

# COMPASS HONORS HIGH SCHOOL



COURSE HANDBOOK  
2008-2009

# COURSE OFFERINGS

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English program develops critical reading, clear and logical writing, knowledge and appreciation of literature. Although every course requires reading, thinking, and analytical and creative writing, the sequence of courses is designed to foster an increasingly sophisticated and mature command of language and literature. Writing is a continuing emphasis throughout the curriculum helping students to express themselves and their opinions more persuasively and clearly, both in speech and in the written word. The mechanics of academic discourse are addressed on an individual basis through the writing assignments. Students improve their facility with parts of speech, syntax, grammar, punctuation, and rhetorical modes of development in the context of their own attempts to clarify and persuade. Successful students will demonstrate their ability to assert a thesis and support its points with extensive textual evidence, and to argue their points of view persuasively.

### **Freshman English**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8<sup>th</sup> English

Course Description: Freshman English explores the cultures of Mexico, England, The Middle East and North America. It is a cross-curricular course with Global Perspectives. During the year we will uncover the literature, the key authors, the poetry, the short stories, the vocabulary, and the problems of each of these cultures. During the year students will be expected to write essays, research papers, poetry, short stories and other various forms of writing. Also, students will be expected to know the eight parts of speech and be able to write using those different parts of speech. We will be exploring these wonderful novels and examining them for their rich literature content: Barefoot Heart, Baseball in America, A Christmas Carol, The Taming of the Shrew, Animal Farm, Fahrenheit 451, Across Five Aprils, and Death Be Not Proud. Class time consists of reading, class discussions, writing, note taking, research, presentation, and implementation of the MLA format.

### **Sophomore English: European Literature**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Freshman English

Course Description: Students will study the chronological development of literature by culture or time period, read representative literature from each culture or time, and focus on major themes found in the writings. Students will continue to develop writing skills through analysis of literature, evaluation of ideas, and creative writing. The students are expected to read and critique specified books during the summer before 10<sup>th</sup> grade and during the school year. Students should enjoy reading and writing and be willing to spend the time required to produce high quality work.

### **Junior English: American Literature**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Sophomore English

Course Description: In American Literature, students will study the chronological development of American literature by reading representative selections and will recognize the impact of historical and political issues on the authors and their writing. Students will continue to develop writing skills through analysis of literature, evaluation of ideas, and creative writing. The students are expected to read and critique specified books dur-

ing the summer before 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Students should enjoy reading and writing and be willing to spend the time required to produce high quality work.

### **Senior English: British Literature**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Junior English

Course Description: In British Literature, students will study the chronological development of British literature by reading representative selections and will recognize the impact of historical and political issues on the authors and their writing. Students will continue to develop writing skills through analysis of literature, evaluation of ideas, and creative writing. The students are expected to read and critique specified books during the summer before 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students should enjoy reading and writing and be willing to spend the time required to produce high quality work.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

The primary goal of the Foreign Languages curriculum is to help students develop proficiency skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The curriculum's purpose is to increase the student's knowledge and appreciation of diverse cultures of the countries whose languages they are learning.

### **Spanish I (9-12)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course introduces the students to the basics of the Spanish language and the intricacies of the cultures of those who speak it. We create a framework of vocabulary, grammar, and usage upon which the students will be able to build. They are introduced to diverse cultures and communities in order to stimulate a curiosity of Latin America and Europe. Attention is also given to the Hispanic influence in the United States, which is one of the largest cultural demographic groups. By the end of the year the Spanish I student should be able to identify parts of a sentence and a variety of grammatical structures. They will be able to hold a basic conversation that includes simple and compound verbs, word agreement, etc.

### **Spanish II (10-12)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish I with a 70% class average or instructor's permission

Course Description: Second year Spanish is an extension of the first year. In this class, the students continue to expand their vocabulary and knowledge of the grammar. More emphasis is placed upon the different conjugations such as past participle, imperfect and subjunctive. The second year Spanish student will also spend more time focusing on the history of the various countries in addition to different pieces of literature. Students should be able to carry on more advanced conversations that include idiomatic expressions and advanced grammar.

### **Spanish III (11-12)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish II with a 70% class average or instructor's permission

Course Description: Third year is 100% Spanish. At this point they are working completely in Spanish. We focus on the subjunctive and the perfect tenses. We practice with oral activities, such as impromptu questions, direct response questions and picture sequence story telling.

For written work they have weekly essays and journal entries. For listening activities we listen to CDs with authentic Spanish speakers.

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

The Mathematics curriculum at CHHS is designed to prepare students for the math they will need in college, or at least provide them with the prerequisite mathematics needed to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to any college they choose to attend. Students completing Algebra I in Middle School position themselves to reach the Calculus level before they graduate from High School. The curriculum provides Algebra I, Geometry, Introduction to Algebra II, Algebra II, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. Graduation requires 4 years of Mathematics.

### **Algebra I (9)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Grade of C- or better in Pre-Algebra (or teacher recommendation)

Course Description: Algebra I covers the rules of algebra; solving single and multi-variable equations; systems of equations; solving, graphing, and writing linear equations; solving and graphing linear inequalities; exponents and radicals; polynomials and factoring; quadratic equations; using proportions and rational equations; functions; word problem translation; basic statistics; and connections to geometry.

### **Geometry (9-10)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Grade of C- or better in Algebra I (or teacher recommendation)

Course Description: Geometry is the application of algebraic concepts in terms of geometric figures, thus it includes the extensive study of the triangle, parallel lines, constructions, formal proof, the Pythagorean Theorem, polygons, circles, two and three dimensional relationships, proportions, area, volume, trigonometry, and applications to mathematical formulas.

### **Introduction to Algebra II (10-11)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I and Geometry (teacher approval required)

Course Description: Intro to Algebra II is designed for students who may have had difficulty with Algebra and Geometry concepts and would benefit from a preparatory course in the progression toward Algebra II. This course will review geometry concepts while strengthening algebraic skills such as problem solving, solutions to equations and inequalities, systems of equations, variable manipulation, linear equations, exponents and radicals, polynomials, and quadratics.

### **Algebra II (11-12)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Grade of C- or better in Geometry (or teacher recommendation)

Course Description: Algebra II covers solutions of equations and inequalities; systems of linear and non-linear equations; matrices and determinants; quadratic equations; conic sections; exponents and radicals; complex numbers; exponential and logarithmic functions; polynomials and polynomial functions; trigonometric functions; problem solving; and probability and statistics.

### **Trigonometry (11-12)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II (teacher approval required)

Course Description: Trigonometry covers trigonometric functions and equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, linear and non-linear systems of equations, and conic sections as well as advanced algebraic concepts and problem solving. This course is a good transition between Algebra II and Pre-Calculus for students who need to build their algebraic skills while still advancing their knowledge of trigonometry.

### **Pre-Calculus (11-12)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Grade of C- or better in Algebra II or Trigonometry (or teacher recommendation)

Course Description: Pre-Calculus covers linear and polynomial functions, graphs and roots of functions, complex roots, logarithms, trigonometric functions and equations, trigonometric identities, matrices and determinants, polar vectors, parametric and polar equations, and conic sections. ***Dual Academic Class.***

### **Calculus (12)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Grade of C- or better in Pre-Calculus (or teacher recommendation)

Course Description: Calculus covers a study of functions, limits, continuity, the derivative, applications of the derivative, integration, applications of integration, area between curves, and volume of rotational solids. ***Dual Academic Class.***

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

The science program at CHHS is designed to provide critical understanding of fundamental scientific concepts and to develop scientific inquiry skills in students which will provide a foundation for success in college courses. Courses also incorporate relevant laboratory activities designed to utilize the scientific method of investigation.

### **Biology (9)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science

Course Description: This course covers the basic, foundational principles of biological sciences. Topics include scientific measurement and unit conversions, the chemistry of life, cellular structure and processes, genetics, molecular biology, biotechnology, evolution, population genetics, ecology, and biodiversity. Laboratory investigations include microscopic examinations, biochemistry of cellular processes, biotechnology applications, genetic simulations, and the study of ecological processes.

### **Physical Science (10)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology

Course Description: Topics studied in physical science include the nature of matter; physical and chemical changes of matter; motion and energy with a look at engines; machines and thermo-dynamics; light waves and sound waves; electricity and magnetism; and earth and space systems. The concepts of these topics are explored using experimentation and inquiry activities.

### **Chemistry (11)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Biology, Algebra II (may be taken concurrently)

Course Description: This course covers the foundational principles of chemistry. Topics include scientific measurement and unit conversions, atomic structure, periodic table,

chemical formulas and equations, stoichiometry, bonding and molecular structure, phase changes and the kinetic theory, solutions and solubilities, and electrochemistry. These topics are supplemented with appropriate laboratory investigations using various laboratory equipment and procedures.

### **Physics (12)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Algebra II (Highly recommend that pre-Calculus be taken concurrently)

Course Description: Physics covers classical mechanics and statics including motion and forces in one and two dimensions, thermodynamics, sound, light and optics, electricity and magnetism, nuclear science overview, and a relativistic/modern physics overview.

This course involves a significant amount of mathematical work, so the more math a student has had prior to the course the better. This is a lab course which requires formal lab reports.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

The social studies department serves to introduce students to the study of the past and present civilizations. The courses offered in this department are dedicated to stimulating the study of history by promoting critical thinking and fostering a rigorous, content-rich approach to historical knowledge and understanding. By studying history, one of our main goals is for our students to become more thoughtful, responsible, and effective citizens.

### **Global Perspectives (9)**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8th Grade U. S. History

Course Description: Global Perspectives is an in-depth study of the following topics in relation to their impact on current issues:

- Mexico and Latin America
- European History
- Middle East
- Modern America

This course is cross-curricular with Freshman English. Topics will be studied concurrently with emphasis on analysis, research, and critical thinking skills. Students will be required to produce work that emphasizes the use of factual evidence to prove designated issues.

### **European History Since 1300**

#### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: Global Perspectives 9

Course Description: This course will be a challenging two-semester honors level course of European History. It will consist of an in-depth study of European History from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. to the present. Among the topics of study will be the High Middle Ages, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Reformation, Romantic Era, Industrial Revolution, World War I, World War II, etc. All areas of history are covered in these topics including their social, political, economic, intellectual, and cultural influences. This course should help provide students with a solid foundation in understanding the affect Western Europe had on the birth of the United States through the current state of our country, which will be covered in eleventh grade U.S. History.

## **United States History (11)**

### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: European History

Course Description: United States history is organized around central assumptions, expectations, and themes that knowledge of history is a precondition of political intelligence. The key skills and knowledge students will acquire and develop in U.S. History include: the understanding that history as a discipline in a democratic society is based on the Jeffersonian principle that the most effective means to prevent the perversion of power into tyranny is to maintain an educated populace; an understanding that history is an interaction between the events of the past and the perspectives of the present; an understanding that history requires the critical analysis of cause and effect and the organization of events both chronologically and thematically; and an understanding that history is created by people making decisions in the face of a variety of factors including, but not limited to, considerations of geography, politics, economics, and culture.

## **American Government (12)**

### **2 Semesters**

Prerequisite: U.S. History

Course Description: This course will be a two-semester introductory course designed for students to build off their junior studies in U.S. History. The bulk of the year (over  $\frac{3}{4}$ ) will consist of an in-depth study of the American system of government. The main purpose of this course is to help students gain and display an understanding of American politics, and the institutions of government that help shape our public policies. Students will critically examine those institutions, the political process, and the important issues that our country faces. The remainder of the year will be a comparative study with other governmental systems from around the world. Students will draw on their prior studies and be able to compare our system with countries such as Great Britain, France, Russia, China, Iraq, and Japan among others. This will provide students with a broader sense of how other countries throughout the world conduct themselves.

## **Economics (11-12)**

### **1 Semester**

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The study of economics transcend several disciplines of study – government, geography, sociology, and psychology and is designed so that students will be able to understand and appreciate the forces that affect them every day – at home, in the workplace, in the boardroom, and in the halls of government. The key skill that students will develop in economics include: an ability to identify and analyze domestic and global economic problems/alternatives; collect, quantify and organize economic evidence; compare benefits and costs; recognize the essential structure of business; and investigate the consequences of change in economic conditions and public policies. The skills learned in economics will allow students to make wise choices as consumers and in business.

# ELECTIVES

## **IT Essentials (9-12)**

### **1 Semester**

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Have you ever wondered how computers work? Or how to fix them when they don't? Then this class is for you! It provides a comprehensive overview of computer hardware and software and an introduction to advanced concepts. You will learn to describe the internal components of a computer, assemble a computer system, install an operating system, and troubleshoot using system tools and diagnostic software, connect to the Internet and share resource in a network environment. This class integrates virtual learning tools to supplement classroom learning and will provide an interactive "hands-on" experience. It is intended for students pursuing careers in IT and wanting practical knowledge of how a computer works.

## **Computer Network Basics I (10-12)**

### **1 Semester**

Prerequisite: IT Essentials

Course Description: How do computers communicate with each other, and with computers on the Internet? This class will cover an introduction to networking and its fundamentals, networking media, cable testing and cabling, Ethernet fundamentals, Ethernet technologies and switching, TCP/IP protocol suite and IP addressing, routing fundamentals and subnets, and TCP/IP transport and application layer.

## **Health (9)**

### **1 Semester**

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students will develop an understanding of health in personal, cultural/societal, and global terms. We will study basic personal health and wellness, and then examine how health impacts culture and society throughout the country and world. This course will include other disciplines of study including history, economics, sociology, and psychology. Areas of study will include personal health, stress and stress management, nutrition, fitness, emotional wellness (eating disorders, illnesses and disorders, suicide, relationships, conflict resolution, etc.), disease and illness, abuse (drugs, alcohol, tobacco), decision making (peer pressure, etc.), sex education (abstinence-based), and current health issues/events.

## **Communications**

### **1 Semester**

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students will be exposed to various multimedia applications during this course. The course includes: understanding the basic usage of Adobe Premiere Software, understanding and applying the functions of the computer lab video camera, importing still images from the Internet and digital camera as well as uploading the clips into the software, importing sound and music and finalizing by presenting the project to the instructor. Practical application will be evident in the production of a school-wide newsletter and yearbook. Students will be expected to participate and complete all tasks and assignments assigned by the Instructor.

## **Art I (9-12)**

### **1 Semester**

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This ideal art elective offers an interesting variety of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional experiences including observational drawing, design, painting, sculpture, animation, and other art forms within historical and cultural context; with an introduction to basic skills, media and visual thinking. Concepts include the Elements of Art, the Principles of Design, composition and expression. This course is designed to develop critical thinking and creative problem solving skills while developing an aesthetic value system, enabling students to describe, analyze, interpret and judge works of art while encouraging individual growth, creative self-expression and confidence at any stage of artistic development. A supply fee may be assessed for this course.

Regarding requirements, there will be out-of-class activities that will call for responsibility on the part of the student, starting with a summer assignment. Students must be prepared to meet deadlines in order to create quality finished products. Students must keep a "Swipe File" (collection of pictures obtained from various sources) and be constantly adding pictures of interest to it.

## **Art II (10-12)**

Prerequisite: Art I

Course Description: This expanded art elective will enable students to continue the variety of art experiences learned in Art I, emphasizing composition, expression, technique, experimental approaches and technology. (See Art I Course Description.) This course will also emphasize discussion, informed and critical choices, to increase student's powers of expression. This course will continue to explore aesthetic thinking, improving student's ability to understand and discuss the nature of art, the meaning of aesthetics and aesthetic criteria. The requirements are the same as in Art I.

## **Physical Education (9-12, Required)**

### **1 Semester**

Prerequisite: None

Course description: Physical education is an important part of a student's whole learning process. Students will gain the knowledge and skills to make the most of their physical and mental abilities. Students who participate in physical education activities learn the benefits of participation and value its contributions to a healthy lifestyle.

## **Speech (9-12, Required)**

### **1 Semester**

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Communications is the basic building block to human understanding and interactions in all situations. Using this concept, speech is designed so that students will be competent and confident in conveying meaning in their verbal, nonverbal, and written communications. Students enrolled in forensics will learn about the communications process and the power that comes with clear speaking. Students will observe, analyze, and evaluate various speaking styles from people in the past and present. Additionally, students will engage in writing, analyzing, and performing their own speeches in a forum of their peers. The end goal is to have confident and competent students who are able to identify main themes, implied themes, and biases, as well as to develop their own styles of speaking.

**Concert Choir (9-12)**  
**1 Semester or Full Year**

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: In this class, students will learn and will demonstrate the basic techniques of singing, including posture, vocal production, breathing and articulation. Students will perform music from many different musical styles. Some selections will be chosen for public performance during the year. Any performance will be graded, as choir is considered a "performance" class.

**Lifetime Sports (9-12)**

**1 Semester**

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This is a course that will help individuals gain a better understanding of the need for a planned activity program. Various activities, such as golf, bowling, and circuit training are planned to recognize each student's different interests. One major objective of lifetime sports is to have each student realize the importance of incorporating physical activity into his or her future lifestyle.

Cost: Not to exceed \$150.00