Must enroll in seven classes per semester; one of those must be grade-level advisory
- Must enroll in American Lit. or at least one semester of American Lit. and an English elective
- Must enroll in a Mathematics course
- Must enroll in a Science course
- Must enroll in US History
- Must enroll in four semesters of electives

### Seniors

- Must enroll in seven classes 1st semester; one of those must be grade-level advisory, and six classes 2nd semester, one of those must be grade level advisory
- Must enroll in a senior level English/LA course
- Must enroll in one semester of US Government
- Must enroll in eight semesters of electives
- Students planning to graduate early must see their counselor for details before enrolling for the senior year



## Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements for USD 497 include 23 credits or Carnegie units earned during the 9th through 12th grades. A half credit is issued for the successful completion of one semester (1/2 school year) of a course. Specific courses may be required within each category.

USD 497 Basic Graduation Requirements	
<b>English/Language Arts:</b> 4 years/4 credits (Mandatory in 9, 10, 11 & 12)	
<b>Grade 9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> English 9
<b>Grade 10</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> English 10
<b>Grade 11</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> American Literature or American Lit. & English elective
<b>Grade 12</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior English (2 semesters or 1 year)
<b>Mathematics:</b> 3 years/3 credits (Mandatory in 9, 10 & 11)	
<b>Grade 9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Geometry, Algebra, Pre-Algebra
<b>Grade 10</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Algebra II, Geometry or Other Math Course
<b>Grade 11</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Analysis, Pre-Calculus or Other Math Course
<b>Science:</b> 3 years/3 credits (Mandatory in 9, 10 & 11)	
<b>Grade 9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Biology or Physical Science
<b>Grade 10</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Biology, Earth Space Science, or Chemistry
<b>Grade 11</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth Space Science, Chemistry, Physics, or science elective
<b>Social Studies:</b> 3 years/3 credits (Mandatory in 10, 11 & 12)	
<b>Grade 10</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> World History (year)
<b>Grade 11</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> US History (year)
<b>Grade 12</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> US Government (sem)
<b>Grade 9—12</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies Elective
<b>P.E. and Health:</b> 1 year/1 credit (Mandatory in 9th)	
<b>Grade 9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Health and PE (year)
<b>Fine Arts:</b> 1 year/1 credit (Mandatory in 9th)	
<b>Grade 9</b>	Art, Digital Photography, Music Appreciation, Fashion & Design

Personal Plan of Study
See pages 7-11 for course descriptions
See pages 12-14 for course descriptions
See pages 15-17 for course descriptions
See pages 18-22 for course descriptions
See page 23 for course description
See pages 24-25 for course descriptions

<b>Electives:</b> 8 credits      See pages 26-33 for course descriptions		
<b>Grade 9</b> - Critical Thinking and Study Skills - required		
<b>Grades 9-12</b> - Grade-level advisory - required		



## Qualified Admissions

The six state universities in Kansas--Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, The University of Kansas, and Wichita State University--use the standards below, set by the Kansas Board of Regents, to review applicants for undergraduate admission.

### ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL

Freshman applicants, under the age of 21, who graduate from an accredited high school, will be guaranteed admission to six state universities by meeting the Qualified Admissions requirements designated by each university, as follows:

#### ESU, PSU, FHSU, & WSU:

- Cumulative High School GPA 2.25+ or ACT 21+ (SAT 1060)

#### K-State:

- Cumulative High School GPA 3.25+ or ACT 21 (SAT 1060)\*

#### KU:

- Cumulative High School GPA 3.25  
OR Cumulative GPA 2.0+ and ACT 21+ (SAT 1060)\*

**KANSAS SCHOLARS CURRICULUM IS RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED:** To best prepare for the rigor of college level courses, following Kansas Scholars curriculum is recommended.

**One unit is equivalent to one year, or two semesters:**



**English**  
4 units



**Math**  
4 units  
1 unit of each:  
Algebra I, Geometry,  
Algebra II  
1 unit: Advanced Math  
See [KS Scholars page](#)  
for Math course list



**Social Science**  
3 units  
1 unit of U.S History  
.5 unit of U.S. Gov  
.5 unit of World History  
1 unit: Social Science course  
See [KS Scholars page](#) for  
Social Science course list



**Science**  
3 units  
1 unit of each:  
Biology, Chemistry &  
Physics



**Foreign Language**  
2 units of the same  
language

**KANSAS SCHOLARS PROGRAM:** More information about the Kansas Scholars Scholarship & Curriculum can be found [here](#) (pdf).

### HOMESCHOOL & UNACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL

Freshman applicants, under the age of 21, who are homeschooled or graduate from an unaccredited high school will be guaranteed admission to the six state universities by achieving an ACT score equivalent to those outlined above, per each university. If you enroll in college courses while in high school, it is also required that you achieve a 2.0 GPA or higher in those courses.

***\*If you do not meet the qualified admission requirements, you are still encouraged to apply. Your application will be reviewed individually. Contact the university admissions office for more information.***

# NCAA Freshman Eligibility Standards

### Division I

If you enroll in a Division I college and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete these 16 core courses:
  - ✓ 4 years of English
  - ✓ 3 years of math (Algebra I or higher)
  - ✓ 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
  - ✓ 1 extra year of English, math, or natural or physical science
  - ✓ 2 years of social science
  - ✓ 4 years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy);
- Of the above 16 core courses, ten (10) of the 16 core courses must be COMPLETE before the 7th semester (senior year) of high school. \*\*\*Seven (7) of the 10 core courses must be in English, math, or science;
- Earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA;
- Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

### Division II

If you enroll in a Division II college on or after August 1, 2018, and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete these 16 core courses:
  - ✓ 3 years of English
  - ✓ 2 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
  - ✓ 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
  - ✓ 3 additional years of English, math, or natural or physical science
  - ✓ 2 years of social science
  - ✓ 4 years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, nondocrinal religion or philosophy);
- Earn a minimum of 2.2 core-course GPA;
- Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

### Graduation from High School

You must graduate from high school on schedule (in eight semesters) with your incoming ninth-grade class. If you graduate from high school in eight semesters with your class, you may use **one** core course completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) to meet NCAA Division I eligibility requirements. You may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated and may initially enroll full time at a collegiate institution at any time after completion of the core course.

### Grade Point Average (GPA)

Only core courses are used in calculating a student's GPA.

**It is the student's responsibility to look at your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses on the NCAA clearinghouse website to make sure the courses being taken have been approved as core courses. The website is [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)**





**English 9 (comprehensive, honors - 1 credit):** English 9 continues to build on the sequential development and integration of communication skills in four major areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will strengthen their skills in reading comprehension, interpretation, analysis, and evaluation through the application of deep reading strategies. Students will read fiction and non-fiction texts including, but not limited to, poetry, short stories, novels, and non-fiction prose. Students' study of fiction and non-fiction texts will focus on a wide variety of literary devices, structural elements, syntax, and word choice. Writing will focus on the effective use of the entire writing process and the use of the editing and revising process to further students' understanding and effective application of varied sentence structures, grammar, mechanics, and strategic use of word choice appropriate to intended tone, audience, and purpose. Students will develop speaking and listening skills through presentations, projects, and discussion boards. Honors students will engage in additional enrichment projects and assignments geared towards advancing skills in reading and writing in preparation for enrollment in future honors and AP classes in high school. **NCAA**

**English 10 (comprehensive, honors —1 credit):** In this course, students build on existing literature and composition skills and move to higher levels of sophistication. Literature: Students read short stories, poetry, drama, and novels, sharpening their reading comprehension skills and analyzing important themes. In composition lessons, students analyze model essays from readers' and writers' perspectives, focusing on ideas and content, structure and organization, style, word choice, and tone. The honors section moves students to higher levels of writing/comprehension sophistication. Students work on independent projects that enhance their skills and challenge them to consider complex ideas and apply the knowledge they have learned. All students receive feedback during the writing process to help them work toward a polished final draft. In addition to writing formal essays, students write and deliver a persuasive speech. Students expand their knowledge of grammar, usage, and mechanics through sentence analysis and structure, syntax, agreement, and conventions. Students strengthen their vocabularies through thematic units focused on word roots, suffixes and prefixes, context clues, and other important vocabulary-building strategies. **NCAA**



**American Literature (comprehensive, honors—1 credit):** American Literature is a course designed to acquaint the student with America's literary periods from Colonial to contemporary times including poetry, short stories, novels and non-fiction. These literary works provide opportunities for critical writing, creative projects, and on-line discussions. Students gain an appreciation of American literature and the ways it reflects the times in which it was written. They discover how people thought and lived and wrote about their experiences. Students are also asked to observe, investigate, and report on stories of today. The goal is for students to be thorough, accurate, and compelling in their writing. **Grade 11. NCAA**

**Junior/Senior Composition and Communication (1 credit):**

The purpose of this course is to emphasize writing and communication for college and career ready students; they will write, explore, research, create, and present about topics and interests beyond high school. Students will engage in reading, writing, research, and discussion regularly as they prepare for life transitions after high school: financial literacy and independence, college enrollment and career development, storytelling, rhetoric, and media literacy, community partnerships, and community activism and problem-solving. **Grades 11-12. NCAA**

**21st Century Literature (.5 credit):** Through inquiry and discussion, this course will attempt to ground students in an understanding of societal conditions and structures while developing background information illuminating the reasons we have arrived at our current state. Students will examine societal values and how these contribute to power and powerlessness and how a character's morality contributes to the necessary resolution of conflict. The course will also explore how systemic and structural power determine which virtues will be prioritized in a society or community. Through reading, discussion, writing, and projects, students will investigate the role of emotion, imagination, and creativity in the expression of story-telling through multiple voices (poetry and fiction, but which could also include the oral tradition, art, and/or music) and seek to understand the stories of marginalized peoples and cultural traditions in preserving community and self. **Grades 11-12. Offered 1st semester only. NCAA**





**Science Fiction & Fantasy (.5 credit):** Students will explore the cyclical impact that literature and reality have on one another, analyzing the beliefs and morals that the authors of science fiction and fantasy address and how they contribute to their creative processing. Students will engage with both science fiction and fantasy short stories and novels while researching the author's purpose through non-fiction, informational resources. Students will explore how science fiction and fantasy relate to the real world and how literature can challenge the status quo of society. Scientific and technological advancements are examined to see the ways in which they can both benefit and harm humanity, how they challenge the status quo, while questioning whether they may have ethical or moral implications. Reading, writing, and research focus on the technological, social, philosophical, and historical developments which affect the condition of humanity and the future of the world. **Grades 11-12. Offered 2nd semester only. NCAA**

**Creative Writing (elective—1 credit):** Through creative writing, we can come to understand ourselves and our world a little bit better. This course provides students with a solid grounding in the writing process, from finding inspiration to building a basic story to using complicated literary techniques and creating strange hybrid forms of poetic prose and prose poetry. By the end of this course, students will learn how to discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into fully realized pieces of creative writing. In addition, students will take a genealogical journey that will culminate in the creation of a poetic tribute to their family history, utilizing one of the many poetic mediums they will learn about during the course. **Grades 10-12. Note to Sophomores: You may select Creative Writing; however, it will count as an elective credit, not an English credit. It cannot override the required grade-level English course. Note to Juniors: You must take at least ONE semester of American Lit. NCAA**



**EN105 Language and Composition: English Comp. I (.5 credit - Baker University course - fee based, \$300+):** This 3-credit hour course provides an introduction to college-level writing and covers the basics of composition including (1) types of essays, (2) how to analyze essay writing, and (3) how to pre-write and edit essays. The course also includes a description and understanding of rhetoric, argumentation, persuasion, and rhetorical situation as it applies to past and current writing. **Grade 11-12. Offered both semesters. This is an asynchronous course.**

**EN106 Research and Composition: English Comp. II (.5 credit - Baker University course - fee based, \$300+)** Research and Composition, a 3-credit hour course, is the second in a series of two courses designed for a first-year college-level English writing program. Its purpose is to further develop students' abilities to read and think critically by analyzing texts and evaluating sources, to research and evaluate evidence competently, to develop logical reasoning and persuasive argument skills, and to communicate ideas in appropriate written media and styles. It introduces students to academic writing, basic research, and the art of argumentation, as well as reinforcing concepts introduced in previous composition courses. **Grade 11-12. Offered both semesters. This is an asynchronous course.**

**CO115 Introduction to Communication Studies (.5 credit - Baker University course - fee based, \$300+):** This 3-credit hour course is a study of basic communication theory and history. It focuses specifically on the relevance of communication study today and how different situations and technologies demand the evaluation and application of appropriate communication techniques. Students in the course will apply communication studies to developing applications of communication including business presentations, public speaking, organizational communication, and small group communication. Students will be required to record themselves giving speeches. Some speeches require the student to present in front of no fewer than seven people, either in person or virtually. Failure to complete these assignments will result in an automatic failure of the course. If needed, contact support for assistance in completing this requirement. **Grades 11-12. Note to Juniors: You must take at least ONE semester of American Lit. Offered both semesters. This is an asynchronous course.**



**English Foundations I (1 credit):** Students build and reinforce foundational reading, writing, and basic academic skills needed for success in high school. Instruction will focus on students' reading, writing, research, oral communication, and 21st Century skills. By focusing on these areas, students will become better equipped with the skills, knowledge, and understanding necessary to achieve success in academia, the workplace, and everyday life. Readings include short fiction, articles, essays, selected poetry, and a modern novel. If needed, students can continue their remediation of reading and writing skills with English Foundations II. **This course is designed for the student with an IEP; recommendation required.**

**English Foundations II (1 credit):** This is a continuation of English Foundations I. Instruction will focus on students' reading, writing, research, oral communication, and 21st Century skills. By focusing on these areas, students will become better equipped with the skills, knowledge, and understanding necessary to achieve success in academia, the workplace, and everyday life. Readings include short fiction, articles, essays, selected poetry, and a modern novel. **This course is designed for the student with an IEP; recommendation required.**

**Communication Skills (1 credit):** Communications Skills is designed for students who have identified deficiencies in reading and writing with a focus on reinforcing skills in reading, academic writing, technical career-based writing, oral communication, and goal-setting skills necessary to achieve success in academia, the workplace, and everyday life. **Recommendation required.**

**English - Individual Goals (1 credit):** The objectives of this course are to teach skills in vocabulary, spelling, reading, writing, and speaking. Students will learn to apply reading, writing and speaking skills successfully while participating in selected classes, employment, family living and social situations. Classroom instruction focuses on learning strategies and application of skills to "real-life" situations. **Prerequisite: Recommendation required; Alternative program (requires IEP)**



**Pre-Algebra (1 credit):** Students in Pre-Algebra will further their ability to write, solve, and apply multi-step algebraic equations and inequalities to solve problems. They will work with rational numbers, variables, positive and negative exponents within the equations. This course will guide them to prepare them for the Algebra I course. **Grade 9.**

**Algebra I (1 credit):** Students develop algebraic fluency by learning the skills needed to manipulate and solve equations and inequalities involving variables, rational and irrational numbers. Specific topics include writing expressions and equations, linear functions, exponential functions, quadratic functions, polynomials, factoring, statistics, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities. **Grades 9-10. NCAA**

**Geometry (comprehensive, honors – 1 credit):** Geometry builds on the geometry covered in middle school to explore more complex geometric situations and deepen students' ability to explain geometric relationships, moving toward formal mathematical arguments. Specific topics include constructions, proofs, transformations, similarity and congruence, coordinate geometry, circles, right triangle trigonometry, three-dimensional figures, and geometric modeling. **Grades 9-11. NCAA**

**Honors Geometry** is also offered with a more rigorous pace, challenging concepts and additional projects. **Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I with a C or higher.**

**Algebra II (comprehensive, honors 1 credit):** This course builds upon algebraic concepts covered in Algebra I and prepares students for advanced-level courses. Students extend their knowledge and understanding by solving open-ended problems and thinking critically. **Grades 10-12. NCAA**

**Honors Algebra II** is also offered with a more rigorous pace, challenging concepts and additional projects. **Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry with a C or higher.**

**Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry (1 credit):** Students, as mathematical analysts, investigate how advanced mathematics concepts are used to solve problems encountered in operating national parks. As students venture from algebra to trigonometry, they analyze and articulate the real-world application of these concepts. The purpose of this course is to study functions and develop skills necessary for the study of calculus. This course includes algebra, analytical geometry, and trigonometry. **Grades 11-12. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II with a letter grade of C or higher. NCAA**



**MA145 College Algebra (.5 credit - Baker University course - fee based, \$300+):** This 3-credit hour course provides a comprehensive introduction to the foundations of mathematics typically taught in a traditional college algebra course. This core course develops problem-solving strategies and establishes a firm foundation for higher levels of mathematics. Students will gain practical knowledge by solving and applying equations to real-life situations. They will explore a variety of functions and understand how they are used to model complex phenomena (e.g. polynomial, quadratic, rational, exponential, and logarithmic). Data and trends will be summarized and visualized by creating and implementing graphs. Finally, students will feel empowered with the skills to succeed in math, science, business, and programming. **Grades 11-12. Offered both semesters. This is an asynchronous course.**

**Consumer Math (1 credit):** In Consumer Math, students study and review arithmetic skills they can apply in their personal lives and in their future careers. Students will learn about earning, saving and spending money. Specific topics include taxes, insurance, income, credit, credit cards, banking, unit rates, area and volume formulas to determine costs of materials, renting an apartment, buying a car, mortgage payments, shopping, travel and budgeting. **Grades 11-12.**



**Math Foundations I (1 credit):** Students build and reinforce foundational math skills typically found in third through fifth grade for which they have not achieved mastery. They progress through carefully paced, guided instruction and engaging interactive practice. Formative assessments identify areas of weakness and prescribe lessons to improve performance. Summative assessments track progress and skill development. If needed, students can move on to Math Foundations II (addressing skills typically found in sixth through eighth grade) to further develop the computational skills and conceptual understanding needed to undertake high school math courses with confidence. **This course is designed for the student with an IEP. Recommendation required.**

**Math Foundations II (1 credit):** Students build and reinforce foundational math skills typically found in sixth through eighth grade, achieving the computational skills and conceptual understanding needed to undertake high school math courses with confidence. Carefully paced, guided instruction is accompanied by interactive practice that is engaging and accessible. Formative assessments identify areas of weakness and prescribe lessons to improve performance. Summative assessments track progress and skill development. **This course is designed for the student with an IEP. Recommendation required.**

**Math Foundations III (1 credit):** Students in this course will strengthen their skills in solving equations and applying those concepts in problem solving. They will do operations with rational numbers and variables, and learn how to translate between word phrases and mathematical expressions. **This course is designed for the student with an IEP. Recommendation required.**

**Math - Individual Goals (1 credit):** The purpose of this course is to teach students basic mathematics, as well as the skills for applying what is learned to everyday life situations. Students will learn to use a calculator to perform basic computations, count money, tell time, and use mathematics processes in a functional way. Classroom instruction focuses on learning strategies and application of skills to "real-life" situations. **Prerequisite: Recommendation required; Alternative program (requires IEP)**





**Physical Science (comprehensive – 1 credit):** This course is an interactive, 21st century course focusing on basic physics and chemistry. Topics include forces and motion, energy through waves, electricity and magnetism, the matter around us, chemical bonding and reactions. It teaches the foundational concepts of physics and chemistry. Using scientific inquiry, interactive experiences, higher order thinking, collaborative projects, and real world application, students will demonstrate an understanding of the physical and chemical properties around them, enabling them to apply these properties to their everyday lives. **Grades 9-11. NCAA**

**Biology (comprehensive, honors – 1 credit):** This course guides students through the study of living and non-living systems and how they interact with one another. Students explore the world they live in by posing questions and seeking answers through scientific inquiry. Discovery takes place through observation and data collection. Students will be introduced to the structure, function, diversity, and evolution of living matter. This is a course with real relevance. It encourages curiosity and provides opportunity for students to work on hands on lab activities and develop relationships through collaboratively learning. Engaging in the study of biological science broadens the picture of the world around us. Honors Biology offers students extended learning through additional projects and assignments. **Grades 9-11. NCAA**

**Environmental Science (comprehensive, honors – 1 credit):**

Environmental Science discusses the environmental challenges that impact our future, such as land use, pollution, climate change, and loss of biodiversity. This course is centered around achieving global sustainability to meet the needs of a growing human population, while also maintaining natural resources and protecting Earth's various systems. The short- and long-term consequences of our actions to human health and the environment are also a course focus. With the collaboration of the Guy Harvey Foundation and additional professional partners, this course highlights the research and field experiences of professors, scientists, conservationists, lawyers, and more, while sharing practical and sensible strategies for preserving the delicate balance between land, ocean, air, and life. In addition, this course creates a call to action for students by teaching them how to protect the world's biodiversity and resources by adjusting the way they live, work, play, and govern in the future. **Grades 10-12. NCAA**



**Chemistry (comprehensive, honors — 1 credit):** The high school chemistry course is a two-segment study of the foundations of chemistry, building on the concepts and scientific thinking laid in middle school science. Students use scientific inquiry and higher-order problem solving as they explore the composition, properties, and changes of matter and their applications through interactive simulations, engineering solutions, and virtual and hands-on experiences. Scientific inquiry, research, experimental procedures, data collection and analysis, and making inferences are an integral part of the learning experience. In addition, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts are integrated throughout the course. Through phenomenon-based learning, students will be able to demonstrate a vast understanding of the importance of chemistry in the world, enabling them to apply these principles to their everyday lives and our global society. **Grades 10-12.**

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra I with a letter grade of C or higher. NCAA

**Physics (comprehensive, honors — 1 credit):** In each module of Physics I, students discover the contributions of scientific geniuses like Galileo, Newton, and Einstein. Through their work, students learn the concepts, theories, and laws that govern the interaction of matter, energy, and forces. From tiny atoms to galaxies with millions of stars, the universal laws of physics are explained through real-world examples. Using laboratory activities, simulations, images, and interactive elements, students follow in the footsteps of some of the world's greatest thinkers. **Grades 11-12. Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra II with a letter grade of B or higher. NCAA

### **BI151 Molecular & Cellular Biology and Lab (.5 credit - Baker**

**University course - fee based, \$300+):** This 4-credit hour course provides a comprehensive introduction to the major concepts of biological sciences and the characteristics of life. It is designed to engage students in understanding the major processes of cells including cell structure, growth, and reproduction. The course provides the student with an in-depth understanding of genetics and heredity, as well as the roles they play in the overall function and continued growth of a population. Other topics include ecology and biodiversity.

The lab component of the course provides a comprehensive introduction to the laboratory study of life. In this class, students will learn about lab safety and explore topics like the metric system using the microscope and the scientific method. Students will learn how cells grow and divide, obtain and use energy, and pass genetic information to the next generation. Finally, students will learn the importance of biodiversity in ensuring the survival of a species. Students will complete 10 mastery assignment with lab activities, including formal lab reports. **Grades 11-12. Offered both semesters. This is an asynchronous course.**



LAWRENCE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

**Forensic Science I (science elective —.5 credit):** Fingerprints. Blood spatter. DNA analysis. The world of law enforcement is increasingly making use of the techniques and knowledge from the sciences to better understand the crimes that are committed and to catch those individuals responsible for the crimes. Forensic science applies scientific knowledge to the criminal justice system. This course focuses on some of the techniques and practices used by forensic scientists during a crime scene investigation (CSI). Starting with how clues and data are recorded and preserved, the student will follow evidence trails until the CSI goes to trial, examining how various elements of the crime scene are analyzed and processed. **Grades 10-12. NCAA**

**Forensic Science II (science elective—.5 credit):** Although the crime scene represents the first step in solving crimes through forensic science, the crime laboratory plays a critical role in the analysis of evidence. This course focuses on the analysis of evidence and testing that takes place within this setting. We will examine some of the basic scientific principles and knowledge that guides forensic laboratory processes, such as those testing DNA, toxicology, and material analysis. Techniques such as microscopy, chromatography, ontology, entomology, mineralogy, and spectroscopy will be examined. **Grades 10-12. NCAA**

**Science - Individual Goals (1 credit):** The purpose of this course is to provide science instruction tailored to students' needs. Instruction will be designed in accordance with each student's learning method, rate, level and style. Through an independent study format, students will learn to relate science concepts to daily living. Classroom instruction focuses on learning strategies and application of skills to "real-life" situations. **Prerequisite:** Recommendation required; Alternative program (requires IEP)



**World History (comprehensive, honors – 1 credit):** In this two-semester course students explore the past and make connections with the present. During the first semester students will learn how the Roman Empire developed in two very distinct directions. Next, students will discover the great intellectual and cultural contributions of Islamic Empires. Journey through the Middle Ages of Europe and Japan to learn how knights and samurais lived. Students will also investigate the rise and fall of some of the great kingdoms of the Americas and Africa and then travel back to the Europe of the Renaissance and Reformation era. Second semester begins with a bang as students will learn about advancements in science and thought during the Age of Enlightenment and the social and political revolutions that followed as a result. As students meander through the 19th century, they will learn about the transformation from an agricultural to an industrial world and the many changes that resulted from that shift. Students will then learn about the interconnectedness of nationalism and colonialism and the two massive world wars were the end result. As students approach the finish line, they will learn about development in our modern world and the implications that historical events have on us today. **Grade 10. NCAA**

**US History (comprehensive, honors – 1 credit):** The United States began as an experiment in freedom and democracy. Since its establishment, the country and its people have endured social, political and economic revolutions. In this course, students will investigate the people, events and ideas that have shaped the United States from the end of the Civil War through today. Students are asked to analyze and evaluate decisions made by political, business and military leaders. Emphasis is placed on connections between events of the past and present. This course also gives students the opportunity to conduct research and apply their learning to current, real-world problems. **Grades 11-12. NCAA**

**HI127 US History to 1877 (.5 credit - Baker University course - fee based, \$300+):** This is a concurrent 3-credit hour course for students wishing to earn college credit while attending high school. U.S. History to 1877 covers history through 1877, taking students from pre-Columbian events through the Civil War and Reconstruction. The course introduces students to the major themes that have defined the United States as a nation and culture while showing students how these times remain relevant in their everyday lives. **Grades 11-12. Offered 1st semester only. This is an asynchronous course.**



**HI128 US History since 1877 (.5 credit - Baker University course - fee based, \$300+):** This 3-credit hour course provides a comprehensive presentation of the significant social, political, and economic developments from 1877 to the present. The course is designed to engage students in understanding how shifts in culture, private initiative, public policy, and technology have shaped American history. Critical reading, analysis, and writing will be emphasized as core elements of enhancing lesson understanding. **Grades 11-12. Offered 2nd semester only. This is an asynchronous course.**

**History of the Holocaust (elective—.5 credit):** “Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed.” Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, wrote these words about his experiences in a Nazi concentration camp. History of the Holocaust will take you through the harrowing details of anti-Semitism, the power of the Nazi party, the persecution of European Jews and other groups, and the tremendous aftermath for everyone involved in World War II. You’ll explore the causes of the Holocaust, the experiences of Jews and other individuals during this time, and what has been done to combat genocide since WWII. “For the dead and the living, we must bear witness.” **Grades 10-12. Offered 1st semester only.**

**Native American History (elective—.5 credit):** This one-semester course provides an overview of indigenous American history, culture, tribal law, government, and sovereignty. The course will focus on both traditional and contemporary cultures with an emphasis on current issues and court cases. **Grades 10-12. Offered 1st semester only.**

**Human Geography (elective—.5 credit):** Modern humans have been roaming the earth for about 200,000 years. How do the places we live influence the way we live? How do geography, weather, and location relate to our customs and lifestyles? In Human Geography: Our Global Identity, you will explore the diverse ways that different people have physically influenced the world around them and how they, in turn, are changed by their surroundings. Discover how beliefs and ideas spread through time, shaping and changing the cultures they encounter. In this course, you’ll gain tremendous insight into human geography and begin to better understand the important relationship between humans and their environments. **Grades 9-12. Offered 2nd semester only. NCAA**



## **Sociology I: The Study of Human Relationships (elective—.5**

**credit):** Human beings are complex creatures; however, when they interact and begin to form relationships and societies, things become even more complicated. Are we more likely to act differently in a group than we will when we're alone? How do we learn how to be "human"? Sometimes it can feel as if there are more questions than answers. Sociology I: The Study of Human Relationships seeks to answer these questions and many more as it explores culture, group behavior, and societal institutions and how they affect human behavior. You'll learn how social beliefs form and how this shapes our lives. How does this happen? Join us and find out! **Grades 10-12. Offered 2nd semester only. NCAA**

## **PY111 General Psychology (elective— .5 credit, Baker University**

**course - fee based, \$300+):** This 3-credit hour course is designed to serve as an introductory course to the basic concepts in psychology that analyze human behavior. Students will first delve into the fundamentals including history, science, approaches, and research in psychology. Next, students will get an introduction to biology as it relates to human psychology, including genetics, the nervous system, sensation and perception, and developmental psychology. This course is also designed to give students an understanding of the psychology behind cognition, memory, learning, and motivation, as well as social psychology. Students will examine the psychological effects that impact everyday life, such as consciousness and sleep, stress and health, personality, psychological disorders, and therapy and treatment. **Grades 11-12. Offered both semesters. This is an asynchronous course.**





LAWRENCE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

## **U.S. Government and Politics (comprehensive, honors – .5**

**credit):** Responsible citizenship, including civil and political participation is essential to maintain a representative government that truly represents the people of the United States. In this course, students learn about the structure of government and how it shares power at the local, state and federal levels. This course also explores founding principles that inspired the Constitution and Bill of Rights, preserving the freedoms that students experience daily. Students will examine the processes of each branch of government, the election process, and how citizens can impact public policy. The media, interest groups and influential citizens provide examples of how the government can be effected by informed and active participants. Students will examine the U.S. Court system, and become a part of the process by participating in the judicial decision making process. They will also discover ways the United States interacts with countries around the world, through domestic policy, foreign policy and human rights policy. Students will also participate in a community service project of their choice and will share their experiences with their peers. Completion of this course will allow students to act as informed citizens who are ready to participate in the American democracy. **Grade 12. Offered both semesters. NCAA**

**Social Studies - Individual Goals (1 credit):** The purpose of this course is to provide social studies instruction tailored to students' individual needs. Instruction will be designed in accordance with each student's learning method, rate, level, and style. Through an independent study format, students will learn to relate social studies concepts to daily living. Classroom instruction focuses on learning strategies and application of skills to "real-life" situations. **Prerequisite: Recommendation required; Alternative program (requires IEP)**



**Integrated Health and PE (HOPE –1 credit):** With a focus on health and fitness, this course guides student to be active and healthy now and for a lifetime. Effective strategies and techniques are a foundation of the course so that students can continually make improvements in all areas of wellness. Students, with the guidance of a training instructor, set personal goals in four areas of wellness: physical, emotional, social, and academic. Fitness assessments enable students to establish baseline levels of fitness and work toward improvement in specific areas. At the end of each module, students submit a wellness plan documenting their daily physical activity, progress toward goals, changes in fitness assessment results, and reflections on personal progress. By following individualized training principles, students can achieve personal success and gain confidence, while they develop healthy lifetime habits. The course uses videos, graphics, and interactive learning opportunities to encourage students to eat well, get up, and be active. Leading a healthy lifestyle is the best way to prevent health problems before they occur, and this course helps students do just that. And now is the best time to get started.



**Art in World Culture: Pre-historical to Middle Ages (.5 credit):** In this course, you will learn about some of the greatest artists while also creating art of your own. We will explore the basic principles and elements of art, learn how to critique art, and examine Prehistoric Art and Ancient Egyptian, Assyrian, Greek and Roman Art and Architecture in addition to the development of Western art up through the Middle Ages. (Early Roman, Early Christian, Viking, Celtic, and Gothic Art and Architecture) **Offered 1st semester only.**

**Art in World Culture: Renaissance to Modern (.5 credit):** In this course, you will learn about some of the greatest artists while also creating art of your own. We will explore the basic principles and elements of art, learn how to critique art, and examine some of the traditional art of the Americas, Africa, and Oceania in addition to the development of Western art from the Renaissance to Modern times. **Offered 2nd semester only.**

**Digital Photography I: Creating Images with Impact (.5 credit):** Have you ever wondered how photographers take such great pictures? Have you tried to take photographs and wondered why they didn't seem to capture that moment that you saw with your eyes? The Digital Photography I course focuses on the basics of photography, including building an understanding of aperture, shutter speed, lighting, and composition. Students will be introduced to the history of photography and basic camera functions. Students will use the basic techniques of composition and camera functions to build a portfolio of images, capturing people, landscapes, close-up, and action photographs. **Offered 1st semester only.**

**Digital Photography II: Discovering Your Creative Potential (.5 credit):** In today's world, we are surrounded by images. We are continually seeing photographs as they appear in advertisements, on websites, in magazines, and on billboards; they even adorn our walls at home. While many of these images have been created by professional photographers, it is possible for your photos to take on a more professional look after you discover how to increase your creative potential. In Digital Photography II, you will examine various aspects of the field including specialty areas, ethics, and famous photographers throughout history. You will also learn how to effectively critique photographs so you can better understand composition and go on to create more eye-catching photographs on your own. **Prerequisite: Successful completion Digital Photo I. Offered 2nd semester only.**



**Music Appreciation: The Enjoyment of Listening (.5 credit):** Have you ever heard a piece of music that made you want to get up and dance? Cry your heart out? Sing at the top of your lungs? Whether pop, classical, or anything in between, music provides a powerful way for people to celebrate their humanity and connect with something larger than themselves. Music Appreciation: The Enjoyment of Listening not only will provide a historical perspective on music from the Middle Ages to the 21st century, but it will also teach you the essentials of how to listen and really hear (with a knowledgeable ear) the different music that's all around you. Learning how to truly appreciate sound and melody is the best way to ensure a continued love of this delightful art form. No previous music experience is needed to take this course. **Offered 1st semester only.**

**Fashion and Design (.5 credit):** Do you have a flair for fashion? Are you constantly redecorating your room? If so, the design industry might just be for you! In this course, you'll explore what it is like to work in the industry by exploring career possibilities and the background that you need to pursue them. Get ready to try your hand at designing as you learn the basics of color and design then test your skills through hands-on projects. In addition, you'll develop the essential communication skills that build success in any business. By the end of the course, you'll be well on your way to developing the portfolio you need to get your stylishly clad foot in the door of this exciting field. No sewing machine is required for this course. **Offered 2nd semester only.**



**Culinary Arts I: Introduction (.5 credit):** Food is all around us—we are dependent on it and we enjoy it. This course will give you the basic fundamentals to start working in the kitchen and gaining experience as you explore and establish your talents for cooking and preparing food in a creative and safe way. You will learn safety measures as well as enhance your knowledge of various types of foods and spices. If you enjoy hands-on learning and want to deepen your knowledge about culinary arts, this is a great course to start. *Students will be cooking throughout the semester but will be student choice to fit their individual needs.* Offered 1st semester only.

**Culinary Art II: Baking Pastry and More (.5 credit):** Whether you aspire to be a world-class chef or just want to learn the skills needed to create your own dishes, Culinary Arts 2 will help you build a strong foundation and grow your knowledge of this exciting industry. In this course, you will explore baking and desserts, learn how to prepare proteins, and study nutrition and safety in the kitchen. You will also enhance your understanding of sustainability in the food industry, learn to prepare meals from a global perspective, and dissect the business of cooking, from managing a kitchen to successfully running a catering company. Discover the delights that await you on this delicious culinary adventure! *Students will be cooking throughout the semester but will be student choice to fit their individual needs.* Prerequisite: Culinary Arts I. Offered 2nd semester only.

**Hospitality and Tourism: Traveling the Globe (.5 credit):** Think about the best travel location you've ever heard about. Now imagine working there. In the 21st century, travel is more exciting than ever, with people traversing the globe in growing numbers. Hospitality and Tourism will introduce you to a thriving industry that caters to the needs of travelers through managing hotels, restaurants, cruise ships, resorts, theme parks, and any other kind of hospitality you can imagine. Operating busy tourist locations, creating marketing around the world of leisure and travel, spotting trends, and planning tasteful events are just a few of the key aspects you will explore in this course as you locate your own career niche in this exciting field. Offered 1st semester only.



**Nutrition and Wellness (.5 credit):** Have you ever heard the phrase “your body is your temple” and wondered what it means? Keeping our physical body healthy and happy is just one of the many challenges we face, and yet, many of us don’t know how to best achieve it. Positive decisions around diet and food preparation are key to this process, and you will find the essential skills needed to pursue a healthy, informed lifestyle in this class. Making sure you know how to locate, buy, and prepare fresh delicious food will make you, and your body, feel amazing. Impressing your friends and family as you nourish them with your knowledge? That feels even better! *Students will be cooking throughout the semester but will be student choice to fit their individual needs.* **Offered 2nd semester only.**

**Early Childhood Education (.5 credit):** As children, we see the world differently than we do as teenagers and adults. It is a world full of magical creatures and strange, exciting things. But what makes childhood such a wondrous time of learning and exploration? What can caregivers do to encourage this? In Early Childhood Education, you will learn more about understanding the childhood experience. Learn how to create interesting lessons and stimulating learning environments that provide a safe and encouraging experience for children. Discover how to get children excited about learning and, just as importantly, to feel confident about their abilities. Early childhood teachers have the unique opportunity to help build a strong base for their young students’ life-long education. **Offered 1st semester only.**

**Real World Parenting (.5 credit):** What is the best way to care for children and teach them self-confidence and a sense of responsibility? Parenting involves more than having a child and providing food and shelter. Learn what to prepare for, what to expect, and what vital steps parents can take to create the best environment for their children. Parenting roles and responsibilities, nurturing and protective environments for children, positive parenting strategies, and effective communication in parent/child relationships are some of the topics covered in this course. **Offered 2nd semester only.**





**Personal and Family Finance (.5 credit):** We all know money is important in life. But how important? In fact, the financial decisions you make today may have a lasting effect on your future. Rather than feeling anxious about money feel empowered by learning how to make smart decisions! Personal and Family Finance will begin the conversation around how to spend and save your money wisely, investing in safe opportunities and the days ahead. Learning key financial concepts around taxes, credit, and money management will provide both understanding and confidence as you begin to navigate your own route to future security. Discover how education, career choices, and financial planning can lead you in the right direction to making your life simpler, steadier, and more enjoyable. **Offered 1st semester only.**

**Entrepreneurship 1: Starting Your Business (.5 credit):** What does it really take to own your own business? Does the sound of being your own boss make you feel excited or anxious? Either way, this class will get you started in the right direction. It will explain the ins and outs of such an enterprise, giving you the confidence needed to be your very own boss. You will discover what is needed to operate a personal business from creating a plan, generating financing, and pricing products to marketing services and managing employees. If you've ever dreamed of being a true entrepreneur but feel daunted by the prospect, this is your chance to learn all you need to know. **Offered 2nd semester only.**



**Digital Information Technology (.5 credit):** This introductory course takes a look at topics related to getting a job in the real world. This includes Digital IT Survival Kit, Office on-line basics including Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and ethics in the work place. We will take a look at emerging technologies and project protocols in working with others. We will explore how the Internet works including a dab into HTML and doing research as well as how to go about applying for your first job. Students will gain insight into soft skills needed for the workplace and the importance of these skills. **Offered 1st semester only.**



## **Grade-level Advisory (REQUIRED FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS — .5**

**credit):** This year-long required course engages students in a variety of grade level tasks to prepare students for their future. The skills and knowledge gained will help students determine career pathways through exploration of Xello and other real-time experiences. Students will also learn about "employability" skills, or soft skills, that are critical to success in the workplace. (This is a PASS/NO CREDIT course. In order for students to earn .25 per semester, they must complete and pass ALL assignments in each module.)

## **Critical Thinking and Study Skills (REQUIRED FOR ALL FRESHMEN**

**— .5 credit):** Critical Thinking and Study Skills teaches students how to get better grades and higher test scores, and increase their success in high school. Students who already perform well in school will learn new study skills and testing skills that will help them get even better. Students who struggle in school will learn about Success Mindsets, study skills, and testing skills to help them perform at new levels. This course teaches the ACE test-taking method to increase scores on key tests such as the ACT, SAT, and tests for graduation. **Offered both semesters.**

**Leadership Skills Development (.5 credit):** In this course, students will acquire new power to succeed in high school, college, and life. Students will learn how to take action by pressing their Turbo Button, manage their time by staying in the Lasting Zone, chart their goals by creating a North Star, and many other proven leadership techniques developed by Mawi Learning, a leadership training organization that has worked with more than one million students. Whether students are struggling or already at the top of their game, Leadership Skills Development will give them new power to create the life of their dreams. **Offered 2nd semester only.**

**College and Career Readiness (.5 credit):** Do you ever wonder what you will do after high school? This course will show you the educational and career opportunities available to you. You will learn how to get accepted to and pay for college, how to find a job, and how to plan for a successful future. Throughout the course, you will be coached by Mawi Asgedom, a Harvard graduate who was the first in his family to attend college, and is now a student leadership expert who has trained over 1,000,000 students. **Offered 2nd semester only.**



**Spanish I (1 credit):** Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Spanish language and the richness of its diverse cultures. In the Spanish I course, you will learn basic grammar and vocabulary skills to help build your fluency and language proficiency. You will explore the culture of Spanish-speaking countries through engaging interactive games, videos, and audio recordings and apply what you learn through written practice, listening, and speaking exercises. **No mid-semester or mid-year enrollment allowed. NCAA**

**Spanish II (1 credit):** Get ready to embark on the next leg of your journey to Spanish fluency. In the Spanish 2 course, you will continue building your listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as increasing your cultural awareness of Spanish-speaking countries through audio recordings, engaging images, interactive games, readings, and videos. Apply what you learn through written practices and listening and speaking exercises. Take your Spanish language skills to the next level! **Prerequisite: Spanish I, C average or higher. No mid-semester or mid-year enrollment allowed. NCAA**

