



**OrionHS.org**

**Learner Information and Guide to Courses Offered at  
Orion High School**

Orion Online Learning, Inc.  
Orion High School Course Catalogue  
<http://www.orionhs.org>  
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**Orion High School**  
**Empowering Learning. Renewing Hope.**

\*The logo (above) was the original OHS logo  
from the founding

**2007-2010**

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# Guide to Orion Online High School Courses

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**2009-2010**

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# Orion Online Learning, Inc. Board of Directors

Name	Orion Process	E Mail Address
David Singleton	President: Orion Online Learning, Inc.  Orion HS Registrar	dsingleton@orionhs.org OR admissions@orionhs.org
Dr. Joseph Gallegos	Founder/Director of Orion eLearning Management System (eLMS)  Orion HS CEO	jgallegos@orionhs.org OR orionhs@orionhs.org
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Craig Bill	Vice-President Orion Online Learning, Inc.	cbill@orionhs.org

## Orion Online High School Contact Information:

Admissions	admissions@orionhs.org	1-OHS1-337 extension 701
Registrar	registrar@orionhs.org	1-OHS1-337 extension 702
General Information	orionhs@orionhs.org	1-OHS1-337 extension 0 Updated/Recorded information : Extension 703
Technical Assistance	TechHelp@orionhs.org	1-OHS2-337 extension 707
Advising Services	Advisor@orionhs.org OR Advising@orionhs.org	1-OHS1-337 extension 701
Transcript Management	registrar@orionhs.org	1-OHS1-337 extension 702
Course Production (this is for mentors to send completed courses)	CourseDevelopment@orionhs.org	1-OHS1-337 extension 701



## Preface

Orion High School was conceptualized by **teachers** who foresee the value of online learning for students of all ages. Orion exists to meet the needs of our **customers** by providing the highest quality online learning. Our goal is to provide the best high school program in the country, regardless of whether that program is “brick and mortar” or online.

## Mission of Orion High School

**As the premier online high school in the country, we are helping students achieve their goals of high school graduation and beyond by producing students who are high performers no matter what they choose to do in life.**

The courses taught at OHS reflect the highest quality practices and are aligned to National Standards. Our courses are also carefully aligned to assist learners who desire to take college entrance exams.

This guide is a compilation of Orion’s core curriculum – that is, those areas/courses which lead to Orion’s diploma (24 credits). **Orion HS is not a GED Program – students graduate with a high school diploma.**

*Orion Online High School/Orion Learning Project does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing education or providing access to benefits of education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.*



# Orion High School Course Catalogue

The purpose of this catalog is to provide both students and parents a clear understanding of the graduation requirements at Orion High School. Hopefully, the course descriptions and information contained herein will enable students to make more informed decisions concerning their future educational plans. It is a further aim that parents review the information contained in this catalog and become more involved in the important educational decisions to come. If there are questions or concerns that cannot be answered through the information given in this catalog, please e-mail us at [Advisor@orionhs.org](mailto:Advisor@orionhs.org). *Orion offers many programs toward high school graduation. This catalogue details the regular 24 credit program, which is the Orion College Preparatory Program. The other programs are also described in this catalogue.*

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



Prospective learners apply to Orion at [www.OrionHS.org](http://www.OrionHS.org). Transcripts are requested and evaluated against the 24 (updated 2009) credits required for Orion graduation.

Once learners are processed and accepted for Admission they must complete the **Orion Demonstration Course** before beginning their course work.

Orion allows learners to only take two courses at the same time (DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS). After the first three months, learners may take up to four courses at one time. Learners must complete courses in three months.

Final examinations are online and are the sole-source for the learner's transcript grade. *(Final examinations are typically multiple-choice examinations. Mentors and Learners also may choose a project-based final examination in lieu of the multiple-choice examination. This is a decision made between learners and mentors).*

## SCHEDULE OF TUITION/FEEES AND OTHER PROGRAMS OFFERED BY ORION

See below



## ACCREDITATION

Orion is a candidate for accreditation with the **Commission on International and Trans-regional Accreditation (CITA)**, the **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**, and is a member school of the **National Independent Private Schools Association (NIPSA)**.

Learners will be apprised of the status as the process continues. Typically, the following steps will be part of the accreditation steps: application, candidacy, (self-study throughout the process) and finally, accredited. OHS will e-mail all learners to keep them apprised of the status. **Public and/or Private School transfer students who wish to take one or more Orion High School courses should provide the**



information in this course catalogue to their counselor to determine whether or not the school will accept the Orion transfer credit.

Orion High School accepts transfer credits from home school, public school, and private school. Orion awards credit for courses with 60 or above, as per adopted policy (October 2007):

## Orion Online High School



### Grade Acceptance Policy

*All credits from other schools will be accepted. In the case where there is an equivalent course in Orion, credit toward graduation will be awarded.*

*The following scale will be used when accepting scores from other schools:*

*A =95 or higher*

*A-=90-94*

*B+=88-89*

*B =84-87*

*B-=80-83*

*C+=78-79*

*C =74-77*

*C-=70-73*

*D+=68-69*

*D =64-67*

*D-=60-63*

*F=59 and below*

*For credits earned from another high school that have no equivalent at Orion, those credits easily apply toward Orion's College Preparatory Diploma Program.*

*Orion awards two types of diplomas upon graduation: the College Preparatory Diploma and the Orion Quality Diploma. The College Preparatory Diploma refers to the completion of the 24 course credits required in the Orion course catalog for graduation. The Quality Diploma refers to the completion of 16 credits (four from each of the main content areas of English Language Arts/Reading; Mathematics; Science, and Social Studies).*

The Orion Registrar will contact high schools in order to formally request transcripts; however, students are encouraged to request an "informal" transcript copy in order to expedite the enrollment process.



## SAT/PSAT

Learners should plan for and take the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PLAN, or ACT, at least prior to taking the last set of courses at Orion High School. When registering for any of the above College Board Examinations, learners should place the Orion High School Code – 444731.



# NCAA Clearinghouse

Orion High School has submitted this Course Catalogue for approval from the NCAA Clearinghouse. Learners will be kept apprised of the approval process (June 2009)



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Although Orion's courses are not specifically intended to prepare students for state exit examinations, students will be amply prepared to do so, if they wish. We encourage our learners to take their applicable State exit assessments, and to provide results to Orion in order to provide Orion with comparison data.

### HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll is published each Quarter by Orion High School. To be considered on the **A** Honor Roll, a student must have earned **A's** on all courses. To be considered for the **A-B** Honor Roll, a student must earn a combination of **A's** and **B's**. A **C** in any course will eliminate a student. (The Honor Roll is Published in, "*Learn. Create. Succeed! The Newsletter of the Orion Learning Community*").

### GRADING

The Orion High School Grading System is as follows:

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

F = Below 70

### CLASSIFICATION OF LEARNERS

Students are classified in the following manner.

Freshman      0 – 6      Credits

Sophomore    7-12      Credits

Juniors        13-18    Credits

Seniors        19+      Credits

**A minimum of six (6) credits per calendar year must be earned to remain enrolled at OHS.**



# AWARDING OF CREDIT

Credits are awarded upon completion of each OHS course. OHS students must complete all lessons, and all lesson requirements at the OHS E-Campus prior to taking the final examination for the course. Students may not take the final examination until approval is given by the teacher to do so. OHS courses are self-paced, but do require substantial time in study, reading, reflection, and assessment. In order to get the most out of the Orion learning experience and to be fully prepared to take final examinations, Orion highly recommends that students participate in weekly discussion forums, and weekly communication with mentors before finally logging in to take final examinations. The final exam grade will constitute 100% of the learner's grade in the course (unless otherwise agreed-upon between learner and mentor).

## Report Cards

Upon completion of Courses and Final Examinations, learners may print their Report Cards. Report Cards are found at the Learner Home Page, with the link, "Your Report Card is Ready". The Orion Report Card link is only available if the learner has a score of 70% or better on the Final Examination.

Report Cards may be printed any time from the Learner Home Page.

## Transcripts

Learner Historical Grades (All Courses that have been taken at Orion), are found by logging in to Orion High School, and by clicking on "Your Course History". This allows learners to see all courses taken, along with the final grade for each of those courses.

Cumulative transcripts are sent to learners periodically, and may be requested by logging in to Orion and selecting the "Request Official Transcripts" link, or by emailing [registrar@orionhs.org](mailto:registrar@orionhs.org).

## Final Examinations

Final examinations are typically multiple-choice examinations. Mentors and Learners also may choose a project-based final examination in lieu of the multiple-choice examination. This is a decision made between learners and mentors.

# THE NATIONAL STANDARDS AS THE BASIS FOR COURSE DESIGN

Orion's proprietary content is developed using the **Orion Course Development Protocol**. Courses are deployed on the Orion eLearning Management System.

Orion's 24 courses are built around the National Standards for mathematics, science, social studies, and reading. The courses are developed by Orion certified teachers and integrate the major fields of study:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

- Orion's courses combine visual media (streaming video); auditory media (streaming audio); Podcasts, Video Casts, and Cell Phone Technology for both academic learning and for communication purposes.

All courses are up to ten modules in length and provide learners with a comprehensive study of the Standards with an integrated, problem-based, learning approach which enables learners to solve meaningful, real-world problems.

Orion's courses require live-online real-time interaction periodically. The live interaction allows learners and mentors to discuss and collaborate around conceptual learning.



## USING OHS SUPPORT SERVICES

OHS advisors are here to assist you with your choice of courses, and to ensure that you are following the correct sequence of courses for graduation from OHS. For questions, please e-mail [advising@orionhs.org](mailto:advising@orionhs.org).

Technology support services assist learners who need Orion Tech Help services. These services include e-mail support, phone support, and live online chat support. For immediate assistance, learners should call 1-OHS1-337 and enter extension 7 (or 707).

Orion Advising Services assist learners through their studies by providing assistance for learner's questions. Advisors help learners understand and plan for life after graduation.

Mentors are certified teachers in each of the content areas. Mentors provide daily email support/dialogue; weekly or bi-weekly live online interaction through the Orion Collaboration Center; and are available via regular phone.



## ORION'S CORE BELIEFS

Orion believes that all learners, regardless of their past history with education, deserve a high quality, flexible way to learn content in a rich, supportive, online environment.

Orion believes that learning is active and not passive. That online content can be rigorous and challenging, but can help learners exceed their own expectations for learning.

Orion believes that content is not departmental - content must be integrated to be meaningful - to provide meaningful learning for learners.

Orion believes that improvement is continuous and that Orion's existence is critical for learners who need to be challenged and need to be provided with the support necessary to be part of a high performing world outside of Orion.



# GRADUATION/COMMENCEMENT

To receive a high school diploma from Orion High School, a student must successfully complete the required number of credits – 24.

**Orion Course Report Cards** are issued upon successful completion of **each** course. Each course contains a series of lessons and a final exam. The Orion Course Report Cards are not the official transcript for the student, they are simply means by which learners can keep track of course completion. Official transcripts may be requested any time. Official transcripts are also posted on the Learner Home Page, by logging in and clicking on Your Orion Profile.

## ORION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (for the Orion College Preparatory Program)

ACADEMIC CORE COMPONENTS	CREDIT
<b>English Language Arts/Reading Proficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I, English II, English III, English IV</li> </ul>	4.0 ✓
<b>Mathematics Proficiency -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus or Personal Finance</li> </ul>	4.0 ✓
<b>Science Proficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy</li> </ul>	4.0 ✓
<b>Social Sciences Proficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History , World History , World Geography, U.S. Government, Economics</li> </ul>	5.0 ✓
<b>Health Proficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Fitness &amp; Health</li> </ul>	1.0 ✓
<b>Careers Proficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career Exploration</li> </ul>	1.0 ✓
<b>Speech Proficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communications Skills</li> </ul>	1.0 ✓
<b>Technology Proficiency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orion Technology Proficiency Course</li> </ul>	1.0 ✓
<b>World Languages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spanish I</li> </ul>	1.0 ✓
<b>Choices:</b> <b>Learners select 2 courses from below:</b>	2.0 ✓

- SAT Study
- Spanish II
- Introduction to Engineering
- Grammar and Composition
- Web Design
- Literature of the Bible\* (This course may be substituted for World History OR English III)
- Kione Greek

Total Credits Required for Graduation

24.0



## The Orion Quality Diploma Program (16 Credits)

The Orion Quality Diploma Program requires learners to complete the following (transfer credits apply toward the completion of this program of study):

English Language Arts/Reading: English I, II, III, IV

Mathematics: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (or equivalent transfer credit), Personal Finance (or equivalent transfer credit)

Science: Biology, Chemistry (or equivalent transfer credit), Physics (or equivalent transfer credit), Astronomy

Social Studies: World Geography, World History, United States History, Government/Economics

Orion also offers a 3-month equivalency diploma (see below), and other programs for public schools, charter schools, or school districts.

## TUITION, FEES, AND OTHER PROGRAMS OFFERED BY OHS

### Payment Plans

Learners full time at Orion may choose from one of the following payment plans:



**Plan 1: A one time payment of \$1000.00 (prior to starting the set of 6 courses)**



**Plan 2: Three payments of \$400.00 (first payment due before beginning first course; additional payments due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month)**



### Plan 3: Six payments of \$220.00 (first payment due before beginning first course; additional payments due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month)

Note: Other payment arrangements may be made by calling 1-877-647-1337 (credit card information will be kept on file).

**Learners may not take final examinations until tuition is fully paid (unless other arrangements have been made with OHS).**



## Other Programs Offered by Orion:

Orion High School Tuition and Fees (Adopted by the Orion Online Learning Board of Directors) This tuition schedule is for learners enrolled (and will be graduating) at Orion HS		
Course	Tuition for full time OHS Learner(s)	Additional Information
1-5 Courses (Any of the courses from the Orion High School Catalogue). This means that the learner only requires 1-5 courses to complete high school, and will graduate upon completion of the course or courses.	*\$166.66 per course	Orion does not require learners to purchase books. The \$166.66 is the only cost for the course.  Introduction to Engineering and Engineering Design I-III require a one-time purchase of SolidWorks (approximately \$100.00). These courses are two-credit courses, thereby providing substantial savings to learners.
6 Courses - If the learner requires 6 or more courses, the courses are bundled at one price.	*\$1000.00 for a group of six courses (see other payment plans)	This represents a substantial savings to full-time OHS learners (166.66 per course).
Orion Equivalency Diploma Program		
The program consists of a three-month study of mathematics, science, social studies, and reading/writing.	\$500.00 (One Time Payment) OR 2 Payments of \$300.00 Each OR 3 Payments of \$230.00 Each  (Due by 10 <sup>th</sup> of each month)	This diploma is a regular OHS Diploma; there is no notation on the diploma distinguishing it as an Equivalency Diploma. Transcripts are kept at Orion, designating that the learner took (and passed) the OHS equivalency examination.  Learners in this program are provided with a study guide at no additional cost.

**Orion High School Tuition and Fees (Adopted by the Orion Online Learning Board of Directors)**  
**This tuition schedule is for learners enrolled (and will be graduating) at Orion HS**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Tuition for full time OHS Learner(s)</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
<b>Orion Leveling Diploma</b>		
Students from public schools across the USA are required to take and pass exit level examinations (such as the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, etc.). To qualify for an Orion HS Diploma, a student must have met local graduation requirements, except for State testing. Orion will evaluate the transcript based on Orion's 24 credits for graduation and will ensure that the learner in fact only lacked passage of his or her State test. Typically, learners applying for this program, will lack 2 or more additional credits to meet Orion's 24 credit requirement (College Preparatory Diploma). Orion will work closely with the prospective student to meet the requirements for this program.	\$250.00 (One Time Payment)	This is a one time fee, and must be paid prior to Orion requesting and evaluating the transcript. The fee covers all costs, including courses required to meet the Orion 24 credit program.
<b>International Leveling Diploma Program</b>		
Students who have graduated from high school programs in other countries may be eligible for this program. Transcripts are evaluated based on Orion's requirements for graduation. Students entering into this program will typically lack additional courses to meet Orion's 24 credit program.	\$250.00	This is a one time fee, and must be paid prior to Orion requesting and evaluating the transcript. The \$250.00 will cover all costs including courses required, and graduation costs.
<b>Orion's RenewingU™ Program</b>		
RenewingU is a program designed to help public school districts recover dropouts. This program registers public school dropouts at Orion and helps them continue toward graduation (based on Orion's 23 credits). Learners are no longer enrolled at public school districts; they are enrolled as full time learners at OHS (private school coding). Only public school districts are eligible for this program.	Contact Orion for Pricing Information	This fee is a one time fee. Learners will graduate with their high school diploma. This provides security for school districts in that learners are provided a high quality education, and are no longer counted as dropouts.
<b>Orion's EmpowerU™ Program</b>		
EmpowerU is a program designed to help public school districts by providing	Contact Orion for Pricing Information	This is a fee per course per student. Learners will graduate

**Orion High School Tuition and Fees (Adopted by the Orion Online Learning Board of Directors)**  
**This tuition schedule is for learners enrolled (and will be graduating) at Orion HS**

Course	Tuition for full time OHS Learner(s)	Additional Information
<p>certified teachers and flexibility for learners. Learners are NOT enrolled as full-time OHS learners; they are enrolled as full time in their private or public school. This program allows schools and school districts to let Orion be their source for summer school; virtual school (during the year); all the while allowing for students to have the flexibility for meeting the demanding needs of more intense graduation requirements. This program also assists Charter Schools by providing all content toward graduation - with certified teachers. Orion will provide the courses, you provide the space.</p>		<p>from their own public or private high school. These courses (at Orion) are taken concurrently with the learner's current schedule, and can be taken any time during the year. The school agrees to accept the credit toward the learner's graduation.</p>
<p><b>Non-OHS Enrolled Learners</b></p>		
<p>Non enrolled learners may take OHS courses toward high school graduation. Many students across the country take online courses to allow more flexibility within their busy high school schedules. This allows students to have more time in their school day for concurrent courses; band; athletics; etc. Orion provides the courses, and the individual learner must visit with the local administration so that credit is transferred upon completion of the course or courses.</p>	<p>\$225.00 per course</p>	<p>This is a fee per course per student. Learners will graduate from their own private or public high school. Learners must visit with their guidance counselor, or other appropriate administrator to ensure the acceptance of this transfer credit, and must provide Orion with a letter from the appropriate administrator. Upon completion of the course or courses, Orion will release the transcript to the individual learner.</p>

**\*Effective Prices if paid in full**



# Course Descriptions

## ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### ENGLISH I-IV

**Course:** English I

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 9<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course emphasizes three parts: literature, grammar, and composition. Reading and interpretation of the literature selections are frequently used as topics for composition. Students are required to apply their knowledge of basic rules of grammar and usage in the compositions.

**Course:** English II

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 10<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course emphasizes three parts: reading, writing and grammar. Literature and composition assignments are selected for the needs and interests of students. Students are required to apply their knowledge of basic rules of grammar and usage in the compositions.

**Course:** English III

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 11<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course emphasizes three parts: American literature, grammar, and composition, focusing on a background in American literature. Knowledge of American literature parallels our American historical growth. Students are required to apply their knowledge of grammar and usage in compositions dealing with literature selections and a research paper.

**Course:** Grammar and Composition

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 11<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course allows students to write in a variety of forms - narrative, exploratory, expository, argumentative and on a variety of subjects from personal experiences to public policies and from imaginative literature to popular culture. The ultimate goal is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers.

**Course:** English IV

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 12<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course is designed to present a sequential and fused program in reading, writing, speaking, listening and reasoning. A variety of traditional English literature is surveyed. Instruction concerning the development and completion of a research paper is of particular value to senior students.

## COMMUNICATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Course:** Communication Skills

**Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Placement:** 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course will guide students through becoming effective written and oral communicators.

## MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF MATHEMATICS COURSES

Students who desire to take five years of mathematics and are beginning Algebra I in the freshman year may take two mathematics courses (Algebra II and Geometry) in their sophomore year.

YEAR	RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE
Freshman Year	Algebra I
Sophomore Year	Geometry
Junior Year	Algebra II
Senior Year	Precalculus or Personal Finance

**Course:** Algebra I

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 9<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course is a one-year course designed to enhance the ability to think and analyze solutions to problems as opposed to simply memorizing. Algebra I is an important foundation for students who plan to study more advanced math courses.

**Course: Geometry****Credit: 1.0 credit****Grade Placement: 10<sup>th</sup>****Prerequisite: Algebra I.**

**Course Description:** This course is a one-year course designed to teach students to think logically. Students will learn to analyze, organize, and apply facts concerning figures composed of points, lines, and surfaces or combinations of these. The facts learned in geometry are very important since they play a prominent part in industry, mechanics, physical sciences and advanced mathematics.

**Course: Algebra II****Credit: 1.0 credit****Grade Placement: 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry (or concurrently enrolled in Geometry) [Recommended that students purchase a TI83+ or higher calculator.]**

**Course Description:** This course is a one-year mathematics course that will extend the concepts covered in Algebra I to include such topics as functions, complex numbers, conic sections, quadratic equations, and matrices and determinants. The student will be required to use a graphing calculator.

**Course: Precalculus****Credit: 1.0 credit****Grade Placement: 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Prerequisite: Algebra II (Recommended that students purchase a TI-83 or higher calculator.)**

**Course Description:** This course is a one year course designed to follow Algebra II. Precalculus is a preparatory class for Calculus, and it covers the essential knowledge and skills of trigonometry, analytical geometry, as well as real numbers and coordinates; functions and their graphs; polynomial and rational functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; circular functions and their properties; trigonometric functions, their properties, identities, and applications; vectors; complex numbers; polar coordinates and their graphs; sequences and series; curves in a plane, conics and transformations; second degree relations; matrices and determinants; the binomial theorem; and limits.

**Course: Personal Finance****Credit: 1.0 credit****Grade Placement: 11<sup>th</sup> - 12**

**Course Description:** This course discusses and assesses sources of personal income, saving and consumer spending patterns. Development of techniques for planning and budgeting consumption expenditures and saving, with special emphasis on the use of saving allocations to achieve personal goals; real property, insurance, financial investment, retirement, estate and tax planning.

# SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Course:** Biology

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 9<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course is the study of the structure, growth and function of the life systems of selected organisms. The study will encompass historical contributions to biological concepts; energy production, transfer, and use in living systems; and the inter-relatedness of organisms with each other and their environments. Students acquire data using their senses and instrumentation. Observations are made of living organisms in the environment, prepared specimens, various ecosystems, and inherited traits. Student investigations emphasize accurate observations, collection of data, data analysis, and safe manipulation of laboratory apparatus and materials in the laboratory.

**Course:** Chemistry

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course is the study of the structure, composition, and behavior of matter and emphasizes the investigation of matter, its interactions, and the factors affecting the interactions. A laboratory oriented course that stresses the observation of matter and its behavior, classification of matter, communication of data, measurement of chemical quantities, predictions of chemical phenomena, and manipulation of chemical investigations. Students acquire data by using their senses and instrumentation. The investigations emphasize accurate observations, collection of data, data analysis, and safe manipulation of laboratory materials.

**Course:** Physics

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

**Prerequisites:** Algebra I and Algebra II or Geometry.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to study matter and energy and their interactions. Fundamental concepts in the areas of mechanics, light, sound, heat, electricity, magnetism and nuclear phenomena are introduced. Students acquire information using the senses and instrumentation. Observations of laws of force and motion, the nature of light, wave phenomena, and properties of electricity and magnetism are integral components of the course. Student investigations emphasize accurate observations, collection of data, data analysis, and the safe use of laboratory equipment.

**Course:** Astronomy

**Credit:** 1.0 credit

**Grade Placement:** 12<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course is a scientific exploration of the human place in the universe. We study the origin and history of the Universe and the formation of the Earth and the solar system. We compare the Earth's properties with those of the other planets and explore how the heavens have influenced human thought and action. This course includes study of the properties of light and matter and the tools astronomers use to measure radiation from celestial sources. The course also covers exciting contemporary topics such as black holes, the expansion of the universe and the search for extraterrestrial life.

# SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Course: United States History****Credit: 1.0 credit****Grade Placement: 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Course Description:** This course is a one-year course (the second year of study of U.S. History). It continues the focus from the eighth grade on the history, geography, and political and economic growth of the nation; the theme of culture as a characteristic of American society, past and present including significant individuals, issues and events after the period of Reconstruction to the present. The study of U.S. geography, in regard to location and shape, is integrated into the course.

**Course: World History****Credit: 1.0 credit****Grade Placement: 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Course Description:** This course includes further study of the history and development of world cultures encountered in the earlier secondary social studies courses. Content includes the development of early civilization, western civilization and other world regions from their early days to present. Students should be better able to understand world events that may arise in the present and in the future. An attempt is made to show the interrelationships in the world with stress on the way one period on history may influence a succeeding period.

**Course: World Geography****Credit: 1.0 credit****Grade Placement: 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

**Course Description:** This course is a one-year course that provides the opportunity to study the interaction of people and their physical environments in the major areas of the world. Students acquire an understanding of the physical setting of the earth, locate and study different land forms and regions of the world, learn how people and geography impact each other and urbanism. Content offers students the opportunity to put into practice the geographical concepts and skills accumulated through earlier social studies programs.

**Course: United States Government****Credit: 1.0 credit****Grade Placement: 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Course Description:** This course is a one-semester course that provides a opportunity to study, in depth, the foundation of the U.S. political system; to analyze the political institutions, process and values of the system; to trace the development of the U.S. governmental system; and to analyze the structure and functions of government on local, state and federal levels.

**Course: Economics****Credit: 1.0 credit****Grade Placement: 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Course Description:** This course is a one-semester course that provides opportunity to study basic principles concerning production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services. Content builds an

understanding of the components of the free enterprise system. Students study concepts such as supply and demand, the banking system, comparative economic systems, and the national economy.

## PERSONAL FITNESS/HEALTH DESCRIPTION

**Course:** Personal Fitness/Health

**Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Placement:** 9<sup>th</sup>– 12<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course is planned to educate adolescents to properly care for themselves as they prepare to enter adulthood. Topics included are alcohol and drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, chronic health conditions, family life, consumer health, preventable diseases and personal hygiene.

## CAREER EDUCATION/CAREER EXPLORATION

**Course:** Career Exploration

**Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Placement:** 9<sup>th</sup>– 12<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This courses helps learners learn how to plan, establish, change a career. The process of deciding on a career and implementing career goals, assessment of values, interests and skills plus their relationship to occupations. Analysis of the labor market needs, identification of employers and sources of occupation information, the means of securing employment through proposals, resumes, applications and job interviews.

## World Languages

**Course:** Spanish I

**Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Placement:** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course guides learners through an understanding and beginning comprehension of the Spanish language. Emphasis is placed on helping learners understand the language and its every day use. Learners will practice their skills, and will listen to podcasts to help them continue to practice. Situational Spanish will be the emphasis for this course.

**Course:** Spanish II

**Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Placement:** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description:** This course takes up where Spanish I leaves off. The course continues to emphasize situational Spanish, while introducing literature for comprehension. Learners create podcasts in order to highlight their practice of the language.

# Orion's Curriculum Standards – Based on the National Standards

## **Mathematics:**

Algebra Standards: <http://standards.nctm.org/document/chapter7/alg.htm>

Geometry Standards: <http://standards.nctm.org/document/chapter7/geom.htm>

Pre-Calculus: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/mthcalculus.asp>

## **Science:**

<http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/nses/>

## **Social Studies:**

<http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/>

## **English Language Arts/Reading:**

<http://www.ncte.org/library/files/Store/Books/Sample/StandardsDoc.pdf>

## **Career Readiness:**

<http://www.workreadiness.com/resources.html>

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