

The High School at Brown School - 9-12 Curriculum Outline

In the spirit of Brown School’s mission - “to inspire each student to love learning while striving for academic excellence” - The High School at Brown School will continue to foster the development of mindful, global citizens through a variety of course offerings.

We will work with each student to establish personalized goals and develop a program that meets their educational, occupational and personal objectives. While taking into account individual strengths, interests, aptitudes and needs, students and faculty will be able to work together to supplement the basic graduation requirements with the most fitting electives for each student’s success.

Basic Graduation Requirements (grades 9-12)

Math - 3 credits

Science - 3 credits

Social Studies - 4 credits

English - 4 credits

Language (Spanish) - 2 credits

Fine Arts - 2 credits

PE/Wellness - 4 credits (students in sports may be exempt from PE)

Health - ½ credit

Technology - ½ credit

9th	10th	11th	12th
Math: Algebra (differentiated based on ability)	Math: Geometry (differentiated based on ability)	Math: Trigonometry (differentiated based on ability)	
Science: Biology	Science: Chemistry	Science: Physics	
Soc. Studies: Global History I	Soc. Studies: Global History II	Soc. Studies: US History	Soc. Studies: Economics (½ yr) Part. in Gov (½ yr)
English 9	English 10	English 11	English Elective
Spanish II or Combo Spanish I/II	Spanish III		
PE/Wellness (3x/wk)	PE/Wellness	PE/Wellness	PE/Wellness
Rock Music or lessons (2x/wk) or Studio Art (3x/wk)	Fine Arts* (flexible)	----->	----->
		Health (½ yr) / Tech (½ yr)	

Fine Arts offerings

Students will be required to take *4 semesters of Fine Arts*. This may include any combination of music, art or other electives, and may be spread out over the course of grades 9-12.

Visual Arts

Depending on the student's specific interests, in 10th, 11th and 12th grade, they may choose from one of the following sequences:

Sequence 1:

- Studio Art
- Photography (only digital)
- Graphic Design (technology dependent)

Sequence 2:

- Studio Art
- 3D design (emphasis on form)
- Advanced Sculpture (alternative media, throwing on a wheel)

Sequence 3:

- Studio Art
- Drawing and Painting
- Advanced Drawing and Painting

Music

There are currently two proposed offerings for Music credit:

- Rock Music

The students will research the many faces of Rock music. (Blues Rock, Folk, Country Rock, Bubblegum, Psychedelic, Progressive rock, Glam Rock, Heavy Metal, Punk.) Students will learn many of these styles on guitar. Students will assist in producing and directing Open Mic Events.

- Dulcimer

Students will explore the dulcimer, including creating their own dulcimer with "make it yourself" kits. Students will perform in a dulcimer performance group.

*Students may also study a band instrument or guitar for music credit.

Other High School Electives

Math:

Pre-Calculus
AP Calculus
Statistics
Business Math
Logic
College Algebra

Social Studies:

Sociology
Psychology
History of The Civil Rights Movement
History of The Holocaust
History of The Cold War

Science:

Environmental Science
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
Current Events in Science
Independent Study/Research Project

English:

Journalism
Shakespeare
Film
Public Speaking
Creative Writing
Sci-Fi and Fantasy Literature
Mystery and Detective Literature

Technology:

AP Computer Science

Spanish:

University in the High School
Spanish Literature

Fine Arts:

Dance for Musical Theater
Survey of Art History - Prerequisite for the following:
-Classics (Egypt, Greece, Rome)
-Modern Art & Contemporary Art: (early 20th Century to present)

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9th grade course descriptions

English 9

9th grade English, using different texts and with different levels of mastery in mind, will both stress close reading, annotating, critical analysis of canonical texts and learning to seamlessly transfer the fruits of such analysis to fluent, formal critical writing.

Students will also engage in more subjective, imaginative and informal writing which will take the form of poetry journals, spoken word poems, ekphrastic interpretations of texts, and their own TEDx talk which they will have the opportunity to perform at the end of the year.

Vocabulary and grammar concepts will be presented weekly, internalized via creative assignments, and memorialized in aggregate in a grammar/vocabulary notebook so that they might be pressed into intentional and accountable service in future writing assignments.

Global 9

Global History I aims to build students' critical thinking and literacy skills, as well as historical knowledge about the diverse civilizations that helped shape the world that we live in today. The course covers civilizations in Europe, Africa, and Asia in the ancient and classical eras with connections to the modern world. With a strong focus on project-based learning, the course differentiates to the learners in the classroom and strives to develop active and knowledgeable global citizens.

Math

In 9th grade, the instruction is differentiated and individualized for each student in order to best support his/her goals. The topics covered will depend on each student's math ability. Topics range from Pre-Algebra through Algebra 1 and up to Geometry.

Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties, how and why substances combine or separate to form other substances, and how substances interact with energy. Topics include the organization and classification of matter, atomic theory, radioactivity, the periodic table of the elements, principles of chemical reactions, heat, molecular motion, and chemical bonds. This class includes laboratory time, when the students will be able to apply the theories they are learning.

Spanish II

Spanish II will focus on the integration of language and culture, with a strong focus on authentic communication. Students will strengthen their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through hands-on, student-led projects with a cultural focus. Students will “travel” through eight different Spanish-speaking countries as they learn about a variety of cultural topics: history, art, music, dance, food, festivals and other traditions.

*Students who have not taken Spanish in middle school will be offered other language options.

Art

9th Grade Studio Art will stress the elements and principles of design through various mediums such as drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media, and printmaking. Art history is woven into each unit, providing cultural and historical context. In-process critiques also play a vital role in students' overall creative experiences, emphasizing the use of critical language, personal reflection, and growth.

*Students who had Studio Art in 8th grade at Brown School, may take Drawing & Painting.

Physical Education

The curriculum for 9th Grade Physical Education stresses the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Teamwork, cooperation and sportsmanship are emphasized. The students will explore a variety of sports and athletic opportunities throughout the year.

10th grade course descriptions

English 10

Students will continue to build and improve upon their communication skills. This includes a strong focus on the organization and development of effective writing, grammar, mechanics, vocabulary (Wordly Wise), and spelling. Students will write in a variety of forms to explain, inform, analyze, entertain, reflect, and persuade. To become college and career ready, students will experience works of exceptional craft and thought, whose range extends across genres, cultures, and centuries, offering profound insights into the human condition and serving as models for the students' own thinking and writing. Readings include selections from our literature textbook, *Mirrors and Windows*, and trade books such as *The Odyssey* and *The Tempest*.

Global 10

Global History II continues to develop student research, critical thinking, and literacy skills while studying modern world history. The course will begin by looking at the French Revolution and trace the history of the world, both World Wars, and today. With a strong focus on project

based learning, the course will aim to engage students on issues from the past and today to develop knowledgeable and active citizens.

Math

The 10th grade curriculum continues to focus on the mathematical goals of each individual student. Similar to 9th grade, the instruction is differentiated and individualized for each student in order to best support each student. The topics covered will depend on each student's math ability. Topics range from Pre-Algebra through Algebra 1 and up to Geometry or Trigonometry.

Biology

Biology class focuses on the living world, covering a variety of topics including biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolution, ecology, plants and animals, and the human body. Supported by laboratory experiences, students will relate their observations to the natural world.

*Students who have taken Biology in Middle School will have an alternate Science class.

**The students in 10th grade will be taking Chemistry in the 2018-2019 school year. Please see the description in the 9th grade listing.

Spanish III

Spanish III will focus on the integration of language and culture, with a strong focus on authentic communication. Students will strengthen their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through hands-on, student-led projects with a cultural focus. Students will learn to communicate within the context of different cultural topics, such as: music, literature, legends, traditions and community celebrations.

Art (elective)

Drawing and Painting will emphasize intermediate and advanced techniques, including both traditional and alternative drawing media, acrylics, and watercolor. The curriculum will explore artistic processes of artists throughout history. Students will create large-scale drawings and paintings that explore a variety of techniques and media. Charcoal, ebony pencil, acrylic, and watercolor will be used.

Physical Education

The curriculum for 10th Grade Physical Education stresses the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Teamwork, cooperation and sportsmanship are emphasized. The students will explore a variety of sports and athletic opportunities throughout the year.