



# Polaris K-12 School Secondary Program of Study & Course Descriptions

Some courses are not offered every semester, please check the current course schedule.

# HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

High school students need a minimum 22.5 credits to graduate.

**Specific Requirements:**

- Math: 3.0 Credits  
based on placement, including completion of Algebra
- Language Arts 4 credits  
.5 Intermediate Composition, .5 Comp Workshop,  
.5 World Literature, .5 American Literature, .5 Literature Elective  
.5 Advanced Composition, and 1 LA Elective
- Science 3 credits,  
1 Life and 1 Physical, and 1 Elective science
- Social Studies 4 credits  
.5 Alaska Studies, .5 Social Studies elective, 1 World History, 1 US History,  
.5 US Government, .5 Economics
- Health & PE 1.5 credits  
1 ½ credits of Physical Education Electives
- Elective 5 Credits (class of 2018 and after); Plus 2 credits Advisory (.5 each year)

<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade Typical Coursework</b>				
<b>Math</b> Algebra Geometry	<b>Language Arts</b> Intermediate Composition American or World Lit.	<b>Social Studies</b> Ak Studies Social Studies Elective US or World History	<b>Science</b> Principles Biomed Science Electives: Projects, Natural Sci of AK, Life, Forensic, Environmental.	<b>PE/ Fine Arts/ World Lang</b> PE Drama Band/Orch. Spanish 1 or 2 Art
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade Typical Coursework</b>				
<b>Math</b> Geometry Algebra 2 Math Elective	<b>Language Arts</b> Composition Workshop American or World Lit. Creative Writing	<b>Social Studies</b> US or World History AK Studies Social Studies Elective	<b>Science</b> Principles Biomed Chemistry Concept. Physics Science Electives	<b>PE/ Fine Arts/ World Lang</b> PE Band/Orch./Art Drama Spanish
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade Typical Coursework</b>				
<b>Math</b> Algebra 2 Math Electives AP Statistics AP Calculus	<b>Language Arts</b> Comp Workshop Creative Writing LA Elective AP Lang or Lit	<b>Social Studies</b> US or World History AP History Economics Government	<b>Science</b> Chemistry AP Physics Genetics Marine Bio BioTaPP 1/2	<b>PE/ Fine Arts/ World Lang</b> PE Band/Orch/Art Drama Spanish
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Typical Coursework</b>				
<b>Math</b> Algebra 2 Math Electives AP Calculus AP Statistics	<b>Language Arts</b> Advanced Comp. Creative Writing LA Elective	<b>Social Studies</b> Economics Government AP History	<b>Science</b> AP Physics BioTaPP 1/2 Human Anatomy Genetics	<b>PE/ Fine Arts/ World Lang</b> PE Drama Band/Orch/Art Spanish

## SCHEDULING

High School Students will work with their advisor and parents to create a schedule request each spring for the following year. They will review their transcripts and credits to ascertain which classes are still needed. Students will be scheduled in classes based on student interest, space availability and grade level, with priority given to meeting graduation requirements.

## INTENSIVES & ELECTIVES

All high school students will have a choice of electives that will allow them to broaden their learning. Students must complete 5 credits. Elective credits include any core class credit beyond the minimum requirements.

**Intensives** allow students to spend all day for 2-3 weeks “intensively” studying a topic. Intensives allow Polaris to offer experiential education, field trips, and multi-age courses on unique and timely topics. Intensives are offered the first two weeks of fall semester (0.25 credit), the first two weeks of spring semester (0.25 credit) and the last three weeks of spring semester (0.5 credit)

**Electives** are curriculum experiences designed to help students discover and/or examine learning related to their changing needs, aptitudes and interests.

- Typical Electives: Visual Arts, World Language, Theater Arts, Band/Orchestra, School Business Partnership, Computer Fundamentals, Yearbook, Newspaper, any core class credit beyond requirements, Gifted Mentorship, and King Career Center courses.
- Gifted Mentorships are open to 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. KTHS is open to 11<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and courses can also apply to core graduation requirements. KTHS also offers afternoon exploratory classes open to 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grades.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT, HONORS, AND ACCELERATED COURSES

The majority of high school courses taught at Polaris are taught at an Accelerated/Honors level. AP Courses are offered based on student demand, and certain courses may only be available in alternating years. Additionally, some students elect to take AP courses via online classes, or may choose to take an AP exam independently (ie a Polaris Chemistry student may do additional exam preparation to take the AP Chemistry exam). Students are encouraged to discuss opportunities for additional challenge with their teachers, advisor and counselor. The Credit by Choice program offers numerous options for extending learning.

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### **Credit By Choice**

Credit by Choice options include Challenge Courses, Independent Studies, PE Waivers, and Correspondence, as well as others. Students must contact the secondary counselor and complete the Credit by Choice Application before starting the coursework.

- Challenge Course/Peer Taught Course: Student designed course that is not currently offered in the Polaris program of studies.
- Independent Study: A student works with a teacher to develop an independent class study, either in pursuit of interest or to meet graduation requirements.
- PE Waiver: Students can meet Physical Education requirements by participating in an organized ASD sport. Each season of sports can waive .25 credits of PE.
- Single Course Enrollment: Students may attend a neighborhood school to take coursework offered by the Anchorage School District that is not available at Polaris. Students may take up to two courses per term at a neighborhood school.
- Dual Credit & local colleges (UAA courses, UAF online and APU's Early Honors): Students may take university courses that count as both high school credit for graduation and college credit.
- Correspondence: Students choose a non-ASD program for online classes and work with that program towards completing course requirements.

### **Other Course Options**

Students demonstrating readiness for work beyond the typical courses offered at each grade level may be recommended for higher level courses. Classroom teachers use a three-part process to determine readiness:

- Grades of A or B or teacher placement recommendations from pre-requisite courses.
- MAP benchmark results/ready to learn data
- Students must complete the end of the year assessment for the courses that will be skipped and pass with a 90% or higher.

## SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Those most likely to succeed in the 21st century will have a lot of practice in the areas of collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking, citizenship, and character. What are you curious about? Once you answer that question, consider how you will design self-directed learning to help you achieve your purpose. This is your chance to really own your education. Go for it!

### Independent Study

A student works with a teacher to develop an independent class study, either in pursuit of interest or to meet graduation requirements. The teacher and student decide on the course content, evidence of learning, and achievement expectations. The student works independently through their course, and their supervising teacher provides periodic support. [Read more about the independent study process here.](#)

### Challenge Course

Students at Polaris can create and design curriculum for a course that they would like to work through. Students may follow a model that they have found at another school or institution, or they can create exactly the course that they are interested in taking. For example, students have planned scientific studies with field research, studied types of architecture of a region of nations, and read selections from a genre of literature and networked to find a literature circle in the community to discuss those works. Additionally, access to world class and *free* education online is constantly expanding. Consider these resources to get more ideas:

- <https://www.lynda.com/portal/sip?org=library.muni.org>
- <https://openstax.org/subjects> (Free textbooks)
- <https://www.edx.org/> (Free self-paced courses)
- <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- <http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses>
- <https://adl.overdrive.com/>
- <https://muni.freegalmusic.com/homes/index>

### Gifted Mentorship

The Gifted Mentorship Program is for exceptional high school juniors and seniors who are self-disciplined and interested in pursuing an independent study under the direction of a professional/expert in a field of great interest to the student. The program is for high-ability, high-achieving students who have completed advanced coursework. The program gives motivated, mature high school students an idea of what it is like to work in a field of their interest by being teamed with a professional who acts as their mentor. Students spend 45-60 hours with their mentor and earn half an elective credit for the mentorship when they successfully complete several assignments, including a final project. [Read more about the gifted mentorship process here.](#)

## **CTE Internships**

Internships in a CTE pathway are an exciting extension of the high school classroom into the workplace. They are an excellent way for students to employ their skills, gain real-world experience, build their resume, and earn high school credit at the same time. Students grow both personally and professionally, while contributing to the goals of the organization in which they are working.

CTE internships are open to high school Juniors and Seniors who:

Have completed 1 credit (2 semesters) in a CTE Pathway, related to the internship (ie BioTapp or KTHS Course), have a minimum of 3.0 GPA in all CTE courses completed, have 90% attendance at school, have reliable transportation to and from internship site and receive a CTE teacher recommendation and pass an interview. [Read more about CTE Internships here.](#)

## **Independent Capstone**

The Polaris Capstone Project is a student-centered approach to instruction. Students form their own investigation of a guiding curiosity, to develop valuable research skills and new knowledge as they engage in design, problem solving, decision-making, creativity, and investigative activities. The teacher plays the role of facilitator, working with students to frame worthwhile questions, structuring meaningful tasks, coaching both knowledge development and weekly missions, and carefully assessing what students have learned from the experience. With this type of active and engaged learning, students will be inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they are curious about. A public exhibition is required in order to complete this class for credit.

## **Paint a Mural**

The intent of Polaris public art is to reflect our diverse community. Murals are encouraged to be unique designs and styles. The artwork should be tasteful and transcend the boundaries of time. Make one! [Read more about the mural process here.](#)

## **Leadership Endorsement Work time**

The Polaris Leadership Program is used to encourage, develop, and recognize the leadership efforts made by high school students during their time at Polaris. Through this program, students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in leadership through multiple avenues. Upon completion of the program, students will receive a graduation cord and endorsement at graduation. [Read more about this program here.](#)

## **Plan an Intensive or Peer Taught Course**

Students create a quarter or semester long curriculum in conjunction with a teacher advisor and deliver that course. Students create a course syllabus, develop lesson plans and implement them working with the advisor to evaluate students and assign grades.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### **Advanced Composition, H0223salt**

This is a class requirement for seniors who have not already taken a class for Advanced Composition credit. This course is designed to introduce and/or further develop research and research writing techniques and prepare you for college and professional level writing. Students build the skills necessary to write a 10-15-page research paper.

Grade: 12                      ASD Name: Advanced Composition                      Polaris Credit: .5 Advanced Comp.

### **Advanced Literary Analysis, H0180ALT**

This course is designed to engage you in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature. Through the close reading of texts, you will come to a deeper understanding of the ways writers use language to provide meaning for their readers. As you progress through this class you will learn to consider a work's structure, style and themes, as well as its use of figurative language. Careful attention to both textual detail and historical context provides a lens for literary interpretation and illumination. This approach to analyzing and interpreting literature requires you to learn how to make careful observations of textual detail.

Grades: 10-12                      ASD Name: Advanced Lit Analysis                      Polaris Credit: .5 Literature Elective

### **Applied Composition, H0252qalt**

Success at school and in your career, will depend in large part on your ability to precisely communicate your ideas to a specific audience. This course focuses on effective listening, speaking, reading, and writing in life and at work. Students will demonstrate their skills both individually and in groups – developing marketing and multi-media campaigns. We will consider and study communication in a broader context - how it is changing in our digital world – and how to negotiate new methods of communication while remaining effective and proficient.

Grades: 8-12                      ASD Name: Digital Composition                      Polaris Credit: .5 LA Elective

### **American Literature, H0370salt**

Courses in American Literature are designed to deal with the major writers and works of American literature from colonial times through the 20th century. Students will consider major social and political issues of American life as reflected in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama, and film. Students will examine philosophies that pervade American thought with emphasis on the relationship between the literature and the growth of the United States.

Possible Course Offerings: American Literature Survey, Modern American Novel, Classic American Short Story, Film as Literature: American Film, Native American Literature, Poetry, or Author Studies

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: American Literature                      Polaris Credit: .5 American Lit

### **Creative Writing, H0240qalt**

This course focuses on developing artful writing.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Creative Writing                      Polaris Credit: .25 or .5 LA-Elective

### **Composition Workshop, H0210**

This course focuses on continued development of academic writing including emphasis on the academic essay and research writing as well as development of professional technical writing.

Grades: 10-11                      ASD Name: Composition Workshop                      Polaris Credit: .5 Composition Workshop

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### **Speech and Debate, H0520**

Speech and Debate is a one-semester introductory course that covers a variety of styles of public speaking and formal debate. Through research and practice students will become familiar with these styles through instruction, research, and practice. Each unit will culminate in performance assignments that require students to demonstrate their abilities within the classroom setting. Opportunities to take their knowledge to competition at the local and state level may be made available to students as well through extracurricular programs.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Debate

Polaris Credit: .5 LA-Elective

### **Digital Composition, H0252qalt**

This course focuses on a collaboration of the writing process and digital media. Students will interact, collaborate, and publish with peers using a variety of media. We will create PSAs, a classroom website, podcasts, electronic portfolios, and more. Accompanying our compositions will be philosophical and ethical discussions in relation to digital literacy.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Digital Composition

Polaris Credit: .25 or .5 LA Elective

### **Intermediate Composition, H0221**

This course focuses on the fundamentals of academic writing with an emphasis on the academic essay.

Grades: 9-10

ASD Name: Intermediate Composition

Polaris Credit: .5 Intermediate Comp

### **Memoirs (Creative Nonfiction), H0240qalt**

Creative writing is the process of writing, the process of making something new and different, something made-up. But the writing also has roots in real-world experiences and the memories of the writer - fact and fiction blending together. In this class we will explore several modes of creative writing grounded on what we know best - ourselves.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Creative Writing

Polaris Credit: .25 LA Elective

### **Science Fiction, H0455**

Science Fiction and Fantasy is a course that explores the outer limits of the imagination and the far-reaching possibilities for the human race and technology through literature. Students will read and discuss classic as well as contemporary novels and short stories in these genres. This course emphasizes science fiction and fantasy genres as vehicles for social criticism and stimulation of thought about technological development and psychological, societal and political organization. Students will write in various modes using multimedia tools.

Grades 9-12

ASD Name: Literature, Sci Fi and Fantasy

Polaris Credit: .5 Lit Elective

### **Nonfiction, H0440qalt**

Explore the world of literary nonfiction. Together we will read and discuss nonfiction a variety of texts including biographies, essays, monographs, and travel narratives. This course will include writing, extensive reading, projects and discussion

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Literature, Nonfiction

Polaris Credit: .25 or .5 Literature Elective

### **Poetry, H0430ALT**

In this course we will be concerned with *experiencing* poetry. We will focus less on what poetry "means" than what it does: what needs and desires does poetry fulfill in its writers and readers? When does it leave the static page and become something performed, ritually memorized, communally celebrated, or otherwise brought to life?

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Poetry

Polaris Credit: .5 Literature Elective



## LANGUAGE ARTS

### **Humanities (Literature, Art, or Social Studies Elective), H0415**

#### *Italian Renaissance*

In the early 1400s, the world woke up. From its beginning in Florence, Italy, this renaissance, or rebirth, of culture spread to Rome and Venice, then, in 1500, to the rest of Europe. Technical innovations and creative discoveries exploded and have been influencing the world ever since. We will study the art, literature, science, and social patterns of this moment in human history.

#### *Harlem Renaissance*

For a semester we'll get to explore the many art forms that exploded during the Harlem Renaissance. We are going to examine music, poetry, and art from this time period to gain a deeper understanding of America during the roaring 20s and what became a music revolution that erupted into rock and roll. Creative thinking will be required as students write, listen, read, and speak about art, music, and literature of this uniquely American experience.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Humanities

Polaris Credit: .5 Lit or SS Elective

### **Rhetoric, H0430ALT**

The purpose of this class is to help students gain the ability to analyze and act on understandings of audiences, purposes, and contexts in creating and comprehending texts. Much of our class will be designed to help students analyze a situation/text and make thoughtful decisions based on that analysis through writing, reading, and research. Our time together will help students cultivate intellectual and practical skills that relate to the following habits of mind; curiosity, openness, engagement, creativity, persistence, responsibility, flexibility, and metacognition. This class can meet the Advanced Composition requirement for seniors.

Grades: 11-12

ASD Name: Language Arts, Special Topics

Polaris Credit: .5 ELA Elective

### **Shakespeare, H0460**

Friends, Polarians, countrymen, lend me your ears! Shakespeare is renowned as the English playwright and poet whose body of work is considered the greatest of English literature. Join in a study of Shakespeare, his work, his times, and his continuing impact.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Literature, Shakespeare

Polaris Credit: .5 World Literature

### **Socratic Seminar (Literature or Social Studies Elective), H3241S1**

The course will require students to participate in active learning through discussion in a dynamic and engaged learning community. Students will master critical reading and listening skills and gain the confidence to explore new subject matters. Texts from literature, history, philosophy, and art will be examined as students improve their vocabulary and comprehension, evaluate arguments, present evidence, consider context, and learn to respect the opinions of others.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Language Arts Seminar,

Polaris Credit: .5 Lit or SS Elective

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### **Writing Across Contexts: WRTG A111, H0126UAA**

This class meets the Advanced Composition requirement for seniors. Writing Across Contexts (WRTG A111) is an introduction to writing strategies and processes for reading and responding to rhetorical situations across a variety of public and academic contexts. We will study how writing responds to different situations and practice writing for different contexts.

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

1. Establish credibility and persuasive power for an audience.
2. Interpret the meaning of a text based on its features, context, design, and relationship to other texts.
3. Respond purposefully to specific rhetorical situations.
4. Understand that composing is a process that uses different genres, communicating through different media to various audiences.

Grade: 12 ASD Name: ENG A111 UAA, Polaris Credit: .5 Advanced Comp, .5 Literature

### **World Literature, H0410salt**

Courses in World Literature provide an overview of major writers and works from areas of the world other than the United States. Novels, short stories, plays, poems, and other nonfiction documents will be studied to enhance student's understanding of various world cultures.

Possible Course Offerings: Theme Focus (i.e. Family, Change), World Classics, Shakespeare, Ancient Literature, Poetry, Contemporary Authors, Mythology, Dramatic Literature, Children's Literature, Science Fiction and Fantasy, Film as Literature: World Film.

Grades: 9-12 ASD Name: World Literature Polaris Credit: .5 World Literature

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **Alaska Studies, H3110**

Alaska Studies is an in-depth exploration of the rich geographic and cultural background of the state and its people from the early native peoples to the Russian era through statehood to the present. This course includes examination of the geography, history, and the political and economic forces that have shaped Alaska. This course seeks to ensure that students have a strong foundation in the historic and cultural contexts of issues facing the state so they will develop a broad sense of community and strengthen skills that will encourage thoughtful consideration of issues and choices facing Alaska.

Grades: 9-11

ASD Name: Alaska Studies

Polaris Credit: .5 Alaska Studies

### **AP European History, H3441**

AP European History covers the political, cultural and economic developments that constitute European history from 1450 to the present. Beginning with the conclusion of the Hundred Years War, the fall of the Byzantine Empire, and the invention of the printing press the story of European history will unfold through themes such as the emergence of modern nation states; the clash between opposing views on economics embedded within the capitalist and socialist paradigms; the development of European political power via the Industrial Revolution and the subsequent era of imperialism; the struggle for the individual to obtain a voice through representative government; the various systems of collective security and bargaining which emerged as a part of balance of power politics. These themes are supported by the many intellectual and philosophical ideas of which humanism, empiricism, rationalism and existentialism are but a few.

Grades: 10-12

ASD Name: AP European History

Polaris Credit: 1.0 World Hist or SS elective

### **Contemporary Problems, H3655**

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have time to sort out what is happening in our world and understand these complex issues beyond what we see on the news or read on the internet? This course will focus on the social, political, cultural and geographic forces that have created contemporary world "hot spots". We will discuss and research the evolution of these issues on the world stage and the implications of their resolution or non-resolution.

We will work together to:

- Understand important current issues and the significant factors involved with the issues.
- Determine the relationships of current events to the past.
- Improve reading and research skills.
- Understand the short and long term implications of current events and propose viable solutions to these problems.
- Develop your critical thinking and public speaking skills.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Contemporary Problems

Polaris Credit: .5 Social Studies Elective

### **Economics, H3080**

This class will introduce students to economic ideas and concepts. Students will learn to apply economic principles to their personal lives. Topics discussed include supply and demand, economic philosophy, price setting, the stock market, credit, savings and checking accounts and loans.

Grades: 11-12

ASD Name: Economics

Polaris Credit: .5 Economics

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **Geography/Area Studies**

Geography/Area Studies courses focus on different regions in the world on a rotating basis, and may include Asia (H3415), Europe (H3638), Africa (H3430), the Middle East (H3455), Latin America + Spain (H3635) or closer to home in South Central Alaska (H3637). Credit may count as social studies elective or may be applied to World History requirement.

### **Africa Studie, H3430**

This course is designed for those who are curious about exploring the different regions of Africa. This project-based course concentrates on developing geographic skills and concepts so that students can ask stimulating questions about their world, and more specifically, Africa. Students will hone the skills to then gather, organize, analyze, and apply the geographic information to their inquiries. Culture, current events, conflict, migrations, belief systems, and people's daily lives are heavily emphasized in this course. Be ready to become a better writer, project manager, and informed citizen of the world.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Geography/Africa Studies                      Polaris Credit Type: .5 Social Studies

### **Ancient Civilizations, H3470**

This class will cover ancient civilizations and is an in-depth study of early worlds from the Americas to China, India, Africa and Mesopotamia. This course explores why and where early civilizations developed and compares their religion, culture, literature, science, technological achievements and their economic and political systems. Sample topics include: pyramids, rise and fall of great empires, high technology of the day, myths, arts, sports, foods and leisure of the ancients. Can be used to meet World History Sem 1 requirement.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Ancient Civilizations                      Polaris Credit: .5 SS or World History Sem 1

### **20th Century Perspectives, H3556**

This class is an exploration into the historical, cultural, and geographical issues that shaped the world throughout the 20th century - from World War I, to decolonization movements, to the advent of the internet and personal computers, the 20th century was a time of tremendous social, political and cultural change. The course focuses on how these changes present throughout various regions of the world have shaped the world as we know it today. Can be used to meet World History Sem 2 or US History Sem 2 requirement.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: 20th Century Amer. Eras                      Polaris Credit: .5 SS elective, US  
Hist Sem 2 or World History Sem 2

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **Humanities (Literature, Art, or Social Studies Elective), H3505**

#### *Italian Renaissance*

In the early 1400s, the world woke up. From its beginning in Florence, Italy, this renaissance, or rebirth, of culture spread to Rome and Venice, then, in 1500, to the rest of Europe. Technical innovations and creative discoveries exploded and have been influencing the world ever since. We will study the art, literature, science, and social patterns of this moment in human history.

#### *Harlem Renaissance*

The purpose of this class is to explore the many art forms that exploded during the Harlem Renaissance. We are going to examine music, poetry, and art from this time period to gain a deeper understanding of America during the roaring 20s. Creative thinking will be required as the students write, listen, read, and speak about art, music, and literature from this period. This lesson is largely influenced from the ReadWriteThink.org lesson Plan “A Harlem Renaissance Retrospective: Connecting Arts, Music, Dance, and Poetry.”

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Humanities, Western Civ

Polaris Credit: .5 Lit or SS Elective

### **Socratic Seminar (Literature or Social Studies Elective), H9471SALT**

The course will require students to participate in active learning through discussion in a dynamic and engaged learning community. Students will master critical reading and listening skills and gain the confidence to explore new subject matters. Texts from literature, history, philosophy, and art will be examined as students improve their vocabulary and comprehension, evaluate arguments, present evidence, consider context, and learn to respect the opinions of others.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Social Sciences Inquiry

Polaris Credit: .5 Lit or SS Elective

### **United States Government, H3075**

This course is concerned with the nature of the American political system, its development over the past two hundred years, and how it works today. We will examine in some detail the principle processes and institutions through which the political system functions, as well as some of the policies that these institutions establish and how they are implemented. We will look primarily at the national government and national policies. This course is designed to increase understanding of the American political system – its traditions, values, and framework – as well as to understand how its components work together smoothly for the most part, but at times with substantial friction.

This course aims to provide objective instruction and an intellectual classroom environment characterized by students who are pushed to exercise higher order thinking skills in their efforts to understand the full range of each issue, and therefore, become independent citizens capable of fulfilling their responsibilities as active and informed members of a democracy.

Grades: 11-12

ASD Name: United States Government

Polaris Credit: .5 US Government

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **Psychology, H3685**

Why are people the way that they are? This class may help answer that age-old question. Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior from early childhood through old age. This class will examine how a person's physical and mental states, as well as their environment, affect their personality. Topics we will cover include developmental, perceptions, dream analysis, altered mental states, types of psychological thought, psychological disorders, treatment, ESP and much, much more.

Grade Level: 10-12                      ASD Name: Psychology I                      Polaris Credit: .5 Social Studies Elective

### **United States History, H3317**

This class will continue the study of world and American history, with focus on American History. Geography, economics, government, religion, philosophy, science/technology and humanities will all be used to examine this period of turmoil in History and the growth of the United States as a world power. Extensive reading, writing, research and project development will be required.

Grade Level: 9-12                      ASD Name: United States History                      Polaris Credit: 1 U.S. History

### **World History, H3315**

This class continues the study of world history, focusing on the Byzantine Empire and Medieval Europe. We will study the growth of cultures, government and religion in Europe and their impact on us today. We will examine these topics through reading, discussion, projects, and research.

Grade Level: 9-12                      ASD Name: World History                      Polaris Credit: 1 World History

## MATH

### **Math 6 M1005**

Students will practice and improve their number sense, measure sense, and estimation skills. They will review and extend their arithmetic, calculator, and thinking skills by writing and solving number sentences that contain variables, identify and construct similar and congruent polygons using a ruler and protractor, identify and explain prime and composite numbers, use order of operations, including exponents and grouping symbols and read, write, and order rational positive and negative numbers. They will write and solve word problems involving multiple operations.

Grade: 6

ASD Name: Math 6

### **Pre-Algebra M1030**

This course is designed to prepare students for success in Algebra I. The emphasis on continued development of pattern recognition, computational skills, elementary algebra topics, geometric relationships, problem solving, linear equations, inequalities and formulas, and the use of technology. Students will extend their knowledge of probability and statistics and analyze data to make decisions and defend conclusions.

Grade: 6-8

ASD Name: Pre-Algebra

### **Survey of Algebra, H1326**

This course provides an introduction to uses and applications of algebraic concepts including pattern recognition, computational skills, geometric relationships, problem solving, the solution of linear equations, inequalities and formulas, graphing linear equations and inequalities and the solution of word problems. Students will extend their knowledge of probability and statistics and analyze data to make decisions and defend conclusions. This course is designed for the student who will need to apply algebraic concepts in vocational/career areas, vocational courses, and/or King Tech High courses.

Grade: 9-10

ASD Name: Survey of Algebra

Polaris Credit: 1 Survey of Algebra

### **Algebra I H1352**

This class reviews and extends problem solving, data analysis, use of technology, the theory, use and understanding of the fundamental operations on real numbers, expressing quantitative statements in the language of algebra, solving equations and inequalities, polynomials, matrices, the use of rational expressions in equations, coordinate graphing, irrational numbers, solutions of quadratic equations, and related applications. *Prerequisite- Grade of "C" or better in Pre-Algebra or Math 8 or recommendation of most recent math instructor.*

Grades: 7-10

ASD Name: Algebra I

Polaris Credit: 1 Algebra I

### **Geometry, H1502**

This class covers the study of plane and three-dimensional geometry. The emphasis is on clarity, precision of language, and the logical development of geometric principles in deductive reasoning and proofs. It includes work with lines, planes, angles, congruent triangles, circles, polygons and transformations. *Prerequisite- Grade of "C" or better in Algebra I or permission of the previous math instructor.*

Grades: 8–11

ASD Name: Geometry

Polaris Credit: 1 Geometry

## MATH

### **Data Analysis and Probability H1680**

This course will introduce students to fundamental concepts of data collection, display, and analysis. Students will also learn to determine what is possible and probable in various situations in addition to simulating events to determine experimental probabilities. Working with spreadsheets will be a fundamental part of the course. *Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or better in Algebra 1.*

Grades: 10-12      ASD Name: Analyzing & Displaying Data      Polaris Credit: .5 Math Elective

### **Financial Literacy and Math Modeling H1025**

During the first quarter of the course, students will study various aspects of our financial world, including budgeting, borrowing costs, investing, and cost/benefit analyses of financial decisions. Research will be a fundamental part of the course. For the second quarter, students will use their prior knowledge to construct mathematical models for detailed problems and situations. This part of the course will be project oriented for small groups of students with emphasis on interpreting and communicating results. *Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or better in Geometry.*

Grades: 10-12      ASD Name: Financial Literacy      Polaris Credit: .5 Math Elective

### **Algebra II H1377**

This class includes problem solving, data analysis, use of technology, basic operations with polynomials, solving equations and inequalities, sequences and series, relations and functions, systems of equations in two and three variables, matrices, irrational and complex numbers through the solution of quadratic functions and polynomial functions of higher than first degree and an introduction to logarithms. *Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or better in Geometry or permission of the previous math instructor.*

Grades: 9-12      ASD Name: Algebra II      Polaris Credit 1.0 Math Elective

### **Pre-Calculus Intensive**

This class covers the essential elements of Pre-Calc within an intensive. The emphasis of this course is on concepts that build toward understanding calculus and improvement of algebraic skills. *Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or better in Algebra II and Geometry or permission of previous math instructor.*

Grades: 9-12      ASD Name: Math Special Topics      Polaris Credit: .25 Math elective

### **AP Calculus AB H1706**

This course covers three main topics. The first topic is functions, which includes analyzing graphs, finding limits, defining asymptotic behavior, and discussing continuity as a property of functions. The second topic, derivatives, covers derivatives at a point, derivatives as a function, and second derivatives and the application. Integrals, the last topic will include properties of definite integrals, applications, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. *Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or better in Pre-Calculus or permission of previous math instructor.*

Grades: 9-12      ASD Name: AP Calculus AB      Polaris Credit: 1 Math Elective

### **AP Statistics, H1701**

As with other courses designated with Advanced Placement, this course is introductory college level material. The student is expected to meet this college level workload to be successful. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students will be expected to be able to use appropriate technology to interpret data and will be expected to be able to communicate their results in an understandable form. *Prerequisite: Grade of "B" or better in Algebra II and Geometry or permission of previous math instructor.*

Grades: 10-12      ASD Name: AP Statistics      Polaris Credit: 1 Math Elective



## SCIENCE

### **Principles of Biomedical Science** H8919S1, H8919S2 (formerly, Biology)

The Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS) course provides an introduction to biomedical science through exciting hands-on projects and problems. Students investigate concepts of biology and medicine as they explore health conditions including heart disease, diabetes, sickle-cell disease, hypercholesterolemia, and infectious diseases. They will determine the factors that led to the death of a fictional woman as they sequentially piece together evidence found in her medical history and her autopsy report. Students will investigate lifestyle choices and medical treatments that might have prolonged the woman's life and demonstrate how the development of disease is related to changes in human body systems. This course will include a study of the chemical basis of life such as the process of photosynthesis, respiration, osmosis and diffusion. Cell division, DNA and enzyme action will also be covered. The course also includes an extensive treatment of introductory human anatomy/physiology, genetics and evolution.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: PLTW Principles of Biomed Science                      Polaris Credit: .5 Life Science, .5 Physical Science

### **Conceptual Chemistry**, H2411

This course provides an opportunity for students to study the basic concepts in chemistry as they relate to home and life. Chemical concepts will be used to explain many of the processes we observe in our daily lives. While examining these concepts, the student will develop problem solving and lab skills.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Chemistry, Conceptual                      Polaris Credit: .5 Physical Science

### **Chemistry**, H2421

This course includes the study of the following concepts: atomic structure, mole, chemical periodicity, writing formulas and equations, nomenclature of compounds, kinetic molecular theory of solids, liquids and gasses. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade students are eligible if they have: 3.5 or higher GPA in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, B or higher in chemical and physical science, science teacher recommendation, and are taking Geometry or higher math.

Grades: 10-12                      ASD Name: Chemistry 1                      Polaris Credit: 1 Physical Science

### **Life Science**, H2020

This course explores two aspects of life science: ecology and human body systems. It integrates biology, chemistry, anatomy, critical thinking skills and science practices. Hands-on activities and laboratory work will be an integral component of this course. In addition, students will conduct a self directed, research-based inquiry project. Topics covered in ecology include: characteristics of life, levels of organization, biodiversity and populations in ecosystems, energy transfer, major biomes, biogeochemical cycles and current events in ecology. Topics covered in human body systems include: homeostasis, body organization and systems, interactions among body systems, current events, diseases and society.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Life Science                      Polaris Credit: .5 Life Science

## SCIENCE

### **Natural Science of Alaska, H2330**

Students study the geography, major landforms, weather, plants and animals of Alaska. This course will focus on environmental science topics important to Alaska such as ecosystems, water resources, soil quality, natural resources, game management principles, human influences and pollution.

Grades: 9-12 ASD Name: Natural Science of AK Polaris Credit: .5 Life or Physical Science

### **Forensic Science, H2560**

This course will familiarize students with the basic principles and uses of forensic science. Forensic science is the study and application of science to the processes of law and involves the collection, examination, evaluation and interpretation of evidence. This field encompasses many scientific skills, which, if used properly, can make invaluable contributions to the resolution of social and legal disputes. The course will review the basic applications of the Fundamentals of Forensics, Physical Properties of Evidence, Genetics, Document Analysis, Print Analysis, Toxicology, Trace Evidence, Serology, and Crime Scene Reconstruction and Analysis. Course will emphasize qualitative and quantitative data record keeping and critical thinking skills.

Grades: 9-12 ASD Name: Forensics I Polaris Credit: .5 Life or Physical Science

### **Geology, H2610**

This course deals with the formation and evolution of the earth's surface as revealed by the rocks and fossils and of the applications of geology. Areas of concentration will be on the development of crustal features as well as weathering and erosion forces. Special emphasis will be placed on Alaskan areas. Geologic time, rock dating, and exploration of natural resources will be covered.

Grades: 9-12 ASD Name: Earth Science Polaris Credit: .5 Physical Science

### **Astronomy: Solar System, H2621**

Students investigate the development of astronomy from the ideas of the ancients to the modern technological exploration of our solar system. The course focuses on the origin, dynamics and physical characteristics of members of the solar system (sun, planets, satellites, meteoroids, asteroids and comets). Through a study of planetary geology, students will gain an appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of astronomy. Class activities may include planetarium observations, as well as laboratory experiences based on data provided by NASA, Harvard-Smithsonian Micro-Observatory and other astronomy-based facilities.

Grades: 9-12 ASD Name: Astronomy: Solar System Polaris Credit: .5 Physical Science

### **Astronomy: Universe, H2622**

Students investigate astronomy from the stellar and galactic view. They begin with the physical properties of stars and stellar evolution (how an astronomer infers a star's origin and eventual demise). They progress to studies of galaxies, using the Milky Way as the standard for comparison. The universe on a grand scale then becomes the topic for analysis for discussions on clusters of galaxies and cosmology (the origin and evolution of the universe).

Grades: 9-12 ASD Name: Astronomy: Universe Polaris Credit: Physical Science

## SCIENCE

### **Anatomy & Physiology, H2300S1**

This class involves the study of the structure and function of the various parts of the human anatomy. This course is recommended for those students interested in medical/health related fields. Will include several field trips to physician offices and to the UAA cadaver lab. Prerequisite: Biology or Principles of Biomed required, chemistry recommended

Grades: 10-12                      ASD Name: Human Anatomy/Physiology                      Polaris Credit: .5 Life Science

### **Genetics, H2290**

In this basic genetics course we will be studying heredity among living organisms. Topics will include adaptations of organisms to the environment, the process of natural selection and evolution. Special emphasis will be placed on human genetics and fruit fly genetics. *Prerequisite: Biology*

Grades: 10-12                      ASD Name: Genetics                      Polaris Credit: .5 Life Science

### **Conceptual Physics, H2511**

Designed to give students an appreciation and understanding of the physical laws of the universe. It is the study of the basic force of nature. Topics include gravity, electricity, magnetism and atomic and nuclear forces.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Physics, Conceptual                      Polaris Credit: 1 Physical Science

### **AP Physics 1, H2530**

AP Physics is equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra based physics. The course covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum); work, energy, and power; and mechanical waves and sound. It will also introduce electric circuits. *Prerequisite: Algebra 2 completed, or taken concurrently with instructor permission.*

Grades: 11-12                      ASD Name: AP Physics 1                      Polaris Credit: 1 Physical Science

### **Climate Science Seminar H7050QALT/H2289QALT**

In this course, students will describe climate and the factors that affect local and global climates, including the science behind natural and man-made effects. Students will study mitigation and adaptation options based on current forecasts of climate change.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Science Seminar/Environmental Issue                      Polaris Credit: .5 Science Elective

### **Science Projects/Intro to Lab Science, H7049QALT**

This course uses an inquiry-based approach to science. A fun, challenging opportunity to pursue hands-on scientific interests in a lab setting. Students will develop their own science-focused experiments/research projects under the guidance of the teacher (think: Science/Capstone). Students should plan to present their projects at the end of the semester..

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Science Projects                      Polaris Credit: .5 Science Elective

## SCIENCE

### **Materials Science Workshop, H8577**

This is an inquiry based science class focused on physical properties of common materials. Students will investigate, test, and measure the “stuff” we encounter and use on a regular basis from a scientific and engineering point of view. Hands-on experiences will include destructive testing, using forces or chemistry to alter properties of materials, and the creation of composite materials. Course will require collecting, interpreting, and presenting data. Students will also be expected to create or build projects demonstrating their developing understanding.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Applied Tech and Engineering                      Polaris Credit: .5 Science elective

### **Biotechnology, H8940, H8941**

Formerly known as BioTaPP (Biotechnology Training and Preparatory Program), this full-year program is designed to introduce students to biotechnology for the 21st century, highlighting the revolution in biology, and give students fundamental experience in biotechnological techniques used widely in research and industry. Partnerships with BioRad, UAA, and other related companies will guide and review the types of activities instructed to give students the most current experiences in the lab. Fundamental lab skills training will be the focus of this class. Students will be introduced to the foundations of biotechnology; conceptual understanding of genetic engineering; medicine; immunology; pharmaceutical applications; bioethics and careers in biotechnology. This course will also be supported by local and national scientists in the field of biotechnology. BioTaPP is designed for students who are resourceful, responsible, patient and interested in understanding the cutting-edge future of science in our lives. *Payment of a Lab Fee is required at the beginning of the year; scholarships are available through the front office. Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology I and Algebra 1. Chemistry and Genetics are strongly recommended.*

Grades: 10-12                      ASD Name: BioTapp 1, BioTapp 2                      Polaris Credit: 1 Life Science

### **Oceanography, H2306**

Students in the course will study the physical aspects and interactions with the atmosphere ocean interface including geology, chemistry, physics, meteorology and pollution of oceans. Included will be the study of the effects of geology, geochemistry, geography and physical forces on marine organisms.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Oceanography                      Polaris Credit: .5 Physical Science

## WORLD LANGUAGES

Polaris Spanish Program: Spanish I and Spanish II are year long classes. Advanced Spanish is taught in 6 rotating semester-long blocks (A-B-C-D-E-and F). Students who have completed the advanced Spanish courses may continue on to AP Spanish or coursework through a university.

### **Spanish Exploratory (sem 1 OR sem 2)**

Students are active participants in language learning experiences and begin to develop proficiency in listening comprehension and speaking. There is some exposure to reading and writing; basic vocabulary such as greetings, alphabet, colors and numbers, calendar, food and “survival” Spanish is taught. This course will help students gain the ability to understand the fundamentals of language and distinguish between Spanish and English. Introduction to the Spanish speaking cultures will allow students to develop an appreciation for cultural diversity as well as a better understanding of their own.

Grades: 6-8

ASD Name: Exploratory Spanish

### **Spanish I, H4021**

This course is an introduction to the language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. This course trains students in the skills of listening and speaking during the first semester with almost all assessments being speaking assessments. Writing and reading are introduced in the second semester. Various cultural topics are introduced and songs and skits are practiced daily.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Spanish I

Polaris Credit: 1 Elective

### **Spanish II, H4031**

This course continues developing skills learned in Spanish I and reinforces Spanish language skills and cultural studies. Students will be speaking meaningfully in various tenses about a broader range of topics including home, school, travel and interests. Students will complete various projects including videos and songs and the geography of the Spanish-speaking world.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Spanish II

Polaris Credit: 1 Elective

### **Advanced Spanish H4041(Span III) , H4051 (Span IV), H4061 (Span V), H4071 (AP Span)**

Advanced Spanish classes are taught in quarter-long block classes. A student may take them sequentially (A-->F) or as their schedule allows, and may take up to 8 quarters. These courses build on the knowledge acquired in levels I and II. An emphasis is placed on fluency of the written and spoken language. The course is conducted in Spanish. This class prepares students to have marketable Spanish skills in the real world. Students practice speaking with and listening to fluent speakers and cultural themes are more advanced and in depth. Real sources and short stories are used for reading and cultural prompts. Students set goals for learning in culture, speaking, writing, reading and listening. Reading selections may come from college level materials and in writing and speaking stress is on correct grammatical structures. While this is not an AP course, students may decide to take the AP Spanish exam after completing it.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Spanish III, IV, V, AP

Polaris Credit: .5 to 4 Elective

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

### **Aerobic Fitness, H6655S**

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of aerobic activities. Aerobic activity is vigorous, oxygenated large muscle exercise which stimulates heart and lung activity for a specific period of time while engaging body core stability. As a result, beneficial changes in the cardiorespiratory system are seen as well as the individual feels energized. In addition, basic choreography, music selection and effective group management skills will be taught. This course will provide students with the opportunity to increase their individual level of physical fitness, acquire knowledge of related fitness concepts and demonstrate an understanding of how a wellness lifestyle affects one's health, fitness and physical performance.

Grades: 6-12

ASD Name: Aerobics

Polaris Credit: .5 PE

### **Dance (Introductory), H6650S**

This course is designed as an introduction to movement, dance elements and the creative aspects of dance. Students explore various styles of dance through a unit approach and collaborate on a variety of student choreography projects. The development of muscular strength, flexibility, agility, balance, body alignment and an understanding of rhythm are approached through combined warm-up and dance technique segments. In addition, students study health-related fitness concepts and basic nutrition principles as they relate to dance.

Grades: 6-12

ASD Name: Intro to Dance

Polaris Credit: .50 PE

### **Fitness Basics, H6750S**

The course is designed to introduce students to all aspects of low impact and basic fitness concepts and activities. The primary class activities will include a variety of health-related fitness activities such as yoga, Pilates and use of pedometers that are appropriate for the participants' level of fitness. Course content will include laboratory sessions based on nutritional and fitness concepts, fitness assessment, motivation and self-esteem. In addition to setting and working toward personal fitness goals, students will have opportunities to practice positive social skills as they gain an understanding of how a wellness lifestyle affects the quality of life.

Grades: 6-12

ASD Name: Fitness Basics

Polaris Credit: .5 PE

### **Recreational Games, H6665**

The purpose of this course is to offer a variety of activities to the student who enjoys the fun of games. The games will be recreational in nature. These activities may include: basketball, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey and non-contact lacrosse. Each activity will be a maximum of two weeks in length. In addition, this course will provide opportunities to improve physical fitness, acquire knowledge of fitness concepts, and practice positive personal and social gain an understanding of how a wellness lifestyle affects one's health, fitness and physical performance. Repeatable course.

Grades: 6-12

ASD Name: Recreational Games

Polaris Credit: .25 PE

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

### **Team Sports, H6021**

The purpose of this course is to offer a variety of team sports to the student who enjoys goal setting, decision making, interacting with others directly and simultaneously to achieve an objective. These sports may include: basketball, volleyball, soccer, flag football and softball. Each sport will be a maximum of two weeks in length. In addition, this course will provide opportunities to improve physical fitness, acquire knowledge of fitness concepts, practice positive personal and social skills and gain an understanding of how a wellness lifestyle affects one's health, fitness and physical performance.

Grades 9-12

ASD Name: Team Sports

Polaris Credit: .5 PE

### **Weight Training-Basic, H6450S**

The purpose of this course is to promote the development of muscular strength and endurance and to enjoy the benefits of regular physical activity. Students learn to identify the major muscle groups and how to increase the performance of each through weight lifting and how to stabilize the body core. The discussion and practice of weight lifting techniques and principles guides students toward the eventual implementation of a personal fitness program. The primary class activity involves regular conditioning exercises supported by lecture and discussion.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Weight Training-Basic

Polaris Credit: .50 PE

### **Wilderness Recreation, H6740S**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic skills and knowledge associated with orienteering, hiking, camping, rock climbing, biking, skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, water safety and/or survival. Through active participation, the student will have the necessary skills and knowledge to pursue a variety of lifetime outdoor recreational activities. The course will provide students the opportunity to increase their individual level of physical fitness, acquire knowledge of fitness concepts and demonstrate an understanding of how a wellness lifestyle affects one's health, fitness and physical performance. Students will have the opportunity to practice positive personal and social skills, as many of the activities involve cooperation and willingness to take physical challenges.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Phys/Health Special Topics

Polaris Credit: .5 PE

### **Health, M2075**

Health Class: required ASD class for 8th graders who have not yet taken it. This course offers health instruction methods that are active and promote personal responsibility, lifelong learning, critical thinking, cooperation, and uses interdisciplinary approaches. Topics include personal health, nutrition, physical development, social development, mental health, human sexuality, substance abuse and use. These areas are interrelated and lead to total positive functioning of the individual in their environment.

Grades: 7-8

ASD Name: Health

Polaris Credit: .5 PE

### **Yoga and Wellness, H6761**

Students will practice Hatha Yoga focusing on yoga for strength, flexibility, and relaxation. The class will also cover techniques for increasing concentration and decreasing anxiety which leads to stronger academic performance. Breathing exercises, nutrition and healthy fitness activities will also be taught.

Grades: 6-12

ASD Name: Yoga

Polaris Credit: .50 PE

## VISUAL ARTS, GRAPHIC DESIGN, & PUBLICATION

### **Artist Workshop/Art Studio, H5120**

This class will be a balance of studio time where students are expected to be engaged in their own creative projects, a study of master artists through history, and assignments designed to strengthen basic artistic and design skills. Ability to work independently is strongly recommended.

Grades: 6-8

ASD Name: Art Studio

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Drawing and Design, H5070**

This class is an exploration of fundamental drawing principles such as value, scale, proportion, and perspective. Assignments will alternate between specific skill building projects and self-directed artwork. We'll use a variety of tools and materials to draw with, and learn about selecting the best medium to achieve particular effects. *Payment of an Art Lab Fee is required at the beginning of the term; scholarships are available through the front office.*

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Draw & Design

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Ceramics, H5155**

Designed for students with little or no previous experience in ceramics, this class will explore the process involved in creating clay sculpture and pottery. Students will learn and develop the fundamentals of hand built ceramics and receive an introduction to wheel thrown pottery. Various decorating, glazing, and firing methods will also be studied. *Art lab fee \$25*

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Pottery

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Printmaking, H5630**

This course is an introduction to the printmaking process and the creative use of printing techniques to produce artwork. Students in this course will explore a variety of printing methods including rubber stamps, Gytaku (printing with natural objects), block printing, collagraph printing, and monotype printing. Students will be expected to generate their own subject/themes and be able to communicate their ideas with an assortment of preliminary sketches and notes.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Printmaking

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Fiber Crafts, H9070QALT**

In this mixed-level hand-craft class, the focus will be on the basics of hand-sewing and mending, embroidery, knitting, crochet, and possibly weaving, depending upon both interest and time. Projects can be adapted/changed for students who are already proficient with basic skills. More complex projects are likely to require work-time outside of class. Lab fee \$10

Grades: 6-9

ASD Name: Art Crafts

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Painting, H5140**

This course is an exploratory course with an emphasis on painting. Students will experiment with different kinds of paint, such as watercolor, tempera, and acrylics, and learn techniques unique to each one. We'll explore the variety of surfaces appropriate for each type of paint and learn about some unusual painting techniques such as fresco (plaster), egg tempera and encaustic (wax).

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Painting

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective



## VISUAL ARTS, GRAPHIC DESIGN, & PUBLICATION

### **Publications: Yearbook, Journalism and Broadcasting**

CAPTURE AND CREATE! Yearbook provides experience in design, preparation, production and finance of the school yearbook, with emphasis on photography, copywriting and layout. This course demands student responsibility in order to meet publisher's deadlines. In addition to yearbook production, students will explore journalism and news reporting, social media management, podcasting and broadcasting. This class is a yearlong class for students interested in learning about communication in print, digital, written, visual and audio formats.

Grades: 8-12                      ASD Name: Yearbook (HS) or Journalism (MS)                      Polaris Credit: 1.0 Elective

### **Yearbook 1, H9671SALT**

Yearbook provides experience in design, preparation, production and finance of the school yearbook, with emphasis on photography, copywriting and layout. This course demands student responsibility in order to meet publisher's deadlines.

Grades: 9-12                      ASD Name: Yearbook 1                      Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Journalism, H0244**

Journalism 1 is a reading and writing course for highly motivated students. This course will explore and practice various writing styles used in a journalism career. Emphasis will be placed on grammar, usage and style according to the AP Stylebook. Proofreading and editing skills will be practiced. The class will develop research, interviewing and documentation skills used in creating well-written, balanced stories. Readings will include selected models of journalistic writing, biographies and historically significant publications. Writing may include, but is not limited to analysis, news, feature, editorial and sports writing. Students will have opportunities to submit pieces for publication.

Grades 8-12                      ASD Name: Journalism I                      Polaris Credit: .5 LA Elective

### **Beginning Photography**

This course covers basic concepts and practice of digital photography. There will be a focus on the use of the camera (from iphone cameras to DSLRs), lenses, and other basic photographic equipment. The course will address aesthetic principles as they relate to composition, exposure, light and color. If you have taken this class in the past, please do not register again. This is a class specifically for beginners.

Grades: 7-10                      ASD Name: Photography 1                      Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

## PERFORMING ARTS

### **Concert Band (Intermediate/Advanced Band), H5631S1, S2**

This course is for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of music through playing a wind or percussion instrument. Correct breathing, tonguing, posture, proper care of the instrument and reading musical notation will be learned in a large group setting. Limited public performances may be required. Students provide their own instrument.

**This is a year-long course, students are expected to take both fall and spring semesters.**

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Band II, Symphonic

Polaris Credit: 1 Elective

### **Advanced Orchestra, H5683S1, S2**

This audition-based course is for students who understand basic music theory and have mastered the foundational and mid-level performance techniques of an orchestral string instrument (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass) and wish to continue building their skills and musical knowledge. Advanced techniques, music theory, scales, repertoire, and performance/practice habits will be learned in a large group setting. Participation in limited public and school performances will be required. Students are responsible for providing their own instruments.

**This is a year long course, students are expected to complete both Fall and Spring semesters.**

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Orchestra II, Concert

Polaris Credit: 1 Elective

### **Intermediate Orchestra, M5665**

This course is for students who have a minimum of one year of experience playing an orchestral string instrument and wish to continue building their skills and musical knowledge. Mid-level techniques, music theory, scales, repertoire, and performance/practice habits will be learned in a large group setting. Participation in limited public and school performances will be required. Students are responsible for providing their own instruments.

**This is a year long course, students are expected to complete both Fall and Spring semesters.**

Grades: 7-8

ASD Name: Intermediate Orchestra

Polaris Credit: 1 Elective

### **Beginning Guitar, H5810**

This course is for 7th-12th grade students who are interested in learning fundamentals of music through playing guitar. Basic left and right-hand techniques, posture, instrument care, reading musical notation, and performance/practice habits will be learned in a large group setting. Participation in limited public and school performances will be required. Students are responsible for providing their own instruments.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Guitar Beginning

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Intro to Drama**

This course is an introduction to drama and the art of performing. Students will explore acting techniques, styles and stage movement while working toward a finished piece to share with an audience. Performance is optional.

Grades: 6-8

ASD Name: Drama

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Play Production, H9630**

Acting 1 in high gear! Students will participate in the process of play production- start to finish. Skills practiced in Acting 1 (also learned in this course) will be further developed as the "cast" works toward opening night. Performance is mandatory (and a lot of FUN!).

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Play Production

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

## BUSINESS EDUCATION & PROJECT BASED LEARNING

### **Community Involvement/Engagement M9077, H9960**

This course is designed to promote social and emotional learning for students involved in school-based community service while further developing their leadership and facilitation skills.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Service Learning/Community Involvement

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Introduction to Business**

This class is an introduction to the field of business including topics such as management, finance, accounting, marketing, production, computers, international business, small business, investments and other areas of general business interest. Introduction to Business is designed to expose students to many functions of modern business and the multitude of career fields in the areas of business. By managing and operating the school store Journé Café, students will also learn real life job skills that can be used on resumes. When combined with Intro to Marketing, students can meet the Economics graduation requirement.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Introduction to Business

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Teacher Aide/Office Aide, H9090, H9200**

A teacher aide works directly with an elementary or secondary teacher, or the front office to support their classroom and work. Teacher aides look for opportunities to help, are willing to learn new technology (ie copy machine), and must be able to work independently. If you wish to work as a teacher aide, you must have a host teacher's approval in advance.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Aide, Teacher or Aide, Office

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Music Entertainment Technology**

This course will address the creative application of music technology in a culturally relevant manner, exploring common media production techniques, current in the modern entertainment and advertising fields, in both live and recorded settings. Building upon a foundation of basic music theory and computer skills, students will explore the use of digital media programs in the creation of diverse media presentations, as well as the use of electronic audio equipment to enhance live performance.

Grades: 8-12

ASD Name: Music Entertainment Technology

Polaris Credit .5 Elective

### **Peer Tutoring**

Students in this course receive basic instruction in facilitating tutoring work in multiple subject areas and are then paired with elementary teachers to implement their programs.

Grades: 7-12

ASD Name: Aide, Tutor

Polaris Credit: .5 Elective

### **Peer Teacher**

Students create a quarter or semester long curriculum in conjunction with a teacher advisor and deliver that course. Students create a course syllabus, develop lesson plans and implement them working with the advisor to evaluate students and assign grades.

Grades: 9-12

ASD Name: Peer Teacher

Polaris Credit: .25 Elective

### **Advisory**

This multi-age class meets daily for 30 minutes. During advisory, students actively participate in their own student government, explore the qualities of leadership, select and implement community service projects and continually ask themselves "What am I doing to make my community a better place?" Advisory also provides an environment to form meaningful relationships with their peers and to form a bond with their academic advisor.

Grades: 6-12

ASD Name: Advisory

Polaris Credit: .5 General Elective/year

## BUSINESS EDUCATION & PROJECT BASED LEARNING

### Capstone

The Polaris Capstone Project is a student-centered approach to instruction. Students form their own investigation of a guiding question, to develop valuable research skills and new knowledge as they engage in design, problem solving, decision-making, creativity, and investigative activities. The teacher plays the role of facilitator, working with students to frame worthwhile questions, structuring meaningful tasks, coaching both knowledge development and weekly missions, and carefully assessing what students have learned from the experience. With this type of active and engaged learning, students will be inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they are curious about. A public exhibition is required in order to complete this class for credit.

*Students may earn general elective or subject specific credit, depending on the focus/content of their project.*

Grades: 8-12

ASD Name: Independent Study (content area)

Polaris Credit: .5 or 1  
General Elective or subject  
Specific

### Supervised Study Hall (SSH)

This class is designed to support students in their academic and social growth. Teacher will facilitate daily check-ins, homework support and review. Students will receive direct instruction in study skill strategies and time management, and will be offered time each day to work on their classwork.

Grades 7-12

ASD Name: Independent Study

Polaris Credit: .5 elective