

Arlington High School
Program of Studies 2020-2021
Updates and New Courses

Policy and General Information Updates

- Changed all references to the Guidance office to the School Counseling office.
- Gender-specific pronouns such he/she and his/her were changed to nongender specific pronouns (they and theirs) when applicable.
- Changed the Physical Education Department to the Wellness Department: to reflect their more well-rounded curriculum developing all parts of the student, not just the physical. (see below for detailed comparison)
- The passage on MCAS competency determination as been updated to reflect the transition to the next-generation MCAS exam and the new scoring guide for the class of 2021

Courses

<u>New Courses</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Grade(s)</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Gender & Society	Social Studies	Heterogenous	11 & 12	2.5 credits
AM Personal Fitness	Wellness	Heterogenous	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
AM Recreational Sports	Wellness	Heterogenous	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
Drugs and the Body	Wellness	Heterogenous	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
Weather and Climate	Science	Heterogenous	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
Physiology of Exercise & Activity	Science	Heterogenous	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
Philosophy of Science	Science	Heterogenous	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
Introduction to Philosophy	Science	Heterogenous	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
Creative Textile Design	FACS	Heterogenous	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits

***Full Course Descriptions are given below.**

Courses being reactivated or adjusted

Reactivated

MA7420Z Video Game Development	Honors	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
MA7421Z Advanced Robotics	Honors	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
PE1610Z Ninth Grade Wellness	Heterogenous	9	2.5 credits

Name adjustment

Advanced Placement Art and Design	Formerly: Advanced Placement Studio Art
Chorale	Formerly: Freshman Chorus
Chorale (2x week)	Formerly: Freshman Chorus (x2)
Concert Choir	Formerly: Chorus
Concert Choir (2x week)Advanced	Formerly: Chorus (2x week)
Applied and Qualitative Chemistry	Formerly: Concepts in Chemistry

Dormant Courses: courses that will be offered again the following year

MA7424Z Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) with Python	Honors	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
MA7518Z JavaScript and Web Development	Honors	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits
SC7258Z Astronomy	Heterogenous	11 and 12	2.5 credits
SC7277Z Oceanography	Heterogenous	11 and 12	2.5 credits

Courses being removed

SS7805Z Participation in Government:Public Policy Honors	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits	
PA9240Z PEP Band - Curriculum A	9, 10, 11 and 12		5 credits
PA9239Z Rock Band	10, 11 and 12	2.5 credits	

Course Descriptions for New Courses

AM Personal Fitness **Grades 10, 11, 12** **2.5 credits**

This course will meet from 7:25-8:20 am. This course offers instruction and practice in various fitness components such as cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, and flexibility. Activities include strength training, aerobic training, cardiorespiratory fitness, fitness games, yoga, nutrition, injury prevention, and fitness testing. Personal training and fitness plan development are offered in this course.

A.M. Recreational Sports **Grade 10, 11, 12** **2.5 credits**

This course will meet from 7:25-8:20 am. Students in this course will participate in activities that are more individually based such as badminton, table tennis, tennis, etc. and activities that are team-based but recreationally focused. (please note; the course meets during the 1st and 4th Quarter and is offered to Grade 10 and 11 only in Quarter 4).

Drugs and the Body **Grades 10, 11 and 12** **2.5 credits**

This course will dive deeper into the effects of drugs, both legal and illegal, and how they affect the body. The course will build off of the Grade 9 curriculum and offer a more in-depth look at their effects on the human body, behavior, psychology, and experience.

Gender & Society (Semester course) **Grades 11 & 12** **2.5 credits**

This course will examine why gender equality is so important and yet so hard to achieve. The central aim is to foster critical reading and thinking about gender and the ways in which it is shaped by the interlocking systems of racism, sexism, ethnocentrism, heterosexism, ageism, ableism, colonialism and globalization; and how social movements have resisted these inequalities and worked to create new systems of change. We will scrutinize political, social and legal constructions of gender which continue to operate as though gender is binary, and explore a more inclusive approach that reflects a gender continuum within the context of entrenched power structures. Through understanding the construction of gender and its relationship with society, we will look for solutions to eradicate gender discrimination and gender-based violence.

Weather and Climate **Grades 10, 11, 12** **2.5 credits**

With a planet in extreme environmental disruption due to the increasing effects of Global Climate Change, it has never been more important to study the science of weather and climate on planet Earth. This half-year course of introductory meteorology will explore how the orbital mechanics of the Earth alter the way it absorbs energy from the Sun, thereby causing the air and water on the surface of the Earth to cycle and cause the various weather phenomena we experience throughout our lives. In addition to learning about the complex global climate systems that influence our weather, students will learn the basics of observing the environment around them to forecast local weather to come. Students will be expected to collect field samples and measure weather conditions numerous times throughout the course, so prepare to be outside throughout the seasons both in class and for homework.

** Students have the option of earning Honors Credit through more extensive weather sampling and reporting, tests, and projects.*

Physiology of Exercise & Activity **Grades 10, 11, 12** **2.5 credits**

This course examines the physiological effects of exercise and activity with an emphasis on humans. Major topics include energy use & nutrition, the muscular, cardiovascular, and respiratory adaptations across the age span and special environments (high and low altitude, heat and cold). **Must be currently enrolled or have completed**

biology * *Students have the option of earning Honors Credit through more extensive weather sampling and reporting, tests, and projects.*

Philosophy of Science (Spring 2021)

Grades 10, 11, 12

2.5 credits

The good results of science are indisputable. But the sometimes discovery is based on ideas that are found to be a bit off the mark. Newton's Laws were taken to be absolute, then Einstein remade physics from the ground up. Yet still, engineers, architects, athletes, and surveyors all rely on Newton's laws. Science is our major current attempt at a self-correcting body of knowledge, but how does that really work? What must we assume, in order to do science? Is science a handy set of beliefs and processes that tend to give us the results we seek? Or is it a matrix of ideas that directly reflect the world as it is? Can science represent the world with complete accuracy? If not, what does it take for us to consider an idea justified enough to believe it or call it "true"? We will be exploring the development of science in the Western world, mostly in a historical perspective, and try to come to grips with some of these questions. It is fervently to be hoped that this deeper perspective will increase students' appreciation of science, while decreasing the sense of oracular mystery that can surround it. * *Students have the option of earning Honors Credit through more extensive weather sampling and reporting, tests, and projects.*

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2020)

Grades 10, 11, 12

2.5 credits

About 2,500 years ago, a thread of analysis of ordinary experience arose which has continued to this day. My thumbnail definition of philosophy is: The study of those questions that we have to assume we know the answer to just to conduct our daily lives. Examples of such questions include: How do I know when I know something? What kind of society should we build? What makes a society better than another? What obligations do I have to my family, my friends, to strangers, or to the state? Are we able to choose our actions freely, or does everything that happened to us, combined with the laws of physics, close off all decisions I can think of, except one? Does the universe care about us, or are we just kind of here? All these questions have been addressed over the centuries, and we still do not have universal agreement on the answers. We will look into some prominent answers from the past, and wrestle with the questions ourselves. Philosophy is difficult to study because it is a debate, not a single body of agreed-upon answers. It is also difficult to study because we really, really like our own views.* *Students have the option of earning Honors Credit through more extensive weather sampling and reporting, tests, and projects.*

Creative Textile Design- Curriculum A

Grade 10, 11, 12

2.5 credits

Do you enjoy creative, hands-on classes? Want something to add to your fashion portfolio? Do you enjoy exploring color and design to create a custom wardrobe accessory? Then this semester-long class is for you!! We'll be combining technology with traditional methods, such as knitting and weaving, working with a variety of fibers in creating your own fabric. Use the principles of design, color theory, and your newly learned skills to create your own textiles that can be made into something to suit your personalized wardrobe or home accessory.

Policies

Department Title Change:

2019-2020 Physical education department:

The program of Physical Education, Health and Wellness at Arlington High School is a sequence that aligns with many components of the Health Framework of the Massachusetts Department of Education and National Standards. Content is drawn from Physical Health, Social and Emotional Health, Safety and Prevention, and Personal and Community Health Strands of the Framework. All students are scheduled to take Health through their Physical Education classes. A parent may request to have his/her child exempt from classes related to sexuality. Such requests shall be made in writing to the principal.

2020-2021 Wellness department:

The program of Wellness at Arlington High School is a sequence that aligns with many components of the Health Frameworks of the Massachusetts Department of Education and National Standards. Content is drawn from Physical Health, Social and Emotional Health, Safety and Prevention, and Personal and Community Health Strands of the Framework. All students are scheduled to take Health through their Wellness classes. A parent may request to have their child exempt from classes related to sexuality. Such requests shall be made in writing

to the principal.

MCAS Competency Determination

Students must meet or exceed a score of 472 or higher on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in the subject areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students who earn a scaled score between 440 and 469 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics examinations may receive a high school diploma only by demonstrating proficiency in the subject matter through completion of an Education Proficiency Plan (EPP) by continuing additional work in the targeted content area(s) through grade 12.

Students must also meet or exceed a scaled score of 220 on the Science, Technology and Engineering Exam in the one of the tested subject areas: Chemistry, Introductory Physics, Biology, or Technology/Engineering. These are subject to change as the state updates the requirements

MCAS exam	Scaled Scores	Achievement Level	Achievement Levels Legend	Subjects
	440 - 469	NM	Not Meeting Expectations Requires an EPP	
Next Generation	470 - 499	PM	Partially Meeting Expectations	-Mathematics
Exam	500 - 529	M	Meeting Expectations	-ELA
	530-560	E	Exceeding Expectations	
	200 - 218	F	Failing	Science/Technology Exam
Legacy	220 - 238	NI	Needs Improvement (requires an EPP)	- Biology
	240 - 258	P	Proficient	- Chemistry
	260 - 280	A	Advanced	- Introductory Physics - Technology/ Engineering