



ALLEN ACADEMY

A COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Course of Study 2011-2012

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ALLEN ACADEMY PRESCHOOL

Course of Study

The Prekindergarten I and II programs facilitate the emotional, social, cognitive and physical growth of children three and four years of age. Daily child-centered activities support the individual development of each child's emotional growth, social and self-help skills, as well as the academic areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Teachers watch, listen, and ask questions that promote thought by the child. Children are taught how to think, not what to think. The classroom environment is designed to stimulate learning through active exploration and interaction with other children, adults and classroom materials.

PREKINDERGARTEN I

Children learn through play! Cooperative activities and dramatic play enhance physical and social development, as children begin to give meaning to their experiences, to take responsibility for their own learning, use words to begin to express their feelings, and to become more sensitive to the feelings of others. Through play and active exploration, children begin to develop a love of books, language and reading. They work on developing fine motor and pre-writing skills. Children are beginning to construct important mathematical ideas and are developing ideas of science and social studies. In Prekindergarten I, the children and teachers are always ready for new experiences, having fun and developing their natural curiosities and love of learning!

LANGUAGE ARTS

Children are immersed in an environment where oral and written communications are valued. Vocabularies grow as children acquire understanding of new words through their experiences. Early phonemic awareness is fostered through a variety of activities which utilize books, stories, rhymes, playing games with words and alliteration. Key concepts thoughtfully and purposefully focused on include: building vocabulary, development of oral language skills, phonemic and print awareness, letter sounds and letters, comprehension, love of books, development of pre-writing skills.

MATHEMATICS

Children learn math through real situations and developmentally appropriate games and activities where reasoning and problem solving are central to understanding. Key concepts covered are: number sense, counting, one-to-one correspondence, sorting, comparing, measurement, shapes, patterning, ordering, mathematical - language development within natural context.

Children are encouraged to observe, question, collect information, communicate ideas, and make connections and representation.

SCIENCE

The process of science is learned through active engagement in the world around them. Opportunities are provided for hypothesizing, predicting, observing, collecting data and formulating ideas and conclusions. The curriculum provides a balance among the three disciplines of life science, physical science and earth science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Through exploration of family, school and community, children are able to organize and generate personal knowledge of how people live, work and get along with others. They also learn how to solve problems, individually and collectively, and how people shape and are shaped by their surroundings.

MUSIC

Music in Prekindergarten I cultivates an active appreciation of the performing arts. Music is explored through singing, listening, playing instruments and composing. Student involvement in these activities enhances creativity and imagination.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education facilitates the optimum growth and development of each child. Socialization skills, movement skills and manipulative skills are all part of the overall program.

In Prekindergarten I, Allen Academy children learn to respect the rights and feelings of others when playing games and learning new things. Physical Education also engages children in a wide variety of activities such as bending, twisting, climbing and running.

LIBRARY

Weekly, the Prekindergarten I children visit the library. Through the program students learn to use the resources available in the library. Young children's literature corresponding to topics being taught in the classroom is shared and enjoyed by all.

PREKINDERGARTEN II

Allen Academy's Prekindergarten II program is student-centered and provides opportunities for meeting individual needs, making choices, creative expression, social interaction and skill building. Allen Academy believes children construct knowledge of the world as they interact with it and that children "think by doing." Allen Academy structures the program around age-appropriate play, guided activities and concrete, hands-on experiences and materials which allow children the opportunity to explore their surroundings, relationships and understanding of their world in various ways. Allen Academy offers added enrichment with music, physical education, and library. Allen Academy emphasizes respect and caring for self, others and the environment, responsibility and independence as well as creative problem solving and communication.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Children are immersed in an environment where oral and written communications are valued. Vocabularies grow as children acquire understanding of new words through their experiences. Early phonological awareness is fostered through a variety of activities which utilize stories, playing games and rhymes with words and alliteration. Key concepts thoughtfully and purposefully focused on include: building vocabulary and oral language development, phonological awareness, awareness of knowledge of print, letters and words with active participation in weekly journaling, comprehension, awareness and knowledge of books, initial awareness and understanding of the process, composition and conventions of writing.

MATHEMATICS

Children learn mathematics through real situations and choice time activities where problem solving and reasoning are central to understanding. Key concepts covered are: number sense and counting, including one-to-one correspondence; classifying; comparing; part/part-whole; grouping and sharing; measurement; shapes and space; patterning and ordering; mathematical language development within natural contexts. Children are encouraged to observe, question, collect information, communicate ideas, and make connections and representations.

SCIENCE

For Prekindergarten II students, the process of science is learned by being actively engaged in the world around them. Opportunities are provided for the children to observe predict, interact and formulate ideas and outcomes. The curriculum provides a balance among the three broad scientific disciplines, which include: life science, physical science, earth science and process skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Through exploration of family, school and community, children are able to acquire, organize and generate personal knowledge of how people live, work, and get along with others. They also learn how to collectively solve problems and how people shape and are shaped by their surroundings. Allen Academy's social studies curriculum provides a broad introduction to the understanding of historical data and geography.

MUSIC

The goal of the music program is to introduce and reinforce basic musical concepts through singing, movement, dancing, playing instruments, and movement. The concepts include the recognition of tempo, rhythm, dynamics and sound distinctions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program includes a balance of skills, concepts, games, activities, rhythmic experiences and fitness that enhance the physical, mental, and emotional development of every child.

LIBRARY

Weekly, the Prekindergarten II children visit the library. Through the program students learn to use the resources available in the library. Young children's literature corresponding to topics being taught in the classroom is shared and enjoyed by all.

ALLEN ACADEMY LOWER SCHOOL

Course of Study

KINDERGARTEN

LANGUAGE ARTS

Introducing the young child to literacy in a variety of methods that will lay the foundation for a lifelong love of reading and writing is a major component of the kindergarten program. This is accomplished with the use of a balanced reading program that includes strong phonics instruction, independent reading, shared reading, and teacher read-alouds. Writing experiences are emphasized through journal writing and language experience stories.

MATHEMATICS

Students are introduced to math through a multiple exposure program. The math program is designed to be useful, enjoyable, varied, and meaningful so that a strong mathematical foundation is formed. Concepts introduced include counting, numeration, measurement, geometry, patterns, data collecting, calendar skills, graphing and calculator use. Math concepts are enriched by hands-on games and activities to continuously reinforce skills that are taught and learned.

SCIENCE

The Lower School science curriculum provides students with the foundations for observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, describing, classifying, predicting, collecting data, and interpreting data. It is built to foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm. Children learn by doing and reflecting upon this active learning. Materials from a variety of programs are utilized to explore life, earth and space, technology, human and physical sciences. Students visit the science lab twice per week and are instructed by a science specialist. In kindergarten, we look at trees, wood and paper, fabric, animals two by two.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The program promotes increased awareness of self, family and the school community. Recognizing that community begins in the classroom, children actively learn the meaning of respect, equity, cooperation and citizenship. The students learn mapping skills through identifying landmarks found around the world. Through hands-on lessons the students also learn the difference between city, state, and continents.

SPANISH

In a program largely aural/oral by design, students are introduced to the sounds of Spanish using carefully selected vocabulary in order to create opportunities for successful communication in the target language. The development of an awareness of cultural similarities and differences of the Spanish speaking world through songs, brief dialogues, role playing, skits, puppets and games creates an atmosphere of fun where the emphasis is on success.

MUSIC

Lower School music's objectives are to help students understand and appreciate the various forms of artistic expression and their relationships; approach music both as an art to be enjoyed and shared, and a discipline that demands developing skills and increasing knowledge; become eager participants in music and develop a positive attitude toward music; have confidence in their singing and playing abilities; gain familiarity with various styles of music and begin to develop preferences; build a repertoire of songs and games; and acquire knowledge of history and humanities through listening experiences with great master works and composers. During the course of the year the students will begin singing in tune, singing longer songs, and singing while playing games this further reinforce the understanding of the elements of music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education strengthens Kindergartners' growth and development in six central areas: socialization, movement skills, movement education and gymnastics, manipulative skills, games, and specific sport skills. Allen Academy's kindergartners learn through a wide variety of movement experiences in a noncompetitive atmosphere. Intellectual, emotional, and social growth are promoted through a Physical education program that guides a child's participation.

MULTIMEDIA

Students work together in the technology lab once a week to learn effective communication and cooperative work skills. As well, Instructional Technology Specialist works in coordination with the classroom teachers to plan and deliver technology lessons, on a weekly basis, within the students' classroom that support the core curriculum objectives. Software programs that reinforce language, number, and spatial concepts and familiarize the children with the computer keyboard and commands are utilized.

FIRST GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

A literacy program that offers a combination of explicit phonics based skills and a strong blend of Literature-based activities are introduced at this level. Individual learning styles and stages of development are addressed to provide consistent and appropriate learning outcomes. Opportunities for independent reading allow the children to select books of their interest to build fluency and comprehension. Emphasis is placed on process writing that includes having the children write in response to their own life experiences, as well as, classroom literature. Student vocabulary is strengthened with the use of weekly word lists selected from various sources. Writing portfolios capture student development.

MATHEMATICS

Foundations of math are taught using a combination of manipulatives, games, and written practices. Mathematical development and the understanding of core areas prepare students for more advanced math concepts. Students develop skills in counting, patterning, measurement, fact power, place value, fractions, money, and geometry. The children are introduced to multiple problem solving opportunities to learn concepts.

SCIENCE

The Lower School science curriculum provides students with the foundations for observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, describing, classifying, predicting, collecting data, and interpreting data. It is built to foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm. Children learn by doing and reflecting upon this active learning. Materials from a variety of programs are utilized to explore life, earth and space, technology, human and physical sciences. In First Grade, we look at solids and liquids; air and weather; the water cycle; organisms: animals, habitats, and animal adaptations.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In social studies, students learn about charts, maps, and globes to explore the earth's geographic features. Students develop the awareness of others as they come to understand their role within the family unit, the community, and our country.

SPANISH

In a program largely aural/oral by design, students are introduced to the sounds of Spanish using carefully selected vocabulary in order to create opportunities for successful communication in the target language. The development of an awareness of cultural similarities and differences of the Spanish speaking world through songs, brief dialogues, role playing, skits, puppets and games creates an atmosphere of fun where the emphasis is on success.

MUSIC

Lower School music's objectives are to help students understand and appreciate the various forms of artistic expression and their relationships; approach music both as an art to be enjoyed and shared, and a discipline that demands developing skills and increasing knowledge; become eager participants in music and develop a positive attitude toward music; have confidence in their singing and playing abilities; gain familiarity with various styles of music and begin to develop preferences; build a repertoire of songs and games; and acquire knowledge of history and humanities through listening experiences with great master works and composers.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education supports First Grade children in their growth and development through guided participation in physical activities. This participation also strengthens children's intellectual, social, and emotional growth. Allen Academy children learn through a variety of movement and rhythmic activities, sports, and games. Numerous activities enhance hand-eye and foot-eye skills. Physical education is structured to enhance children's abilities to cooperate with and respect others.

MULTIMEDIA

In First Grade, students work together in the technology lab once a week. As well, Instructional Technology Specialist works in coordination with the classroom teachers to plan and deliver technology lessons, on a weekly basis, within the students' classroom that support the core curriculum objectives. Students work independently on the computer in the classroom and in the technology lab. Emphasis is on learning the basics of the computer, including the use and care of CDs, the function of the mouse and keyboard, and the variety of tasks that computers aid, such as writing stories, creating graphics, constructing graphs, and publishing work. A short touch-typing unit introduces the concept of "home position" on the keyboard. By the end of First Grade students have learned how to log on to the Allen Academy network and save their work.

SECOND GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading emphasizes the development of higher-level skills such as listening, inferential thinking, plot and setting, sequencing, and characterization. The students learn to read for information by exploring and responding to various forms of literature. Second Grade children communicate and participate in both written and oral language routines through independent and group activities. Identified language skills are highlighted within the students' writing and emphasized throughout all areas of study.

MATHEMATICS

Students build upon their knowledge of math through a combination of written activities, games, and manipulatives. Students develop skills in addition and subtraction facts, place value, money, time, geometric concepts, whole number operations, number stories, patterns, fractions, measurement, decimals, and place value. In addition to methodical development of fact power through the use of games, students will learn the important relationships between addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. Problem solving is part of each new concept and allows the students to apply their mathematical knowledge to a variety of situations.

SCIENCE

The Lower School science curriculum provides students with the foundations for observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, describing, classifying, predicting, collecting data, and interpreting data. It is built to foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm. Children learn by doing and reflecting upon this active learning. Materials from a variety of programs are utilized to explore life, earth and space, technology, human and physical sciences. Students visit the science lab twice per week and are instructed by a science specialist. Second Grade children look at balancing and weighing; insects; the solar system and the moon; effect of seasonal changes on plants and animals; soils; plant resources; and food chains.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In social studies, instruction focuses on the study of where we live, our country long ago and our country today, as well as the understanding of maps and the elements of cardinal directions, map keys, symbols, and scales.

SPANISH

Second Grade children expand their linguistic base through continued attention to pronunciation and intonation as well as increased individual and group participation. Question/answer role playing, sounds, rhymes, poems and round robin oral practice leading to mini-skits and dialogues, all contribute to the growing facility in the target language. Word recognition skills and reading readiness in both foreign languages are introduced using simple sound-letter correspondences. Cultural awareness and comprehension increase as the Second Grade children become more aware of the world around them.

MUSIC

Lower School music's objectives are to help students understand and appreciate the various forms of artistic expression and their relationships; approach music both as an art to be enjoyed and shared, and a discipline that demands developing skills and increasing knowledge; become eager participants in music and develop a positive attitude toward music; have confidence in their singing and playing abilities; gain familiarity with various styles of music and begin to develop preferences; build a repertoire of songs and games; and acquire knowledge of history and humanities through listening experiences with great master works and composers. Second grade instruction focuses on developing an understanding of rhythm, melody and form.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education supports children's optimum growth and development. Participation in several movement experiences occurs in a non-competitive environment. As is the case throughout the Physical education curriculum, an emphasis is also placed on intellectual, emotional, and social growth. Second Grade children learn more about physical agility. Manipulative and sport skills are developed, using a variety of activities such as soccer, basketball and volleyball.

MULTIMEDIA

In Second Grade, students work together in the technology lab once a week. As well, Instructional Technology Specialist works in coordination with the classroom teachers to plan and deliver technology lessons, on a weekly basis, within the students' classroom that support the core curriculum objectives. Students learn to use special software that allows them to create stories and illustrations. Beginning in Second Grade, students begin creating multimedia presentations using software that combines text with graphics. By Second Grade, they learn to use the Internet for research, using kid-friendly search engines. Students are given opportunities to do research using the Internet and are taught effective and safe search techniques.

ART

Second Grade children begin to develop stronger understanding of the elements and principles of art. Recognizing and using line, shape, color and texture effectively and expressively are focused upon as well as developing art appreciate and art history through artist studies. A variety of media is explored.

THIRD GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading emphasizes the development of higher-level skills such as listening, inferential thinking, plot and setting, sequencing, and characterization. The students learn to read for information by exploring and responding to various forms of literature. Second Grade children communicate and participate in both written and oral language routines through independent and group activities. Identified language skills are highlighted within the students' writing and emphasized throughout all areas of study.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics study continues with an emphasis upon enhancing basic math facts through manipulatives, games, and written activities. The students will be introduced to adding and subtracting whole numbers, linear measures and area, multiplication and division, place value in whole numbers and decimals, geometry, fractions, and measurement and data. Students' research and problem solving skills are active throughout the year. Problem solving is part of each new concept and allows the students to apply their mathematical knowledge to a variety of situations.

SCIENCE

The Lower School science curriculum provides students with the foundations for observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, describing, classifying, predicting, collecting data, and interpreting data. It is built to foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm. Children learn by doing and reflecting upon this active learning. Materials from a variety of programs are utilized to explore life, earth and space, technology, human and physical sciences. Students visit the science lab twice per week and are instructed by a science specialist. The Third Grade students look at earth materials; structures of life; physics of sound; light, and landforms.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies program in Third Grade is designed to introduce the child to the five basic areas (strands) of the social studies curriculum: democratic ideals, cultural diversity, economic development, global perspective, and participatory citizenship. Geography and map skills are emphasized and reinforced.

SPANISH

In Third Grade the teacher continues to re-enforce the commitment to building strong aural/oral skills while making the transition to a more multifaceted and varied curriculum. While still maintaining fidelity to the formation of solid listening and speaking skills, increased attention to reading, writing and culture occurs. In addition to following directions in Spanish, the Third Grade children are comfortable responding to common phrases without hesitation, as well as copying accurately with a reasonable degree of success.

MUSIC

Lower School music's objectives are to help students understand and appreciate the various forms of artistic expression and their relationships; approach music both as an art to be enjoyed and shared, and a discipline that demands developing skills and increasing knowledge; become eager participants in music and develop a positive attitude toward music; have confidence in their singing and playing abilities; gain familiarity with various styles of music and begin to develop preferences; build a repertoire of songs and games; and acquire knowledge of history and humanities through listening experiences with great master works and composers. The Third Grade children begin training on the recorder, including note reading.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education enhances Third Graders' physical and social growth by emphasizing skill building and teamwork. Each child's development is encouraged through a broad range of specialized activities that are challenging and fun. Flag football, volleyball and pickle ball, along with other sports, increase children's manipulative and cooperative skills. A positive attitude about sports and physical movement keeps children focused on the important aspects of physical education.

MULTIMEDIA

In Third Grade, students work together in the technology lab once a week. As well, Instructional Technology Specialist works in coordination with the classroom teachers to plan and deliver technology lessons, on a weekly basis, within the students' classroom that support the core curriculum objectives. The integration of technology into the general curriculum is one goal of the computer education program in the Lower School. Third Grade students continue keyboarding instruction throughout the year and curriculum-based projects which use word processing, multimedia presentations, printing, and the Internet.

ART

Third Grade children are given a variety of media to explore. Art history is incorporated into the curriculum by artist, period and method studies. Third Grade children use line, shape, color and texture to realistically render an image. Children work on perspective by experimenting with figure/ground perspective as well as overlapping shapes for perspective.

FOURTH GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

Students are expected to read independently to acquire knowledge and information in all areas of content. Fourth Grade children are directed toward quality genres of literature and are responsible for sharing their knowledge in various methods within the classroom such as written book reports and book talks. Activities that highlight grammar, punctuation, and the mechanics of writing are assigned to strengthen students' reading and writing skills. Student vocabulary is strengthened through the use of weekly word lists. Students will develop planning and pre-writing strategies while writing in different genres throughout the year.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics' coursework teaches the students to identify alternative algorithms and promotes problem-solving techniques. The students learn to apply logic through games and activities, both hands-on and written. Students develop skills in geometric figures, multiplication and division, number sentences and algebra, decimals, estimation, computation, measures of angles, fractions and their uses, chance and probability, perimeter and area, percent, reflections and symmetry, shapes, weight, volume and capacity, and rates.

SCIENCE

The Lower School science curriculum provides students with the foundations for observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, describing, classifying, predicting, collecting data, and interpreting data. It is built to foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm. Children learn by doing and reflecting upon this active learning. Materials from a variety of programs are utilized to explore life, earth and space, technology, human and physical sciences. In Fourth Grade children study: water and weather, motion, electricity, and the human body.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The study of American history continues with a study of the regions of the United States. Westward expansion and the founding of the Republic of Texas is a focus at this level. Students are required to prepare projects and written reports using reference materials.

SPANISH

The students are now developmentally ready to begin a more formal, structured approach to foreign language learning. Always mindful of the five basic skills for second language acquisition (listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural awareness), a stronger emphasis is placed on basic grammar structures such as gender, the formation of plurals, the position and agreement of adjectives as well as subject-verb agreement.

MUSIC

Lower School music's objectives are to help students understand and appreciate the various forms of artistic expression and their relationships; approach music both as an art to be enjoyed and shared, and a discipline that demands developing skills and increasing knowledge; become eager participants in music and develop a positive attitude toward music; have confidence in their singing and playing abilities; gain familiarity with various styles of music and begin to develop preferences; build a repertoire of songs and games; and acquire knowledge of history and humanities through listening experiences with great master works and composers. Fourth Grade children continue training on the recorder, including note reading.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through the use of skill drills and games, the Fourth Grade children begin to put all of the skills and movement patterns learned in previous grades to use in traditional sports. Basic strategy and simplified rules are covered in class and practiced in game situations. Sportsmanship is stressed in all of the Lower School physical education classes, but now the Fourth Grade children learn to be competitive in game situations, while demonstrating respect for their opponent and pride in their own performance.

MULTIMEDIA

In Fourth Grade, students work together in the technology lab once a week. As well, the Instructional Technology Specialist works in coordination with the classroom teachers to plan and deliver technology lessons, on a weekly basis, within the students' classroom that support the core curriculum objectives. The integration of technology into the general curriculum is one goal of the computer education program in the Lower School. Fourth Grade children participate in keyboarding instruction throughout the year and curriculum-based projects which use word processing, multimedia presentations, spreadsheets, printing, scanning, and the Internet.

ART

Fourth Grade children have the opportunity to explore and discuss a wide range of two-dimensional and three-dimensional forms of art. This class encourages Fourth Grade children, through a hands-on approach, to experience a variety of media, learn more advanced techniques, and sharpen their maturing appreciation of many artists and artistic styles. A strengthening of their basic-design knowledge and skills is fostered through each assignment.

FIFTH GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

Critical reading, thinking, vocabulary, grammar, composition, and the mechanics of writing drive the reading and writing program. Students learn to write with good content, word choice, fluency, voice, organization and conventions. In reading, emphasis is put on inferring, making connections, predicting, and summarizing. Increased attention is given to story development, setting, plot, main idea, cause and effect relationships, and point of view in preparation for an introduction to English literature. Novels and nonfiction selections are a component of the program. Student vocabulary is strengthened through the use of weekly word lists. The development of writing skills is demonstrated in book reports, poetry, research papers, creative short stories, and other writing projects.

MATHEMATICS

In mathematics, students encounter work with number theory, estimation and computation, geometry, multiplication and division, fractions, decimals, percents, exponents and negative numbers, fractions and ratios, algebraic concepts, coordinates, area, volume, and capacity, volume, probability, ratios, and rates. At this level, the students' progress in their math education while drawing upon the knowledge taught in previous levels. A major emphasis is placed on problem solving and algorithms.

SCIENCE

The Lower School science curriculum provides students with the foundations for observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, describing, classifying, predicting, collecting data, and interpreting data. It is built to foster curiosity, inventiveness, persistence, and enthusiasm. Children learn by doing and reflecting upon this active learning. Materials from a variety of programs are utilized to explore life, earth and space, technology, human and physical sciences. Fifth Grade children look at variables; space; micro-worlds; food chemistry and ecosystems.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The study of American history continues with early colonization, the Revolutionary War, the establishment of the U.S. government, westward expansion, and changes through the 20th Century. Students are required to prepare projects and written reports using reference materials, and engage in discussions and debates about the topics learned.

SPANISH

The Fifth Grade Spanish program is a continuation in which conversational skills used in basic situations are emphasized. The Fifth Grade course builds on the linguistic base needed for developing communicative skills employing question-answer structures in various realistic situations. Somewhat more complex structures are introduced in a situational context in order to expand oral and writing skills. Students will develop a more open-minded comprehension of the cultures of the Spanish speaking countries throughout the world.

MUSIC

Fifth Grade children have the option to select beginning band or choir. Students in grade five who share aptitude for and interest in singing study the performance and notation of music and develop vocal techniques in the choir. Students acquire skills in breathing technique, good choral blending tone, solfeggio and rhythm reading, choral balance and blend, and singing in two and three parts. Beginning band is designed for Fifth Grade children who have not had previous instruction in playing an instrument. A traditional music reading approach is used, with emphasis on correct technique and playing position.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Fifth Grade physical education program refines motor skills and game strategies while working to improve student cooperation and teamwork. Drills are designed to develop beginning skills, strength, fitness and general comprehension of game concepts. Students will work independently and in small groups to improve their conceptual understanding. Core sport units include soccer, flag football, basketball, softball, and volleyball. Cooperative games, fitness activities and team building exercises will supplement the core sports units to create a balanced curriculum. A strong emphasis will be placed on sportsmanship, teamwork and effort.

MULTIMEDIA

In Fifth Grade, students work together in the technology lab once a week. As well, Instructional Technology Specialist works in coordination with the classroom teachers to plan and deliver technology lessons, on a weekly basis, within the students' classroom that support the core curriculum objectives. Fifth Grade children continue to learn to use the word processor for writing papers, reports, and labs. In order to produce a standard and appealing written piece of work, students acquire editing skills that include page formatting, applying styles to paragraphs, and integrating graphics and photos. Students also work on improving their keyboarding skills for accuracy and speed. Other topics include Internet research techniques, computer ethics, acceptable use policies, and PowerPoint presentations.

ART

Fifth Grade children's art classes help students become more visually and aesthetically aware. Students learn the basic art elements and the language of art, and they grow in their appreciation of art. They gain confidence and skill in using two-and three-dimensional art materials and become familiar with the work of various artists.

ALLEN ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course of Study

SIXTH GRADE

ENGLISH 6

The course emphasizes the acquisition of language arts skills designed to improve reading comprehension and formal writing. Students are challenged daily through traditional grammar instruction, quick write assignments, and grade level appropriate formal assignments. Areas of concentration include myth writing, hero stories, poetry, historical research, and the creation of a fictional diary.

ANCIENT HISTORY

The course examines the major ancient civilizations of world history. Students analyze the political, historic, religious, and economic aspects of a variety of cultures. The study of geography is also incorporated into class content and geopolitical factors are discussed as well. The use of primary sources, time-period, and thematic literature are a crucial component of the curriculum. The inclusion of current events both supplements and compliments course content.

MATHEMATICS 6

This course seeks to refine the student's skill level with regard to real numbers in the form of fractions, decimals, and integers. Special effort is made to help students understand the properties and concepts studied and to apply them to novel problem-solving situations. Abstract reasoning, including the concepts of variable and equality, is gradually introduced, but not explored in depth. Supplementary topics, such as number theory, geometry, probability, and counting problems are included.

LIFE SCIENCE

Sixth grade science is viewed as introductory biology. The emphasis is on learning through experience, often of a cooperative nature. In this course, students learn how the systems of the human body work, some basic biochemistry, the diversity of living things, genetics, and principals of health and disease. The course will include investigations, projects and opportunities to experiment in the laboratory. Focus skills include: observation, pattern recognition, measurement, data collection, procedures, data analysis, forming conclusions, prediction and collaboration for creative problem solving.

SPANISH 6

The course focuses upon building a solid foundation of communication. An emphasis upon vocabulary and pronunciation is evidenced through daily discussions in Spanish. A strong emphasis is placed on basic grammar rules and increased importance is given to the development of reading and writing skills as the year progresses. Development of listening skills and cultural study of the Hispanic world are also an important part of the program.

STUDY SKILLS/STUDY HALL

This course is designed to support students in developing study skills as well as allotting time for students to complete course assignments. Note taking, time management, organizational skills and other strategies are taught periodically during the course.

SEVENTH GRADE

ENGLISH 7

The course emphasizes the acquisition of language arts skills designed to improve reading comprehension and formal writing. Students are challenged daily through traditional grammar instruction, quick write assignments, and grade level appropriate formal assignments. Areas of concentration include a formal research paper, traditional forms of poetry, and myth.

TEXAS HISTORY

The course examines the major historical events of the Southwest with an emphasis upon Texas and the Native American culture. The objective is to instill in students a sense of being and place in Southwestern culture based upon historical, cultural, and social events. Two content-based research projects requiring oral and written formats will be required—one each semester. In addition, students will develop map skills relating to the exploration, colonization, and various stages of development of Texas and Mexico..

PRE-ALGEBRA

The course emphasizes the quick and accurate computation skills required for the study of Algebra. The course reviews and extends the concepts of computation and estimation utilizing decimals, fractions, percentages, exponents, and graphs. The ability to translate word problems to numeric expressions is a crucial aspect of the course. Basic number properties, ratio and proportion, elements of probability and number theory, perimeter and area, and geometric constructions are also included.

EARTH SCIENCE

This course develops the basic principles of earth science. Students explore the forces that shape/shaped the earth, properties of water, astronomy, living and nonliving resources and current issues surrounding pollution. The student continues develop scientific skills, including writing of laboratory reports and use of a variety of data analysis methods. The course will include investigations, projects and opportunities to experiment in the laboratory. Focus skills include: observation, pattern recognition, measurement, data collection and data- analysis, procedures, forming conclusions, prediction and collaboration for creative problem solving.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish 7

The course is designed for those students who have an ability to begin a more advanced level of language study. Communicative skills are expanded and enhanced through an integrated language and cultural focus. Activities include Latin American history, listening comprehension, grammar review, compositions, and class discussions.

French I

French I - is a beginning course which systematically develops listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Acquisition of the basic grammatical structures through conversational vocabulary encourages the student to communicate in everyday situations. Emphasis is on understanding spoken French and establishing it as the means of communication in the classroom. An audio program helps develop oral proficiency. Cultural lessons focus on history, geography, art and customs of French speaking peoples.

STUDY SKILLS/STUDY HALL

This course is designed to support students in developing study skills as well as allotting time for students to complete course assignments. Note taking, time management, organizational skills and other strategies are taught periodically during the course.

EIGHTH GRADE

ENGLISH 8

The course emphasizes the acquisition of language arts skills designed to improve reading comprehension and formal writing. Areas of study include extensive practice with logic and progression of ideas in writing, research, grammar and usage study, novel analysis, and speaking. In addition, all eighth grade students will participate in a formal writing assessment to determine their use of mechanics and usage as well as thesis and structural development.

AMERICAN HISTORY

The course examines the major events of United States history. Students will investigate the social, political, economic, and cultural aspects of the maturation of the American character. Through the study of the early settlers and pioneers, students learn of government formation, sectionalism, slavery, the frontier, and the industrial revolution. The students will use critical thinking skills, simulations, role-playing, primary and secondary sources in order to understand and examine historical events, people and issues. Students will be assessed through factual and critical writing, tests, quizzes, class participation and group activities. In addition, two research-based projects will be required of students—one per semester.

ALGEBRA I

The course is designed to prepare students for advanced level studies of mathematics. Topics include real numbers, variables, functions, graphing, equations and inequalities, polynomials, rational expressions, linear equations, exponents, radicals, and word problems. An emphasis upon real world application is pervasive.

FOUNDATIONS OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY

The course is an introduction to physical science and its applications in the future study of scientific phenomenon. Topics include systems of measurement, the scientific method, force, work, machines, potential and kinetic energy, electricity, magnetism, heat, sound, and light. Special emphasis is given to the kinetic theory of matter. The course also provides a foundation in atomic and chemical systems and reactions. An independent science project is a requirement of the course.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I

Spanish I place an increased emphasis on oral and reading skills within the Hispanic cultural context. Grammar structures are expanded and refined. A wide variety of exercises, dialogues, computer activities, and videos allows the students to practice and improve their abilities. The degree of sophistication of both language skills and grammatical background usually enables the student to move into Spanish II at the upper school level.

French I

French I - is a beginning course which systematically develops listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Acquisition of the basic grammatical structures through conversational vocabulary encourages the student to communicate in everyday situations. Emphasis is on understanding spoken French and establishing it as the means of communication in the classroom. An audio program helps develop oral proficiency. Cultural lessons focus on history, geography, art and customs of French speaking peoples.

STUDY SKILLS/STUDY HALL

This course is designed to support students in developing study skills as well as allotting time for students to complete course assignments. Note-taking, time management, organizational skills and other strategies are taught periodically during the course.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

PERFORMING ARTS

Middle School Choir - (One Semester)

This course gives students the opportunity to develop good techniques for beautiful and healthy singing within a large ensemble. Besides the development of vocal technique, students will be taught correct rehearsal and performance etiquette, sight-singing skills, basic theory and how to work as a group for a common goal.

Middle School Band - (Full Year)

This course continues to develop the fundamentals of playing a band instrument. Instrumental music, including musical notation, technical instruction for each instrument, and some simple music theory will be taught. With guidance from the band director, students choose which instrument they wish to study. Thirty minutes practice per day is expected.

MS Drama- (One Semester)

The focus of this course is on creative experiences in drama including improvisations, pantomimes, scenes, and plays with emphasis on the creative process, communication skills, and group participation. There will be some training in technical areas, and students will create their own projects with direction and supervision from the teacher.

VISUAL ARTS

MS Art - (One Semester)

Within the middle school art program, students will work in a variety of media to produce drawings, paintings, sculpture, and printmaking as a confidence builder for better self-expression

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Middle School PE - (Full Year)

Students will participate in physical education classes where they are introduced to a wide variety of team sports, non-traditional sports, group development initiatives, and age-appropriate human development topics.

Sixth-Eighth grade students have the opportunity to compete on an Allen athletic team. Boys may choose to train and compete in football, cross country, basketball, baseball, soccer, track, golf and tennis. Girls may choose to train and compete in volleyball, cross country, basketball, softball, soccer, track, golf and tennis. The Middle School PE class provides a time during the school day for students to practice for an Allen team that they're a part of. This reduces the amount of after school practice time.

ALLEN ACADEMY UPPER SCHOOL

Course of Study

NINTH GRADE

ENGLISH I

The course emphasizes the acquisition of language arts skills designed to improve reading comprehension and formal writing. Areas of study include extensive practice with logic and progression of ideas in writing, research, grammar and usage study, novel analysis, vocabulary and speaking. In addition, all ninth grade students will participate in a formal writing assessment to determine their use of mechanics and usage as well as thesis and structural development.

ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY

The course will examine the historical, political, social, religious, and economic developments of world history from The Middle Ages through the Reformation. Regional studies include Europe, East Asia, and Africa. The student will be challenged to demonstrate a comprehensive view of history as evidenced through an understanding and appreciation of cultural events that include historical and political developments, art history, and literature.

GEOMETRY

Students are challenged to acquire and apply knowledge of a mathematical system based upon undefined terms, express definitions, postulates, and theorems. These items are applied to various mathematical forms to include, but not limited to, points, lines, three-dimensional objects, angles, polygons, and circles. The course further develops the student's mathematical abilities by exploring concepts related to Algebra II and Trigonometry while solidifying the student ability to think critically and analytically.

BIOLOGY

The course introduces the student to the unifying principles of biology. These include the nature and method of science, life at the cellular and molecular level, diversity, physiology, population biology, and ecology. The curriculum is delivered via observations of living organisms, experimentation, lectures, reading, and discussions of the unity and diversity of life.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish II

The course is a continuation of the four skills introduced in Spanish I with a continued emphasis on communication in the target language in the classroom and presentations. Reading assignments will consist of more narratives and writing will involve more short compositions. Cultural information will expand and also include movies and music, geography and the more in-depth study of Spanish-speaking countries. By the end of this course, students should be able to understand everyday conversation and narratives in the present and the past, hold a conversation on a familiar topic and give a basic narration in the present and/or past tense, write three pages on a topic either in the present or the past with somewhat elaborate sentence structure and descriptive prose, and read simple narrative in the present or past for general meaning.

French II

The course is a continuation of the four skills introduced in French I with a continued emphasis on communication in the target language in the classroom and presentations. Reading assignments will consist of more narratives and writing will involve more short compositions. Cultural information will expand and also include movies and music, geography and the more in-depth study of Spanish-speaking countries. By the end of this course, students should be able to understand everyday conversation and narratives in the present and the past, hold a conversation on a familiar topic and give a basic narration in the present and/or past tense, write three pages on a topic either in the present or the past with somewhat elaborate sentence structure and descriptive prose, and read simple narrative in the present or past for general meaning.

TENTH GRADE

ENGLISH II

The student will be challenged to master the development of the expository, argumentative, and descriptive essay. An intensive study will introduce the student to the principles of literary analysis and the use of literary evidence to support personal theses. Tenth grade students will be introduced to class writing and cold prompts. Various essay assignments involving textual analysis of selected literary short stories, plays, poems, and novels will be assigned throughout the year. The curriculum is delivered via a study of English, American, and world literature in conjunction with a concentrated vocabulary program.

MODERN WORLD HISTORY

Modern World History is designed as a chronological survey of the major peoples and events that have shaped the world's past. It provides information on the development of all major areas of the world, allowing a comparison of the stages of development of each. This course concentrates on the history of the last millennium. It provides students with the knowledge of how the world arrived at its present condition. It is a survey of the emergence of modern Europe, patterns of nationalism, state building, economic growth, and social reform in Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East, and the Americas. It also includes an analysis and cause of contemporary global issues and how they affect various regions around the world

ALGEBRA II

The course is designed to strengthen algebra skills and introduce higher order mathematical concepts in preparation for a study of calculus. Concepts to be mastered include equations and inequalities, polynomials, irrational and complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, statistics, probability, and trigonometric functions.

CHEMISTRY

The course provides the student with a thorough introduction to the study of matter. Qualitative and quantitative laboratory experiences are utilized to explore the concepts presented during class discussions as well as develop analytical skills. Topics include scientific measurement, classification of matter, atomic theory, chemical bonding, thermodynamics, solution chemical, oxidation and reduction, nuclear chemistry, and acid-base theories and equilibrium.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish III

The course continues to refine and improve the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing with the last two being more emphasized. Students and teachers communicate almost exclusively in the target language in the classroom. Students will be encouraged to express opinions, hypotheses and ideas in class, give oral presentations and write essays. Students will increase their knowledge of history and artistic culture. By the end of this course, students should be able to understand a conversation, narration and an opinion expressed orally, write a five-page opinion essay, read literary excerpts and hold a conversation.

French III

The course continues to refine and improve the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing with the last two being more emphasized. Students and teachers communicate almost exclusively in the target language in the classroom. Students will be encouraged to express opinions, hypotheses and ideas in class, give oral presentations and write essays. Students will increase their knowledge of history and artistic culture. By the end of this course, students should be able to understand a conversation, narration and an opinion expressed orally, write a five-page opinion essay, read literary excerpts and hold a conversation.

ELEVENTH GRADE

ENGLISH III

The course concentrates upon the mastery of the expository and argumentative paper. In addition, students will practice responding to a cold prompt (a topic they have never seen), a skill needed for PSAT, SAT, AP and college testing. Critical thinking and reading skills, reading comprehension and speed, rhetorical strategies and analysis of literature will round out the curriculum. An independent, formal argumentative research paper is required of all students. The curriculum is delivered via a study of American literature in conjunction with a concentrated vocabulary program.

US HISTORY

The course surveys the major trends, events, and personalities in American history from Reconstruction to the present. Students will be challenged to examine historical trends and documents and relate them to contemporary political and social institutions. As preparation for both the SAT II and the Advanced Placement Course, students will explore history through a variety of mediums. This includes the study of political institutions, diplomacy, intellectual and cultural history, and economics.

PRECALCULUS

The course covers a variety of mathematical topics that strengthen, deepen, and expand the necessary skills for a high level study of calculus. The student will be challenged to demonstrate a high degree of proficiency in applying previous mathematical knowledge to the field of calculus. Course content includes solving equations and the coordinate system, functions, trigonometry, discrete algebra, limits, continuity and slopes. Emphasis is placed on correlation the physical sciences with applied mathematics.

PHYSICS

The course is designed to challenge the student to apply mathematical concepts to the study of natural phenomena. The student will examine the tools and processes of measurement and mathematics as they relate to motion, energy, and force. Course content includes rectilinear motion, Newton's Laws, vectors and two-dimensional motion, and kinetic and potential energy.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish IV

This is an advanced course intended to develop the student's proficiency in Spanish. The class is conducted entirely in Spanish and students are encouraged to use the language in all class activities. Students gain a greater competence in the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) through the study of Spanish language films, short stories, poetry, and drama. Students write in-class compositions, do brief oral presentations, conduct an in-depth study of grammar and syntax, review and broaden their vocabulary, and increase their command of idiomatic Spanish.

French IV

This is an advanced course intended to develop the student's proficiency in French. The class is conducted entirely in French and students are encouraged to use the language in all class activities. Students gain a greater competence in the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) through the study of French language films, short stories, poetry, and drama. Students write in-class compositions, do brief oral presentations, conduct an in-depth study of grammar and syntax, review and broaden their vocabulary, and increase their command of idiomatic French.

TWELFTH GRADE

ENGLISH IV

The course focuses upon advanced expository and argumentative skills. Special attention will be given to the college essay and preparation for the SAT I and II through vocabulary study and various writing prompts. An independent, formal research paper with a major emphasis on English literary works is required of all students. In addition, the course focuses on major English literary works such as *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, and various works by Shakespeare lie at the heart of the curriculum.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT and POLITICS

Comparative government focuses on comparing the governments of a multitude of countries. Government is the formal part of the state that is made up of the individuals that govern the state and the political institutions in which these individuals function to produce policy decisions. It focuses on the domestic politics of various countries or/and peoples. Comparative government then compares domestic political institutions, processes, policies, conflicts, and attitudes in different countries.

ECONOMICS

Economics may appear to be the study of complicated tables and charts, statistics and numbers, but, more specifically, it is the study of what constitutes rational human behavior in the endeavor to fulfill needs and wants. Economics makes the assumption that human beings will aim to fulfill their self-interest. It also assumes that individuals are rational in their efforts to fulfill their unlimited wants and needs. Economics, therefore, is a social science, which examines people behaving according to their self-interests. Alfred Marshall reflects: "Thus it is on one side the study of wealth; and on the other, and more important side, a part of the study of man."

CALCULUS

Calculus is intended for students who have completed Pre-Calculus, but whose level of mastery is insufficient for the AP Calculus AB course. Topics include functions; limits; derivatives and integrals of logarithmic, exponential, trigonometric, and some algebraic functions; and applications of the derivative and integral.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

AP ENGLISH III

Intended for students who are passionate about the written word and have demonstrated excellence in reading and writing, this course offers elaborate examination of verbal artistry in various works of fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry. Much of the course is a preparation for the Advanced Placement Examination in Language and Compositions.

AP ENGLISH IV

Students should have a strong interest in literary analysis; they should expect to contribute frequently to the serious discussion of literature in class; they should be willing to prepare additional readings, oral reports, or similar assignments to extend their understanding of material; and they will be prepared to take the Advanced Placement Examination in English Literature in the spring. Prerequisites: Students must meet AP course requirements. An independent, formal research paper with a major emphasis on a topic from a variety of English literary works is required of all students.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

This course is an intensive study of the principal intellectual, political, economic, and nationalistic movements of Europe from the Renaissance through the Cold War. European political ideas, science, philosophy, cultural mores, and people also spread widely across the world, contribution to both the constructive and destructive patterns of modern political, social, economic, and cultural life. Ideas and people have meanwhile flowed constantly into Europe from other parts of the world, so that European societies remain a vital center for cross-cultural exchanges and conflicts. Europe represents only one of the diverse, complex cultures that continue to shape modern global history.

AP US HISTORY

Equivalent to an introductory college course, this course stresses in particular the major interpretations of noted historians and analyzes a variety of political, economic, social, cultural, and international themes. It provides students with a thorough background in factual material, but proceeds to an examination of context, cause, results, and significance. Students learn to read historical documents analytically and critically and are able to weigh historical evidence soundly.

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

This is a college level course that focuses on the fundamental theory and practice of political science, comparative politics, and international relations. The course emphasizes the comparison of history, political culture, institutions, constitutions, political parties, interest groups and policy-making. It also encompasses the study of specific nations and general concepts interpreting key political relationships in national politics. The course introduces students to the basic concepts used by political scientists to assess and examine the political processes and outcomes of politics in six core countries.

AP CALCULUS AB

This is the AB-level Advanced Placement Calculus course. Its syllabus is determined by the College Board, and requires extensive exploration with the TI-89 graphing calculators. Calculus AB students explore the application of derivatives and integrals toward solving real- life applications involving particle motion, area and volume. Calculus AB is the equivalent of the first semester course in calculus offered by most universities. Students may earn credit and/or placement at universities by taking and passing the AP Examination in May.

AP BIOLOGY

AP Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course. The goal is to help students develop a conceptual framework for the modern biological sciences. Essential to the conceptual understanding are the following: a grasp of science as a process rather than an accumulation of facts; personal experience in scientific inquiry; recognition of the unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology; and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns. Themes and concepts unify the course.

AP CHEMISTRY

This is an advanced topics course in chemistry for students interested in pursuing careers in pre-medicine, biology, engineering, or the applied sciences. This course is primarily a continuation of studies in inorganic chemistry but includes some organic, nuclear, physical, biological, and applied chemistry. Studies emphasize modeling, problem analysis, instrumental techniques, and advanced laboratory experimentation. Although the principal objective of the course is a thorough preparation for continued studies in sciences and engineering at the university level, the course also provides a solid preparation for the required Advanced Placement Exam in Chemistry.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester introductory college course in environmental science. In accordance with the *Course Description for AP Environmental Science* established by College Board, the goal of the course is “to provide students with scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems, both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.”

AP PHYSICS

This course is intended for the highly motivated student with a strong mathematical background and interest in science. Topics are selected from mechanics, geometrical optics, wave mechanics and thermodynamics. Primary activities are problem solving and lab investigations.

AP SPANISH IV

This is an advanced course intended to develop the student’s proficiency in Spanish. The class is conducted entirely in Spanish and students are encouraged to use the language in all class activities. Students gain a greater competence in the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) through the study of Spanish language films, short stories, poetry, and drama. Students write in-class compositions, do brief oral presentations, conduct an in-depth study of grammar and syntax, review and broaden their vocabulary, and increase their command of idiomatic Spanish.

AP FRENCH IV

This is an advanced course intended to develop the student’s proficiency in French. The class is conducted entirely in French and students are encouraged to use the language in all class activities. Students gain a greater competence in the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) through the study of French language films, short stories, poetry, and drama. Students write in-class compositions, do brief oral presentations, conduct an in-depth study of grammar and syntax, review and broaden their vocabulary, and increase their command of idiomatic French.

AP ART HISTORY

This year-long elective is a challenging, college-level course which is open to juniors and seniors. Students will acquire the tools enabling them to be conversant about any piece of art they may encounter for the rest of their lives, mastering how to approach a work of art, the vocabulary and analytical methods with which to discuss it, and the knowledge of how it fits into the general flow of art historical periods and styles. Both European-based and non-Western art will be given “voice” as we aim to develop as broad as possible a perspective about and appreciation for each tradition.

UPPER SCHOOL ELECTIVES

VISUAL ARTS

Art 1 - (One Semester)

Students will development and gain knowledge of the elements of visual art and the principles of design through experience with various media.

Art 2 - (One Semester)

Students will development and gain knowledge of the elements of visual art and the principles of design through experience with various media. .

Art 3 - (One Semester)

This is an advanced level art course for students who have successfully completed the beginning level. Continuation of basic skills and in depth studies of artists and art movements.

Art 4 - (One Semester)

This is an advanced level art course for students who have successfully completed the beginning level. Continuation of basic skills and in depth studies of artists and art movements.

PERFORMING ARTS

Concert Band - (Full Year)

Concert Band is designed to provide exposure to a variety of musical styles. Tone quality, technique, and sight-reading of instrumental repertoire are all stressed.

Speech Communications - (One Semester)

This course offers students an opportunity to explore, experience, and examine the world of communication- listening, speaking, reciting, writing, discussion, evaluation and others. Students will gain experience in front of an audience and polish their oral presentation skills.

Argumentation & Debate - (One Semester)

This course covers the basic principles, strategies, and techniques of argumentation and skills of debate, including reasoning, evidence, refutation, and briefing. All students participate in discussions and debates of contemporary issues of socio-political and cultural significance. Students need to have taken Speech as a prerequisite for this course.

Intro to Theater - (One Semester)

This course provides opportunities for interested students to be involved and exposed to the interpretive theatre art of acting. Study will be directed toward all areas of performance to develop skills and techniques that improve the actor's body, voice, and mind. Through daily exercises student will improve and develop their imagination, creativity and self-confidence. Monologues and scenes will be at the core of the project work.

Theater - (One Semester)

Principles of Drama and the development of theatre production are explored. Selected plays are experienced to display the various types of theatrical presentations.

Technical Theater - (Full Year)

This course is the continuation to basic understanding of principles of scenic design, lighting design, and other technical aspects of the theatre.

ACADEMIC ELECTIVES

Journalism - (Full Year)

This course is for students who are interested in contributing to the publication of the Allenian yearbook. All students are assigned positions on the staff and assume responsibility for ensuring that they do their part to produce the yearbook. Staff members are required to write copy, take photographs, sell and design yearbook ads and use technology-supported design methods to create pages for the yearbook.

Computer Applications – Microsoft (One Semester)

Students learn the fundamentals of Microsoft Office 2007 included in the Office suite of programs. Students receive instruction in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher through a series of hands-on practice and application projects that foster real-world experience. Activities include preparing a resume', newsletters, budget, tables and charts, business proposals/presentations, and web site design.

Computer Applications – Mac (One Semester)

Students learn the fundamentals of the Apple iMac suite of programs. Using a combination of web-based videos and teacher-directed instruction, students will explore Pages, Garageband, Keynote, Numbers and iPhoto. Students will apply their skills to create real-world product examples.

Philosophy

At various times everyone philosophizes. This means that a course in philosophy is not an attempt to teach some unusual set of facts or to provide a totally new skill. It is rather, an effort to help the student improve an ability that he already possess and at times exercises on his own. This philosophizing takes place whenever one reflects upon either the fundamental presuppositions of thought and action, or the ends to which the conduct of human life should be directed.

An understanding and appreciation of philosophy will help one understand his society. Disciplines within philosophy are inter alia the following: Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy, Aesthetics, Logic, Philosophy of Religion....Education.....History.....Science., History of Philosophy, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind and Action theory.

Political Science/ International Relations

Political Science is training in the analysis of politics, which may or may not aid working politicians. Political Scientists are skeptical of power, seek accuracy, abstract thinking, reach tentative conclusions, offer many causes, and see long term consequences. It is intellectual arguments supported by reason and evidence. We will study of political interactions, institutions of politics and what political systems do.

Compared to domestic politics, **International Relations** are the interaction among states, without the sovereignty principle. The study of international relations entails theories of international relations, world government, collective security, functionalism or study of organizations, peacekeeping, diplomacy, current affairs and war.

Cinematography

The class will include a history of the various techniques of cinematography as well as opportunities to shoot and edit movies.

PSAT/SAT Preparation

This class is designed to prepare students for the PSAT and SAT exams. Strategies will be taught as to how questions are designed and intended to be interpreted. Students will be expected to work math problems at an Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 level. Being an aptitude test as opposed to an achievement test, students are expected to take concepts learned and use an analytical approach to problem solving. Students will be expected to purchase an SAT CollegeBoard Practice Test book.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All Upper School students will attend an Athletics/PE period twice a week. Students that are participating in a sport will have practices/workouts that are specific to the sport they're playing. Students that are not participating in a sport will participate in more general physical activity exercises.

ATHLETICS

Allen Academy has Varsity teams in the following sports. In an effort to provide sufficient playing time for all athletes a Junior Varsity team will be created if necessary.

Fall:

Football
Cheerleading
Volleyball
Cross Country

Winter:

Basketball
Soccer

Spring:

Baseball
Softball
Golf
Tennis
Track & Field