

# **D3 My Way High School Course Descriptions**

**2019-2020**

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## **English & Language Arts**

### **English I (2 credits)**

Students will engage in in-depth analysis of more complex literature, view that literature from its historical perspective, and connect it to other arts. They will write literary analysis, logical arguments, informational/explanatory texts, narratives, and focused research projects. As a result of the reading, writing, speaking, and listening students will do in this course, they will grow their vocabulary and understanding of how to communicate effectively by making skillful choices when expressing themselves with language. English I covers a variety of topics including short stories, literary nonfiction, epic poetry, drama, novels, and poetry.

### **English II (2 credits)**

Throughout this course, students will study literature that spans centuries, continents, and genres. Each of the four thematically-integrated units encourages close study of this literature and its context. Students will gain valuable cultural insight as they read and write about works depicting the social, personal, religious, and political struggles and triumphs faced by people all over the world and all through history. Students will continue to build their literacy skills by engaging in focused reading, composition, speaking and listening activities, vocabulary study, and research. English II content includes classic myths and stories from around the world, America's Founding Documents, Foundational American literature, and Shakespeare.

### **English III (2 credits)**

English III is a survey of American Literature and literary culture from its inception through the twentieth century. Students will explore the major literary forms, themes, authors, and periods of American Literature. They will understand how this literature represents the experiences of people native to America, those who immigrated to America, and those who were brought to America against their will. Emphasis is placed on a rhetorical analysis of the literature to determine how authors achieve a particular purpose or effect. Through focused readings, composition, speaking and listening activities, vocabulary study and research, students will continue to build the literacy skills they need to meet the challenges of high school and beyond. English III covers the following units: Intersection in a New World, Becoming a Nation, American Romanticism, Regional Voices, American Modernism, and Post WWII.

### **English IV (2 credits)**

English IV focuses on selected works of European literature from the twelfth century through the twenty-first century. Students will approach this literature chronologically, so they can see the influences on and evolution of the ideas and forms. Writing, research, and speaking assignments will continue to focus on formulating and expressing ideas and arguments about the readings. Particular emphasis will be placed on gaining critical perspective on the relationship between content and form and on synthesizing ideas into clear and concise prose and presentations. English IV covers the following units: Framing Western Literature, Humanism, The Quest for Knowledge, Head and Heart, The Individual and Society, and The Search for Meaning.

### **Speech-Essentials of Communication (1 credit)**

Essentials of Communication is a speech class that covers fundamentals of the communication process important for successful high school students. The materials cover fundamentals of the communication process important for successful interaction in a variety of social and professional settings. Students can use the course to gain and apply knowledge about communication theories, characteristics of language and language use, interpersonal relationships, group dynamics, and public speaking in order to interact more effectively with others. The course seeks to help students expand their knowledge and skills as communicators so they may achieve the following goals: know and understand aspects of communication theories and professional settings, use interpersonal communication strategies appropriately in social and professional settings, effectively communicate in social and professional group settings, and plan prepare, deliver, and evaluate formal and informal personal and professional presentations.

### **Social Sciences**

#### **U.S. History: Foundations to Present (2 credits)**

U.S. History Foundations to Present covers early American exploration to the present day, placing special emphasis on the politics of the 18th and early 19th centuries and the Civil War. These areas of focus target three major content strands: History, Geography, and Government, and Citizenship. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following: understand how conflict between the American colonies and Great Britain led to American independence, understand political, economic, and social changes that occurred in the United States during the 19th century, including changes resulting from the Industrial Revolution, explain how political, economic, and social changes in the U.S. led to conflict among sections of the United States in the 19th century, describe the causes and effects of the Civil War and its aftermath, describe the causes and effects of both World Wars, and understand some of the key challenges facing American society in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

### **World Geography (2 credits)**

World Geography takes students on a journey around the world in which they will learn about the physical and human geography of various regions. They will study the history of each region and examine the political, economic, and cultural characteristics of the world in which we live. Students will also learn about the tools and technologies of geography such as globes, maps, charts, and global information systems. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following: select and use geographic tools to get information and make predictions, compare places based upon their similarities and differences, identify geographic factors that influenced historic events, evaluate the interrelatedness and interdependence of physical and human systems and their impact on our earth, analyze the role played by culture in the spatial organization of the earth, define the key geographic concerns facing the world and strategize methods to deal with these issues in the future.

### **World History (2 credits)**

World History explores the people, events, and ideas that have shaped history from the beginnings of human society to the present day. Upon completing this course, students will be able to: identify the characteristics of early human communities, describe the early river valley civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China, describe the emergence of empires, explain the effects of the European exploration and colonization of the New World, identify the causes and outcomes of the political revolutions in France, Russia, and China, identify the characteristics of the Industrial Revolution, describe European Imperialism in Asia and Africa, compare and contrast the causes and results of the World Wars, understand the major events of the Cold War, describe the major issues affecting nations today, including globalization, population growth, pandemics, and immigration, summarize the history and growth of the major religions, and identify patterns of trade and migration across the major eras of human history.

### **Government (1 credit)**

Government focuses on American and international governments. Students will learn about the history of governments, the characteristics of the United States government, political parties, and voting. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to: understand the basics of various philosophies of government, understand the structure and functions of government and how the principles and values of American democracy are reflected in American constitutional government, understand how the overall design and specific features of the U.S. Constitution, prevent the abuse of power by using a system of checks and balances (e.g., federalism), and understand the role of political parties, the media, and the public on the political process.

## **Math**

### **Algebra IA (2 credits)**

Algebra IA is a year long course covering the first semester of Algebra I.

### **Algebra IB (2 credits)**

Algebra IB is a year long course designed to cover the second semester of Algebra I.

### **Algebra I (2 credits)**

Algebra I is a full year, high school credit course that is intended for the student who has successfully mastered the core algebraic concepts covered in the prerequisite course, Pre-Algebra. Within the Algebra I course, the student will explore basic algebraic fundamentals such as evaluating, creating, solving and graphing linear, quadratic, and polynomial functions.

### **Algebra II (2 credits)**

Algebra II is a full-year, high school math course intended for the student who has successfully completed the prerequisite course Algebra I. This course focuses on algebraic techniques and methods in order to develop student understanding of advanced number theory, concepts involving linear, quadratic and polynomial functions, and pre-calculus theories. This course also integrates geometric concepts and skills throughout the units, as well as introducing students to basic trigonometric identities and problem solving.

### **Geometry (2 credits)**

Geometry is a full year, high school math course for the student who has successfully completed the prerequisite course, Algebra I. The course focuses on the skills and methods of linear, quadratic, coordinate, and plane geometry. In it, students will gain solid experience with geometric calculations and coordinate plane graphing, methods of formal proof, and techniques of construction.

### **Pre-calculus (2 credits)**

Pre-calculus is a full-year, high school credit course that is intended for the student who has successfully mastered the core algebraic and conceptual geometric concepts covered in the prerequisite courses: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. The course primarily focuses on the skills and methods of analytic geometry and trigonometry while investigating further relationships in functions, probability, number theory, limits, and the introduction of derivatives.

**Consumer Math (1 credit)**

Consumer Math is an introduction to the many ways in which math can be used in everyday life. The course gives practical advice on how to handle situations that involve money and math principles. Consumer Math focuses on the basic skills and methods of arithmetic and provides students the opportunity to develop experience with algebraic techniques of evaluating variables and equations, including geometric formulas and interest equations. Major topics covered include number skills, statistics, geometry, personal finance, and taxes.

**Personal Financial Literacy (1 credit)**

Personal Financial Literacy is a semester-long math course designed to help high school students prepare for success in making financial decisions throughout their lives. Topics in the course address the advantages of making sound financial decisions in the short and long term, income planning, money management, saving and investing, and consumer rights and responsibilities.

**Science****Biology (2 credits)**

Biology is intended to expose students to the designs and patterns of living organisms and their interactions with the environment. The major concepts covered are taxonomy, the chemical basis of life, cellular structure and function, genetics, microbiology, plant structure and function, animal structure and function, and ecology and the environment. Biology should be preceded or accompanied by an Algebra I course.

**Earth Science (2 credits)**

Earth Science is a basic science course intended to further explore the designs and patterns of our planet. This course covers such areas as the origin, history, and structure of the earth. It also covers forces that cause change on the earth and features of the earth including the crust, water, atmosphere, weather, and climate. Earth science wraps up with astronomy and a study of all the planets, the solar system, and galaxies. The course strives to teach that each feature of the earth interacts with the others in many critical ways, and the study of these relationships is important to humanity.

**Environmental Science (2 credits)**

Environmental Science is a two semester high school class. This interdisciplinary course covers a wide variety of topics including biology, physics, geology, ecology, chemistry, geography, astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, and engineering. The course also considers ways in which human populations affect our planet and its processes. Of special emphasis is the concept of sustainability as a means of using resources in a way that ensures they will always be around us.

**Integrated Physics and Chemistry (2 credits)**

Integrated Physics and Chemistry is a physical science course designed for high school students needing an entry-level science course covering basic concepts found in chemistry and physics. Topics included in this study are matter, motion and forces, work and energy, electricity and magnetism, and waves. The course seeks to help students expand their knowledge and skills so that they may achieve the following goals, gain an understanding of foundational concepts in physics and chemistry, make careful observations of the surrounding environment, analyze problems and solutions scientifically, integrate science knowledge with real world situations at local, regional, national, and international levels, and appreciate the impact of science discovery on everyday life.

## **Electives**

### **Language**

#### **Spanish I (2 credits)**

Spanish I is an entry level high school foreign language course that explores the Spanish. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to use Spanish in everyday situations in a basic manner and in both oral and written communication, use vocabulary necessary to function as a tourist in Spanish-speaking countries, demonstrate a basic knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world, listen to and understand basic passages in Spanish related to various themes, read and understand basic passages in Spanish related to various themes, and compare and contrast cultural aspects of Hispanic countries and the United States. Spanish I also introduces students to the mechanics of the Spanish language, acquaints them with the cultural differences of Hispanic countries, and helps them gain a keen awareness of their own culture.

#### **Spanish II (2 credits)**

Spanish II is a high school foreign language course that builds upon skills and concepts taught in Spanish I, emphasizing communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to use Spanish in everyday situations in both oral and written communication, use vocabulary necessary to live in a Spanish-speaking country, demonstrate an understanding of Hispanic countries, listen to and understand passages in Spanish related to various themes, read and understand passages in Spanish related to themes, compare and contrast cultural aspects of Hispanic countries and the United States. This course gives students practice using the mechanics of the Spanish language, acquaints them with the cultural differences of Hispanic countries, and helps them gain a keen awareness of their own culture.

### **Health and Wellness**

#### **Health Education (1 credit)**

Health Education is a health science course that introduces students to what good health is, why good health is important, and what students should do in order to achieve good health. Students will learn to demonstrate an awareness of health as it applies to their own bodies, minds, emotions, and their living environments. They will identify the components of a healthy lifestyle and set reasonable goals to achieve a lifestyle of wellness. Students will understand that incorporating sound health practices creates a lifestyle of moderation and wellness, while learning the responsibility of properly caring for their bodies. Additionally, students will learn to describe health as it applies to broader society, the world, and their own responsibility to stimulate good health around them.

**Physical Education (1 credit)**

Physical Education is a semester-long elective designed for high school students. The course focuses on performance of individual and team sports, with explanations of proper technique, rules of the game, and preparation. Team sports introduced include soccer, basketball, football, and volleyball. An introduction to fitness, strength, endurance, and nutrition is also include.

**Physical Fitness (1 credit)**

Physical Fitness is a semester-long elective designed for high school students. The course focuses on the health benefits of regular physical activity and of a long term exercise program. As students work through the course, they will learn about the many aspects of physical fitness, including basic nutrition, the importance of flexibility, cardiovascular health, muscle and strength training, and realistic goal setting. Along the way, students will be required to maintain and submit an activity log in order to measure progress in course exercises, as well as in personal fitness goals.

**Business****Career Management (1 credit)**

Career management is a semester-long high school elective that assists students in their preparation for career selection. The course is designed to improve workforce skills needed in all careers. Students will complete activities that help identify personal interests, aptitudes, and learning styles. Students will use results of self-assessments to determine careers that may prove personally satisfying. Students will complete an in- depth career research activity that can be repeated for each future career decision. Students will also create a career portfolio as they work through the curriculum.

**Keyboarding and Applications (1 credit)**

Keyboarding and Applications is a semester-long elective that teaches students keyboarding skills, technical skills, effective communication skills, and productive work habits. In this course, students will learn about proper keyboarding technique. Once students have been introduced to keyboarding skill, lessons will include daily practice of those skills. Students will gain an understanding of computer hardware, operating systems, file management, and the Internet. In addition, they will apply their keyboarding skills and create a variety of business documents, including word process documents and electronic presentations.



### **Media Studies (1 credit)**

This semester-long course is a part of a worldwide educational movement called media literacy. The goal of the media literacy movement is to educate people about how the media impacts both individuals and society as a whole. Students will examine media such as magazines, the Internet, video games, and movies. They'll learn the kinds of strategies that advertisers use to persuade people to buy products. They'll also explore how news broadcasters choose which stories to air. Lessons and projects encourage students to examine ways in which media helps shape our culture and the ways in which our culture shapes the media. While many media literacy courses focus upon learning how to make media, this one will focus exclusively on analyzing the media.

### **Office Applications I (1 credit)**

Office Applications I is a semester-long high school elective that explores the use of application skills in Microsoft Word, Publisher, and PowerPoint 2010. Students will use these applications to design, develop, create, edit, and share business documents, publications, and presentations. This course will provide students with an introduction to advanced skills in Microsoft Word to a more complex exploration of mail merge, tab stops, referencing resources, and additional features available in backstage view. Students will learn to create publications, insert and edit publication items, and view, review, and share those publications. Students will also learn how to create presentations, enter and modify content, modify and deliver presentations, and collaborate and share PowerPoint presentations.

### **Office Applications II (1 credit)**

Office Applications II is a semester-long high school elective that explores the use of application skills in Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access. Students will use these applications to design, create, edit, and share business spreadsheet and database documents. Students will learn to advance skills in Microsoft Excel, ranging from basic spreadsheet terminology to exploring data entry, formatting formulas, functions, charts, graphics, and additional features available in backstage view. Students will develop skills in Microsoft Access ranging from basic relational database terminology to creating and modifying tables, forms, queries, and reports. In order to take this course students must be computer literate and have Internet access. Students should have basic research skills, as well as the ability to conduct online searches and access recommended websites. Word processing and presentation software might be required to produce projects.

### **Small Business Entrepreneurship (1 credit)**

This semester-long course is designed to provide the skills needed to effectively organize, develop, create, and manage your own business, while exposing you to the challenges, problems, and issues faced by entrepreneurs. Throughout this course you will be given the chance to see what kinds of opportunities exist for small business entrepreneurs and become aware of the necessary skills for running a business. You will become familiar with the traits and characteristics that are found in successful entrepreneurs and you will see how research,

planning, operations, and regulations can affect small businesses. You will learn how to develop plans for having effective business management and marketing strategies. Small Business Entrepreneurship will teach you basic principles of entrepreneurship and business ethics. Students must be computer literate and have Internet access. Students should have basic research skills, as well as the ability to conduct online searches and access recommended websites. Word processing and presentation software may be required to produce projects.

### **Money Matters A (1 credit)**

Students will explore global economics and the impact of the free enterprise system on business and consumers. Students will learn about their financial options and goal- setting based on existing and projected economic indicators. Investments, income taxes, and asset planning, risk management, retirement, and estate planning will all be investigated. Units include the following subjects: What is Economics, Economic Roles, How the Market Works, Market Structure, and Macroeconomy.

### **Humanities**

#### **Art History (2 credits)**

Art History is a year-long elective designed to enable students to develop knowledge of the history and theory of art and the relationship between artist, artwork, and society. Students will research and critique periods, styles, and works of art from early civilizations through modern and contemporary art. Throughout the course, students may be asked to answer questions or to reflect on what they've read in their notes. The notes are not graded. Rather, they are a way for students to extend their thinking about the lesson content. Students are required to complete semester 1 before taking semester 2 of this course.

#### **Counseling and Mental Health Services (1 credit)**

This course introduces and exposes the students to some topics, issues, and populations that are related to the counseling and mental health field. Students will explore the history of the mental health, diverse counseling and mental health topics, populations, mental health needs, and workplace settings in the United States. Students will discuss addiction, dual diagnosis disorders, vulnerable children, different vulnerable populations, and mental health issues in the criminal justice system. Students will be introduced to various careers in the mental health field; professions reviewed are psychiatrists, psychologists, school counselors, social workers, social and human service assistants, dual diagnosis disorder counselors, recovery counselors, recovery coaches, correctional counselors and forensic psychologists.

## **Digital Arts**

Digital Arts is a semester-long elective designed to provide computer science students with an introduction to visualization-graphics programming on computers. To equip students for today's digitally driven lifestyle, this course focuses on using a digital camera and the practical application of digital imaging and editing programs. Additionally, students will work with audio-editing programs, and will also examine 3D technology and cinematography.

## **Introduction to Careers in the Health Sciences (1 credit)**

This course is an overview of health careers and overriding principles central to all health professions. This course covers science and technology in human health, anatomy, physiology, and disease development, privacy, ethics, and safety in health care. Introduction to Careers in the Health Sciences also covers communication and teamwork in the healthcare environment and health careers. This course provides a foundation for further study in the field of health science. When students complete the course, they will be able to discuss the potential career choices and have an understanding of basic concepts that apply to many different career choices.

## **Introduction to Digital Careers (Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications) (1 credit)**

This introductory course provides comprehensive information on five separate areas of arts and communications as potential educational and career pathways. Students who are interested in careers across a broad spectrum of professional positions, including fine artist, telecommunications administrator, magazine editor, broadcast journalist, or computer graphics artist, will gain useful perspective on industry terminology, technology, work environment, job outlook, and guiding principles.

## **Introduction to Human Growth and Development (1 credit)**

This course focuses on human growth and development over the lifespan, as well as careers that help people deal with various physical, intellectual, and socioemotional issues, such as physicians, nurses, nutritionists, substance abuse counselors, clergy, teachers, career counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists. This class gives the student perspective and highlights where people in the caring professions are most needed. Students who take this course will come away with a broad understanding of all the careers that help people from birth to death. They will understand how people in the helping professions interact with each other and how continued growth in this sector can give them flexibility, good pay, and high job satisfaction.

## **Introduction to Information Technology (1 credit)**

In this course, we introduce students to the knowledge base and technical skills that will help them to successfully compete for jobs within the Information Technology Career Cluster. Lessons are structured so that students learn and then demonstrate not only critical assessment and analytic skills, but also interpersonal skills that are valued so highly among IT employers. This course explores a range of career tracks that include network engineers,

application/programming developers, and systems analysts. These career paths are described in depth, discussing typical job responsibilities, educational and licensure requirements, working conditions, and job outlooks.

### **Music Appreciation (1 credit)**

The goal of this semester-long course is to provide instruction in basic musical elements, trace the development and growth of classical music, and give students a strong foundation for a greater appreciation of music. Students will examine music in the world around them and discover how they experience music. They'll be introduced to the basic elements and sounds of music and instruments. Students will learn the names and backgrounds of several famous musical composers. Students will also learn how and where classical music began, how it developed over the centuries, and the ways in which music and culture affect each other. Lastly, students will examine the ways modern music has been influenced by classical music. This course also provides students with lessons in engaging listening. These special lessons allow students to listen and respond to music.

### **Personal and Family Living (1 credit)**

This semester-long high school elective takes students on an interactive exploration of the challenges they may face as they transition into adulthood, including constructive conflict resolution, nutrition and health, building healthy families, financial responsibility, and long-term employment.

### **Psychology (1 credit)**

Psychology is an introductory elective course for high school students. Throughout the course students will examine influences on human actions and beliefs, factors influencing behavior and perception, and basic psychological theories. Students will develop and apply their understanding of psychology through lessons and projects that require interaction and observation of others.