

New Life Options Middle & High School Course Descriptions 2017-2018

Art

Mid/HS Studio Art

class rating:3

This course is an introduction to two and three-dimensional design concepts and techniques through the study and application of the elements of art and principles of design. This class is suited for both first-time art students and experienced budding artists. A variety of 2D and 3D techniques will be applied which may include drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, assemblage, stitching, and wire modeling.

Requirements: One hour of completed homework each week.

Beginning Digital Art and Graphic Design: (6-12th)

class rating:3

This class is an introduction to digital art and graphic design. Students will learn about basic digital photography techniques, digital photo editing and manipulation, and graphic layout and design. This course will develop a variety of skills and techniques that will build upon an understanding and application of the elements of art and principles of design. Students will create variety of projects including brochures, announcements, and a digital yearbook. Students should expect to complete some written assignments, photography and/or sketching homework per week. Students will need to be able to download digital photos onto a USB drive at home.

Requirements: Digital camera (high resolution/quality phone camera okay), USB (thumb) Drive, 16GB or more, One hour of completed homework each week.

Digital Art and Graphic Design II: (6-12th)

class rating:3

This class will focus on extending understanding and application of photography as an art form. This course will develop technical photography skills and will introduce applications to create original digital art. Students will create variety of projects that will require students to understand and set manual camera settings, think creatively to create photo-based mixed media artworks, and develop a thematic body of work for the course final. Students will need to complete no more than an hour of writing, photography and/or sketching homework per week. Students will need to be able to download digital photos onto a USB drive at home.

Requirements: Beginning Digital Art, Digital camera (no phones), USB (thumb) Drive, 16GB or more, One hour of completed homework each week.

Language Arts

Lit/Composition (6th/7th or 8th/10th)

class rating:4

Students will read, write about, and discuss various pieces of writing as well as produce writing about their own ideas. Each class will begin with a short lesson on the conventions of written language. We will also study the genres of reading and writing as well as organizational patterns for developing ideas including narration, description, persuasion, the paragraph and the essay.

Requirements: Completed homework

Composition & Research Writing (10th-12th)

class rating:5

(9th grade students need permission from the teacher).

We will study the conventions of written language. Students will be graded on all steps of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, editing, and publishing. First semester will focus on the essay and paragraph development including narration, description, explanation, and persuasion. At the end of the semester, students will learn the requirement for all aspects of the research paper and write a short

paper on a short story. Second semester will begin with a longer research paper. Students will choose both their topics and the purpose for their projects.

Requirements: Library research for print sources will be required. We will read a novel at the end of the year and finish with an essay on it. Completed Homework. Flash drive for weekly assignments. Laptop computers will be used in class and a computer is needed at home as well as well as access to the internet.

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation for 10th graders/proof of readiness.
{This course will translate to English + level on transcripts.}

Social Studies/Literature

International Towne/Historical Literature (Grades 7-8th) class rating: 3

This class is one semester of International Towne one semester of Historical Literature. International Towne includes the training necessary to understand foreign currency and exchange rates as well as how to run an international business. All of the classes on International Towne will culminate in a mandatory field trip to the Young Americans Bank in Denver. The trip date is yet to be determined. For more information please go to the website:

www.yacenter.org/internationaltowne

Requirements: Homework, attend International Towne field trip day (in March/April on a Wednesday.) **Cost:** \$20 per student paid in January

Textbook: Materials designed by the Young Americans Bank & Elements of Literature, 1st course

American Government/Civics (10th-12th only) class rating: 5

This course is designed as an in-depth study of the purpose of government and the basic constitutional principles of the US. The students will learn the structure and function of national, state and local governments, civil liberties and civil rights politics and public policy. The students will also learn citizenship roles, rights and responsibilities.

Requirements: Students must possess critical thinking skills, research and writing skills.

Textbook: American Government by Great Source, American Nation by Prentice Hall

US History/Geography(parts 2) class rating:4

This course is broken into three parts. Year one covers the time span from pre-Columbian history through the Revolutionary War. Year two will cover the Constitutional period and finishing in the Reconstruction (Post Civil War) period. Year three covers the period from Reconstruction to the present. These classes will focus on the cause and effect of actions taken by individuals and nations and they will include study of geography. Grades will be based on quizzes, essays, homework assignments, short writing assignments, scored discussions, map quizzes and group work. Students will occasionally be given assignments dealing with modern applications of issues discussed in class. Students will be encouraged to engage in classroom discussion. Study skills, writing skills and logical argumentation will also be stressed as part of the course.

Prerequisites: Read/Write at or above grade level. You do NOT need to have done part 1 to do part 2.

Requirements: Completed homework.

Textbook: History of the US, Oxford University Press

World History/Geography**class rating:4**

This course is a two year course and will cover the European Renaissance to the present. Grades will be based on quizzes, essays, homework assignments, short writing assignments, scored discussions, maps and group work. Students will occasionally be given assignments dealing with modern applications of issues discussed in class. Students will be encouraged to engage in classroom discussion. Study skills, writing skills and logical argumentation will also be stressed as part of the course.

Prerequisites: Read/Write at or above grade level

Requirements: Completed homework.

Textbook: History of the World, Wise Bauer

Math**Algebra 1 (8th- 11th)BLOCK CLASS 2.5 hours****class rating: 5**

Topics will include absolute values, number sets and their relationships, properties of polynomials, equations, signed numbers fundamental operations, ratios, proportions, factoring, fractions square roots radicals and elements of probability. Parents will need to grade weekly lessons at home.

Prerequisites: "C" or better grade in Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ or other pre-Algebra Math. *Saxon placement test may also be used to determine student level and are found online*

Requirements: Completed homework. Students will need to grade and correct weekly homework assignments with the supervision of parents.

Textbook: Saxon Algebra 1

Algebra 2: (9th- 12th) BLOCK CLASS 2.5 hours**class rating: 5**

This full credit course consists of the study of systems of linear and quadratic equations, exponents, radicals, complex numbers, polynomial functions, and relationships. This course may be enriched and extended by topics such as logarithms matrices and probability. The entire book will be covered in the school year and is a full credit class with APS. The graphing calculator will be introduced and applied to graphically obtain solutions and simply problems.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 completed with grade of C or better. *Saxon placement test may also be used to determine student level.*

Requirements: Completed homework

Textbook: Saxon Algebra 2

Science**General (6-8th) Science****class rating:2**

This course will integrate a wide range of hands-on experiences, critical-thinking opportunities, and real-world applications. This will be a hands-on course will include the physics of oceanography, scuba diving and the physics of flight.

Prerequisites: none

Requirements: Classroom participation. Some homework will be assigned.

General Physics Science(8th-12th)**class rating 4**

General areas of study will include concepts of magnetism, mechanics, motion, astronomy, heat, light, sound, motion, magnetism, and electricity. Prerequisite math skills should include, but is not limited to those presented in Algebra I. An emphasis is placed on a mathematical understanding of the physics principles that are presented.

Prerequisites: Algebra 1 completed

Requirements: Classroom participation. Homework will be assigned

Spanish

Introduction to Spanish (7/8th)

class rating 3

This course is an introductory course to Spanish. The goal is to introduce students to the Spanish language and provide them with vocabulary covering a wide range of topics and also an introduction to basic conversations. The course will also cover some cultural topics that will encourage the student's interest in the language. It will also include projects, games, songs, vocabulary building and conversation practice.

Prerequisites: none

Requirements: Some homework will be assigned each week.

Textbook: Exploratory Spanish by Teacher's Discovery

Spanish 1 (8th-12th)

class rating:4

This is a beginning level Spanish course. The students will learn the sound system of the language and achieve the use of the language through listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The course will emphasize participation. Students will learn and develop skills in grammar, structure, vocabulary and Hispanic culture.

Prerequisites: none, but the Intro to Spanish class is helpful

Textbook: Realidades

Requirements: Completed homework/memorization

Spanish 2 (8th-12th)

class rating:4

This course will further challenge students who have a basic understanding of the Spanish language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Class participation is essential.

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, completion of Spanish 1 with grade C or better

Textbook: Realidades

Requirements: Completed homework/memorization

Music/Choir OR Instrumental Music

class rating:2

In these courses the students will be learning about the elements of music and applying them to playing instruments / singing. The Instrumental Music class will use drums, recorders, and xylophones while the Choir class will be using their voice and learning about vocal techniques. Both classes will be studying music history from the Middle Ages through the 20th Century with the focus being on orchestral composers. There will be periodic performances during assembly (8:45am). There will also be three projects to be completed throughout the year. Some music background is helpful but not necessary.

Requirements: Note taking as needed, practicing parts at home, and be present for performances.

NL/Iliff Options M/HS CLASS RATING KEY

Class rating= 1	Rarely, if any, homework ever sent home
Class rating= 2	Occasional homework assigned to the class, less than 1 hour for the week.
Class rating= 3	Homework each week no more than 2 hours.
Class rating= 4	Homework assigned- approximately 2-4 hours each week
Class rating= 5	Full credit class requiring 4-5 hours of homework each week.

ELEMENTARY CLASS RATINGS

Elem Science	1	Science Fair in the Spring- optional
Elem Art	1	
Elem Music/ Drama	2	OCCASIONAL HOMEWORK FOR PROGRAMS
Elem PE	1	
Elem Social Studies	1	
Elem Ameritowne (ALL 4/5 th graders) www.yacenter.org/Ameritowne	2	OCCASIONAL WRITTEN HOMEWORK \$20.00 fee paid in January