

American Heritage of South Jordan

Elective and Required Course Descriptions
School Year 2011-2012

Academic Decathlon, (Grades 9 – 12): This is a competition team for high school students. We will be studying the Age of Imperialism this year and competing at district and regional competitions. The top performers (up to 12 students) will also compete at the State tournament in St. George. All students will participate in all 10 events – Language and Literature, Math, Physical Science, History, Economics, Art, Music, Speech Interview, and Essay. Those students competing in St. George are required to pay the cost of room and board.

Art I: This course will be a hands-on experimentation of different mediums and crafts. Students will be tested on basic art vocabulary and learn some art history. All class members will need to bring a drawing pad. A \$25 class fee per student is payable to the instructor.

Art II: We will focus on value and color while also improving drawing skills with regard to line, angle, shapes, composition study, balance, and movement. Time during Quarters 1 and 2 will be spent on using clay for sculpture, perspective practice, and printmaking. During Quarters 3 and 4, instruction will be given in woodcarving. This will involve purchasing appropriate tools and parental permission. Students will also be tested on art vocabulary, perspective, and some art history. Each student will provide a paper pad and drawing board. A \$25 class fee per student is payable to the instructor.

Art III: This class will be a full year of learning for the dedicated art student. Students will have the opportunity to study the styles of great artists of the past. Time will be spent matching and mixing colors for value studies. We will study depth in conjunction with temperature use in cool and warm colors. One complete painting of value will be required the 1st semester and a study in full color at the end of the year. Weekly progress will be graded. There will a survey at the beginning of the year regarding sculpture study, still life, landscapes, etc.

Biology, (Grades 9 – 10): Biology is the science of life, spanning from the tiniest of microscopic lifeforms to the largest macro-organisms in the world. Students will gain an understanding of the basic science of life and will study topics including cellular respiration and reproduction, genetics, theories of evolution and change, and many others.

Biology, Explorations in: Walk in the footsteps of Darwin, Audubon and other great naturalists as you learn to study and appreciate the natural world around you. This course will cover topics in multiple disciplines, including biology, entomology, ornithology, marine biology and more. Students will learn to record and identify the organisms that surround them, as well as understand more about how the natural world functions. Each student is required to bring a side-bound spiral sketchpad.

Business Communications (Grades 9-12): As students prepare to attend college or venture into the business community, they must possess appropriate skills for optimal success. This class will address business communications such as resume composition, precise writing, interviewing, and all aspects of personal presentation. Required for graduation.

Chemistry, (Grades 11-12): This course will cover the basics of the science of chemistry and will concentrate on the understanding of how the world around us works on the atomic and molecular levels. Students will be introduced to the periodic table of elements and will learn to understand the interactions of elements and compounds, as well as gaining a greater understanding of science as a whole. Students must have already completed Biology.

Chinese, Introductory (Grades 8-12): This class will be a basic course that introduces students to the language, both written and oral, as well as learning about the Chinese culture.

Choir (Grades 6 – 7): In this choir, students will learn music theory and notation. Students will study music history in relation to the pieces that will be performed. The students will learn how to use correct singing technique, breathing, and posture. There will be at least one performance each semester for students to demonstrate what they have been studying and show how they have not only grown as individuals, but also as a group.

Choir (8 – 12): Students will expand their knowledge of music theory and notation. Students will continue to study music history in relation to the pieces that will be performed. The students will further develop the correct singing technique, breathing, and posture required to be a fantastic choir. There will be at least one performance each semester for students to demonstrate what they have been studying and show how they have not only grown as individuals, but also as a group.

Class Aide, (Semester or Year): With administration permission, a student can choose to be a class aide. This involves an assignment to a teacher to help in preparation for projects, supervising progress for small groups or mentoring individual students with questions, make up work, reading, etc.

Classical Education, (Grades K – 12): Every student at American Heritage, Kindergarten through 12th grade, enrolls in Classical Education during their entire tenure at school. English and History are combined into a single interdisciplinary course based on the timeline of world history. Students will

read (appropriately leveled) classic literature based on the era of time that is assigned to their grade. Other language arts subjects are also included in this class.

Constitution, (Grades 8 – 12): This course is important for every student as they prepare to navigate life in today's society. We will learn about the intent of our Founding Fathers and delve into the document that has created the greatest nation in the world.

Dance, Contemporary/Hip Hop I (Full Year) – Beginning/Intermediate dance offered to 6th – 8th grade students. Dance 1 will explore many different areas of dance through movement and music. Students will learn technique and choreography that they will be required to perform at the Spring Recital at the end of the year.

Dance, Company Contemporary/Hip Hop (Full Year) – A dance course offered to 8th – 12th Grade students with previous dance experience (confirmed by instructor). Dance 2 will explore movement and music in Hip Hop and Jazz. Students will learn technique and choreography that they will be required to perform at the Spring Recital at the end of the year.

Dance, Social 1(Semester) – Beginning social dance offered to 6th – 8th grade students. Social Dance 1 is for first-time students. Students will learn choreography in areas of Ballroom, Latin, Swing, and more. Each dance will be a partner dance. Students will be required to perform at the Spring Recital at the end of the year.

Dance, Social 2 (Semester) – Intermediate social dance is offered to 7th – 12th grade students. Social Dance 2 is for students who have taken Social Dance before. Students will learn more technical and difficult choreography in areas of Ballroom, Latin, Swing, and more. Students will be required to perform at the Spring Recital at the end of the year.

Dance, Company Social (Full Year) – Advanced social dance offered to 8th – 12th grade students. Company Social Dance is for students who are ready for advanced movement choreography in areas of Ballroom, Latin, Swing, and more. Students will be required to maintain a 3.0 GPA and pay a \$30 class fee for costuming. Instructor approval will be needed before final placement will occur.

Earth Science: This curriculum serves as a hands-on introduction to science education. We will springboard into topics that include motion, energy, light, sound, and measurement. This course introduces the scientific method and fosters active involvement through beginning laboratory experiments and demonstrations. Students are encouraged to seek laws of nature that surround them on a daily basis.

Fashion Marketing: Basic marketing principles from textile and apparel production to methods of distribution and promotion of fashion merchandise. A class fee of \$10 covers books and materials.

Financial Literacy: In this course, students will gain a better understanding of personal finance by making more informed monetary decisions, realizing a greater potential for personal wealth, and fostering a stronger state and national economy. We will study financial skills essential for economic success including: income, money management, spending and credit, saving and investing, consumer protection, and risk management. This course is required for graduation.

Fit For Life (semester): Required for all high school students. This course will provide students with knowledge and skills necessary to establish personal lifetime fitness. Students will learn the connection between nutrition and personal wellness. They will participate in regular physical activity and will learn to create and apply a personal fitness plan. Classroom information will be combined with physical activities to teach these concepts. The PE uniform will be necessary: white t-shirt, black or red shorts/work-out pants, gym socks and shoes.

Guitar, Beginning: (For the student who has never taken guitar lessons.) This is a beginning Guitar class for students with little or no experience. We will learn basic chords, note reading, and beginning theory that will allow you to play most any song. You will have the opportunity to learn songs with a group as well as songs you would like to personally focus on. A \$10 Fee is payable to the instructor. Materials: Hal Leonard Complete

Guitar, Intermediate: (Prerequisite: Student has completed Guitar I curriculum and can note read all six strings in the first position, can play basic chords, and has completed through page 49 in the Hal Leonard Guitar Book.) A class for students who already have an adequate knowledge of the guitar would like to take their playing to the next level. We will focus on advanced techniques that can be applied to any music style and will spice up your repertoire. You will have the opportunity to learn songs with a group as well as songs you would like to personally focus on. A \$10 Fee is payable to the instructor. Materials: Hal Leonard Complete, Classical for Guitar, 50 Tunes for Guitar.

Guitar, Independent Study: (Prerequisite: Student has completed the Hal Leonard Complete Edition; must be self-motivated and responsible. Instructor approval only.) This is a guitar class for the more advanced player. We will cover advanced theory, composition and performance. Students will continue to build their repertoire and develop new skills, as well as have opportunity to instruct and perform for other students. We will perform in small groups as well as solo. A \$10 Fee is payable to the instructor.

Health, (Grade 8): This class is a requirement for all 8th grade students and will meet the State's requirements in teaching about the systems of the human body and healthy habits.

Health, High School (semester): This course will serve as a continuation of principles learned in middle school health. Students will review basic concepts of physical, mental/emotional, and social health, but will focus more specifically on critical thinking and application. Through participation in classroom instruction, projects, and field trips, students will explore current health issues, and will have opportunities to teach what they have learned. This course is required for graduation.

History and Influence of Modern Music: (Full Year/Grades 7 – 12) The music a society listens to tells much about the people listening. This course will cover the world of music between 1950 and the present day. We will study the influence musicians have had on social, political, and religious viewpoints. We'll student those artists who changed the world of music itself with their new ideas and styles. Who has been the most influential singer or band of the past 60 years? We'll try to figure that out.

Interior Design: This class will explore the psychological and aesthetic objectives of interior design. Through the study of housing and human need, design styles, the elements and principles of design and style sense, the class will encourage individual creativity and help students explore their own design styles. A class fee of \$10 covers materials and supplies.

Keyboarding: Keyboarding is a semester-long course that is designed to increase keyboarding speed and accuracy. Students will also learn how to create documents in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Experiences in this course will help students with their schoolwork, at-home projects, and with job skills. Required for 6th grade.

Latin I: Required for AHSJ high school students (semester): Students will be introduced to Latin by immediate immersion into the life of a family in Ancient Pompeii (before the Volcano). Basics of pronunciation, vocabulary, and translation will be emphasized.

Latin II: We will continue our study of the Latin language, focusing on reading, translation and connections to the English language today. Our study will take us to Ancient Roman civilizations in Britain and Egypt as we study the language through the lives of those who spoke it.

Microsoft Office (Semester): Microsoft Office is a semester-long course that combines keyboarding with Microsoft Office proficiency. Students will be expected to improve their keyboarding speed and accuracy. They will learn how to use the following elements of Microsoft Office: Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Publisher. Experiences in this course will help students with their schoolwork, at-home projects, and with job skills. \$10 class fee.

Multi-Media Production: Computer multimedia is a semester-long course that teaches how to maintain and build content in a website. We will not be building a website, but will be working with existing websites for the school and individual teachers. We will be working with calendars, web pages, photos, and links—among other things. We will work closely with teachers to create individual pages for their classes by combining design writing, and photography.

Orchestra, Beginning: Students will learn solid instrumental technique while studying classical, folk, holiday, and fiddle music units. Musical notation and basic theory will be studied. Principles of basic

composition and improvisation will also be learned. Students must provide their own instruments and folding music stands.

Orchestra, Intermediate: Students will continue learning instrumental technique including vibrato and basic shifting. Musical notation and theory will be studied and composition and improvisation skills will be enhanced. Classical, Bluegrass/Irish fiddle and Holiday musical styles will be studied throughout the year. Students must provide their own instruments. A \$25 fee will be payable to the instructor.

Orchestra, Advanced: Students will continue studying instrument technique including vibrato and shifting in upper positions. Theory and composition will be studied in-depth along with advanced improvisation skills. Many styles of music will be studied and selected according to the students' musical preferences. Students must provide their instruments. A \$35 fee will be payable to the instructor.

Outdoor Recreation/Survival: This course will teach students how to survive the outdoors in hot or cold weather. We will be learning about proper equipment and clothing, camping techniques, expedition planning, maps and compasses, emergency procedures, weather, nature, and cooking outdoors! A \$10 fee covers supplies.

Parenting and Child Development: This class will help students develop an awareness of the life changes that occur when children are added to a family. Students will experience the responsibilities of parenting. Lessons cover topics such as: The family life-cycle, parenthood, preparation for parenthood, stages of child development, age-appropriate games and learning skills, child-care responsibilities, caring for an infant, and child safety. A \$10 fee will cover supplies for this course.

Peer Relations (Semester, 6th grade): This course is specifically designed to prepare the students for the teenage years, which are close at hand. There is a special emphasis on building self-confidence and being a positive influence on others. Something new this year will be a course on babysitting. Students will make kits to help them become better babysitters. Peer Relations works on creating a positive outlook on life and taking a proactive approach to decision-making.

Physical Education (Semester, middle school required): This course is designed to introduce students to sports that they can participate in for a lifetime. The sports will include volleyball, kickball, flag football, Frisbee, and other sports. Students will learn to value physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction. Students will learn responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings. A \$7.50 fee is payable to the instructor.

Physics: Learn the theory behind the science that ties our universe together! The science of physics covers everything from the basic laws of motion to the nature and behavior of matter, light, sound and electricity. Biology and Chemistry must both have been completed in order

to take this course, and students should have a solid understanding of algebra.

Physical Science: The purpose of this course is to give all students an overview of common strands in physical science including, but not limited to, the nature of matter, laws of energy, motion and forces, and energy transformation. Students will discover how science affects every aspect of their lives, therefore, students will be provided practical and topical information for each item studied. Overall, the study of science should promote curiosity, questions, and a sense of wonder about the world in which we live. These are the goals of this class.

Saxon Math: All students are placed in a Saxon Math course according to teacher recommendation or based on placement testing for new students. Saxon Math is an incremental program that introduces a new concept per lesson but also reviews previous concepts throughout the year to make sure students have learned and retained knowledge presented during the course.

Science Innovators: From base elements to atomic theory and Aristotle to Hawking, this course explores the greatest minds in the history of science! We will cover major innovations and inventions from the time of the Greeks to the present with focus on specific scientists, including Aristotle, Galileo, van Leeuwenhoek, Darwin, Curie and many more.

Scouting: (Grades 6- 8): This will operate as a mentor-based class to help scouting-age boys work through and complete merit badges. Specific merit badges will be decided upon once an assessment has been made of the overall class progress. \$25 class fee for supplies and awards.

Sewing I (Semester): Sewing is a semester-long course that teaches the basics of sewing. Students will learn about fabric, patterns, pressing, sewing machines, cutting out and sewing garments. The projects they will do will become incrementally more difficult as they master each step. By the end of the semester, students will have completed several projects. \$20 class fee.

Sewing II (Semester): Pre-requisite, Sewing I or Instructor approval. This is a course that builds on the basics of sewing. Students will continue to learn about fabric, patterns, pressing, sewing machines, cutting out and sewing garments. The projects they will do will become incrementally more difficult as they master each step. By the end of the semester, students will have completed several projects. \$20 class fee.

Shakespeare, (Grades 8 – 12): Why is Shakespeare so cool? If you've asked yourself that question, think all Shakespeare is boring, or love him to pieces, this class is for you. We will learn about who Shakespeare was, as well as study several of his most famous plays to discover just why he IS so cool!

Spanish I, (Grades 7 – 12): This is an introductory course that will teach the basics of vocabulary and verb conjugation, as well as interesting and relevant aspects of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Spanish II, (Grades 8-12): Students must have completed Spanish I with a passing grade in order to advance to Spanish II. Further progress will be made in vocabulary, verb conjugation and emphasize Spanish speaking in the classroom.

Spanish III, (Grades 9-12, or instructor approval): This will be an “immersion” oriented class in both language and cultural ideas in order to best help students grasp a working knowledge of using the Spanish language in a real world environment.

Study Hall (Semester or Full Year): Although Study Hall is a requirement for all upper level American Heritage students, additional time can be set aside for a student who desires more time to work on class assignments during the school day.

TJ Education for Teens (Full Year): Otherwise referred to as Jefferson Leadership.

TLC, Technology, Life, and Careers, (Required, 7th grade): Technology, Life, and Careers (TLC) is a required year-long course for 7th grade students that offers exploration in the following areas: Effective habits, Computer proficiency, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Career Exploration. This course is designed to help students identify interests, traits, and skills and connect them to effective education and career planning. Experiences in this course help students evaluate education and career planning and develop life skills. The book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Personal Workbook* MUST be brought to class every day.

World Religions (Grades 8 – 12): Explore the foundations and basic beliefs of the major world religions. This introductory course will give students an opportunity to discover the basic differences and similarities of the various beliefs of the world.

Yearbook/Journalism (Grades 9-12): Students in the Yearbook/Journalism class will learn and practice journalism writing skills, as well as interviewing, researching, and editing skills. We will be in charge of the monthly school newspaper, as well as working on the yearbook throughout the year. Our final product will be the school yearbook.

Concurrent Enrollment (Grades 11 – 12): AHSJ has access to concurrent enrollment classes online through Brigham Young University-Idaho. The classes are limited. Please contact the office if your student is interested in taking one of the offered courses to determine if they meet the requirements.