

The Link School 2011/12 Courses

* The complete course catalog for Link School courses for the coming year will be available in mid August after the staff curriculum prep time. The following is a quick look at what's on the docket.

Project Based Learning Theme:

The proposed overarching educational theme for the coming school year woven through our courses and programs will be the question "How can I/we make a difference for good?"

English:

(1 credit) Regular and Honors English classes, taught by Christine Bailey, will center on the theme "The Power of Story," looking at ways literature can make a difference for good in society. Texts will include novels, short stories, poetry, and theatre; content may vary between the Regular and Honors classes. Both classes will integrate development of writing and revising skills.

Science:

Global Science (1 credit) taught by Preston Larimer. It has been said that human population growth underlies all environmental problems. This course will explore the concepts that regulate natural ecosystems and how these same concepts regulate human systems as well. As populations grow, humans have a greater impact through both consumption of resources and environmental degradation. Students of today need to understand how these impacts, how their impact might be mitigated, and what actions can be taken, the role of technology, and how to make informed decisions in the future.

History:

World Cultures (1 credit) taught by Bill Fabian, is a project based course exploring the vastly different societies of our neighbors around the world. It's not a Big Mac world -- yet. We'll go beyond physical geography to study how people have used their natural resources to create distinctive cultures. Then we will dig more deeply to discover how various cultures are addressing local and global challenges in the news. Throughout the year, students will become experts on, and teach others about, individual countries on several continents using reliable Internet sources, databases, and videos. Other projects will include a "term of service" as a Peace Corps volunteer in some country, and a research project on a current challenge in partnership with students from Buena Vista High School's Issues and Controversies class. Bring your passports to class!

Social Studies:

The Collapse of Societies taught by Bobby Lewis (.5 credit). This course will explore what historically has led to the failure of societies, and is designed as a compliment to the Year 3 study of what makes communities healthy. The classes will be reading and discussion based and will include a speaker series, case studies, and field components.

Foreign Language

(1 credit) taught by Erin Easton. We will offer Spanish I-III and AP courses, which will include a classroom component, computer based language lab, interactive sessions on site, and an International Spanish language emersion program with field intensive home stays, field trips and classroom instruction.

Math:

(1 credit) taught by Bryan Reed. Students will be placed in one of the following range of math classes: Pre-algebra, Algebra I or II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, Trigonometry/Statistics. Placement will be based on previous work completed and what each student needs for graduation, college, & career preparation. Classes are conducted as a hybrid of online instruction and instruction from Bryan Reed, as well as other tutors throughout the year.

Physical Education: (1 credit) Students engage in daily workout routines and spend a week per month on demanding backcountry expeditions.

Enrichment Courses: (1 credit)

- Expedition Based Leadership Seminar
- Photo/Video Production/Computers
- Culinary Arts & Sustainable Foods
- Service Learning & Stewardship
- SAT/ACT Prep