# Graduation Requirements and Course Descriptions
## 2014-2015

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Graduation Requirements

Listed below are the graduation requirements for Rio Americano High School, as adopted by the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education. Students in grades 9, 10, 11 must enroll in six periods a day every semester. Students in grade 12 may enroll in a minimum of five periods a day both semesters provided that they are on track for graduation. Grades of D or higher earn credits for graduation. Grades of C or higher are required for college admission.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK

English ........................................................................................................................................................... 40 Credits
Mathematics .................................................................................................................................................. 20 Credits
Visual and Performing Arts ......................................................................................................................... 10 Credits
Physical Education ......................................................................................................................................... 20 Credits
(PE 1 and PE 2 required)
Science .......................................................................................................................................................... 20 Credits
(Life Science 10 Credits - Physical Science 10 Credits)
American Government ................................................................................................................................. 5 Credits
United States History .................................................................................................................................... 10 Credits
World History .............................................................................................................................................. 10 Credits
Social Studies Elective ................................................................................................................................. 5 Credits
Economics ...................................................................................................................................................... 5 Credits
Health ........................................................................................................................................................... 5 Credits
Elective Credits ........................................................................................................................................... 75 Credits
(These credits may also be earned with additional academic coursework.)

TOTAL ........................................................................................................................................................... 220 Credits

PASSAGE OF THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM
The exit exam or CAHSEE consists of an English language arts section and a mathematics section. Students must pass both portions to graduate from high school. Additional information regarding the exam is available on the California Department of Education website www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/.

Students first take this test in grade ten. If they do not pass the exam in grade ten, they have additional opportunities to take the test. In grade eleven, they may take the exam twice. In grade twelve, there are five testing opportunities.
University of California Entrance Requirements
The intent of the “a-g” subject requirements is to ensure that students have attained a body of general knowledge that will provide breadth and perspective to new, more advanced study. These courses are academically challenging, involving substantial reading, writing, problems and laboratory work (as appropriate), and show serious attention to analytical thinking, factual content and developing students' oral and listening skills.

The requirements listed below are minimum requirements. Students interested in attending selective public or private universities should complete additional college prep coursework and enroll in honors and Advanced Placement courses.

A. History/Social Science 20 credits
B. English 40 credits
C. Mathematics 30 credits beginning with Algebra 1
D. Laboratory Science 20 credits including Biology and Chemistry or Physics
E. Language other than English 20 credits (30 credits recommended)
F. Visual or Performing Art 10 credits
G. Academic Elective – 1 year 10 credits

All semesters of the courses listed above must be passed with a C grade or higher to be considered for college admission.
Course Descriptions

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 1
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “B” Requirement
Grade: 9 (1 year)
Prerequisite: None.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is intended to develop vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills enabling the student to write a thoughtful, well-constructed and grammatically acceptable composition. As freshman year is the initial stage of the high school experience, material covered encompasses a broad range of topics with focus on the fundamentals of style and form. The composition of the novel, short story, poem, and play are examined. Students are expected to master the fundamentals of research, culminating in a research paper.

HONORS ENGLISH 1
Meets Graduation Requirement in English; Meets CSU/UC “B” Requirement
Grade: 9 (1 year)
Prerequisite: The school district determines initial eligibility for 9th grade Honors English.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is a more intensive English 9 course with added emphasis on the study of literary topics. Geared toward the highly motivated student, the course includes a greater number of reading and writing projects highlighted by the necessity to construct more advanced essays. Added vocabulary and spelling assignments are required.

ENGLISH 2
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “B” Requirement
Grade: 10 (1 year)
Prerequisite: None.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The emphasis of English 10 is on literature, as well as written and oral communication. The course is designed to strengthen the student's background and foster creativity through the interpretation of British, American, and international literature. Students establish a standard of critical evaluation and are called upon to demonstrate writing ability, as well as the development and expression of thought within a structured speech unit. The composition emphasis will be on descriptive, narrative, and expository writing, especially the literary essay. A research paper, journal writing, and vocabulary and spelling are assigned.

HONORS ENGLISH 2
Meets Graduation Requirement in English; Meets CSU/UC “B” Requirement
Grade: 10 (1 year)
Prerequisite: (1) A minimum of a C in both semesters of Honors English 1. Students who are not eligible, can challenge into the class with a timed essay on one of the following titles: The Merchant of Venice, Lord of the Flies, Great Expectations, David Copperfield, or The Odyssey.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is appropriate for the more advanced student with a serious interest in English. Particular emphasis is placed upon the investigation of symbolism, alternative writing styles, and the development of the modern novel. In addition to the fundamental examples, special types of speeches are included. Students in this course can expect a significantly greater number of reading and writing assignments.
ENGLISH 3
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “B” Requirement
Grade: 11 (1 year)
Prerequisite: None.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The students study important literary works by American authors to understand the evolution of American thought and our own national character. The works of these authors are studied not only as reflections of American thought in all its variety, but also as examples of good literary craftsmanship. Composition, grammar, usage, vocabulary and spelling are areas of concentration.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
Meets Graduation Requirement in English; Meets CSU/UC “B” Requirement
Grade: 11 (1 year)
Prerequisite: None. However, because of the rigor of this course, Rio Americano advises students to talk to their current English teacher for advisement.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The AP course in English Language and Composition engages student in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, persuasive subjects, and the stylistic conventions which contribute to effective and forceful writing. The course focuses on major American authors and themes of the 19th and 20th centuries and urges students to synthesize deftly and interpret critically the novels and plays and expository writing that constitute the United States literary cultural heritage.

ENGLISH 4
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “B” Requirement
Grade: 12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: None.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: All students need continuing education in language arts. By the senior year in high school, students have been provided instruction in most aspects of this discipline. The senior English class provides students the additional opportunity to acquire language skills and knowledge which they may not have learned, and additionally, and just as important, the opportunity to explore the ways that the skills and knowledge will have practical application in their lives.

CSU EXPOSITORY READING AND WRITING COURSE
Meets Graduation Requirement in English; Meets CSU/UC “B” Requirement
Grade: 12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: None.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: ERWC is a full-year college preparatory English course for high school seniors. The ERWC aligns with the English-Language Arts Standards, addresses critical reading and writing problems identified by the CSU English Placement Test Committee, and prepares students to meet the expectations of college and university faculty.

Students who score conditionally exempt on their EAP testing in junior year and complete this course are exempt from the CSU English Placement Test.
ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
Meets Graduation Requirement in English; Meets CSU/UC “B” Requirement
Grade: 12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: none. However, because of the rigor of this course, Rio Americano advises students to talk to their current English teacher for advisement.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is a yearlong college-level course in which we study great works of literature with attention to small details and big ideas. This is a writing-intensive course aimed at exploring literature through writing and at improving your written expression. Students are expected to actively participate in and lead class discussions. The course offers intellectual challenges and rigorous workload consistent with a typical undergraduate university English literature course.

SPEECH
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 semester)
Prerequisite: None
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Indispensable everyday presentation skills are learned in the Speech (workshop) class. Outline, researching, writing, reading, listening, and extemporaneous speaking are among some of the skills explored and learned in our speech class. In addition to these basic skills, students learn techniques in multimedia presentation skills, using Power Point as well as video and other presentation skills. Students will use what they learn in other venues in assignments given that will take the student away from the classroom and out into the business world. This is accomplished by outside speech assignment and the opportunity to compete at speech and debate tournaments. Overall, Rio’s speech class encompasses a myriad of outcome based projects to aid students in preparing for the “real world” and their future.

Also, students will learn how to participate in competitive Speech & Debate. They will have the opportunity to compete in the following categories: impromptu, oral interpretation, debate, Congress and extemporaneous and more. Students may attend 5 tournaments throughout the year on Saturdays. In addition, parents/guardians may get to serve as tournament judges periodically throughout the year.

JOURNALISM/Newspaper
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course will provide an understanding of the roles, rights and responsibilities of journalists. Students in this course will participate in a series of multi-week writers’ workshops involving the study of researching, writing and editing for journalistic publications. As students will produce printed and on-line versions of The Mirada, student newspaper, the quantity and quality of writing and peer editing in this course will be commensurate with that expected in upper-division English courses. Students will learn and practice newsgathering, writing, photography, page design, desktop publishing, editing, cartooning and ad sales. The course fulfills a UC elective requirement.
JOURNALISM/Yearbook
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: Instructor and Counselor approved.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Students will work as writers, photographers, illustrators and ad salespersons. Students will learn to make layout and do copy and caption work to meet all deadlines. The staff will be responsible to put together the yearbook covering all activities and events from September through June.

MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA 1
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “C” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in Pre-Algebraor equivalent course.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Generalized arithmetic. Traditional topics such as linear equations, graphing, factoring, and quadratic equations will be studied. This course is a must for every student with any plans of attending college or training in any technical skill.

REAL LIFE MATH
Meets Graduation Requirement in Math
Grades: 12 only (1 year)
Prerequisite: Algebra 1

DESCRIPTION: Students will study the topics from the mathematical standards of Number Sense and Operations, Algebra and Functions, Geometry and Measurement, Data, Statistics, and Probability, and Mathematical Reasoning. This course does not meet the CSU/UC A-G requirements, but can be applied toward math graduation requirement.

PLANE & SOLID GEOMETRY
Meets Graduation Requirement in Math; Meets CSU/UC “C” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in Algebra 1
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course, the second step in specialized mathematics, develops the ability to reason logically through a deductive approach to the study of two and three dimensional figures. Students should have a strong background in the mechanics of English and have demonstrated proficiency in Algebra 1.

TRANSITION TO ALGEBRA 2
Meets Graduation Requirement in Math
Grades: 9-11 (1 Semester)
Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 1 and Geometry
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Transition to Algebra 2 is a math class offered to Freshman, Sophomore and Junior students who have completed Algebra 1 and Geometry and who were unsuccessful in the first semester of Algebra 2. While this class does not meet CSU/UC A-G requirements, the units earned can be applied toward math graduation requirements. This class will provide work on building the depth of Algebra 1 skills that provide Algebra 2 students more opportunities for success.
**ALGEBRA 2**  
Meets Graduation Requirement in Math; Meets CSU/UC “C” Requirement  
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in geometry  
10 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: This course builds on topics originally taught in Algebra 1. Topics include simultaneous equations, absolute value, inequalities, rational expressions, polynomials, factoring, trigonometry, and graphing.

**TRANSITION TO COLLEGE MATHEMATICS**  
Meets Graduation Requirement in Math; Meets CSU/UC “C” Requirement  
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: “C” or better in Algebra 2  
10 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: Reviews many Algebra 2 concepts and introduces topics such as Linear Programming, Probability Statistics and alternative problem solving strategies.

**PRE-CALCULUS**  
Meets Graduation Requirement in Math; Meets CSU/UC “C” Requirement  
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in Algebra 2 is the minimum, a grade of B or higher in Algebra 2 is suggested.  
10 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on extending topics originally taught in Algebra 2 as well as developing student understanding of trigonometry and trigonometric identities.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS/AB**  
Meets Graduation Requirement in Math; Meets CSU/UC “C” Requirement  
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: C or higher in Pre Calculus is the minimum, a B- grade or higher in Pre-calculus is suggested  
10 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: Topics include limits, derivatives and integrals of algebraic, trigonometric and transcendental functions. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP Calculus Test. These are considered honors courses for admission to most universities, and upon passage of the AP Calculus Test may receive college credit.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS/BC**  
Meets Graduation Requirement in Math; Meets CSU/UC “C” Requirement  
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: C grade in AP Calculus  
10 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: This course includes all AB Calculus topics, some extensions of the AB topics, and a few new topics such as polar, parametric, and vector equations; sequences and series; and improper integrals. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP Calculus Test. These are considered honors courses for admission to most universities and upon passage of the AP Calculus Test may receive college credit.
INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS
Meets Graduation Requirement in Math; Meets CSU/UC “C” Requirement
Grades: 12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: Grade of B in Algebra II
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This one year course is designed to teach the students the basics of Statistics. Proper methods of collecting, analyzing, displaying and drawing conclusions from real life data will be taught. In addition to normal tests, evaluation will be based on computer labs, individual and group projects. A motivated student should be able to take the AP Statistics exam upon completion of the course. The course will meet one of the UC mathematics requirements.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Visual Art

STUDIO ART (MULTI-MEDIA)
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This beginning art class introduces students to the fundamentals of art. Students are taught the essential elements and principles of art, craftsmanship (use of materials and tools) and creative thinking (self-discipline, focusing and awareness). These skills will be taught using a variety of media such as colored pencil, oil pastels, watercolor, print making and paper mache.

BEGINNING DRAWING AND PAINTING
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grades 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This is a beginning course with concentration in drawing and painting techniques with special emphasis on contemporary art. The goal is to develop and sharpen the student's personal awareness involving all senses and to direct the student towards the creation of visual concepts. The student will have an opportunity to study various media. The object of this course is a concentration in two-dimensional visual expression with emphasis on drawing and acrylic painting.

DIGITAL ART 1
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course emphasizes the knowledge and application of art elements and principles of design as used in visual communications. This course helps students develop skills in artistic perception, critiquing and applications of design strategies through experiences that emphasize solving visual art problems. This course will focus on the creation of art works using a combination of traditional and digital media (Adobe Creative Suite which includes Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. In addition to career exploration, students will learn computer-imaging skills using industry standard hardware and software. Students will become adept at understanding art from the present and past as well as other cultures.
BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grades 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: All levels are welcome to explore this digital photography course while learning the fundamentals of composition, lighting, formatting and image manipulation through Photoshop programs. The principles and elements of art and design discussed in class will allow students to learn the background of a solid art program while creating exciting imagery through the lens and computer.
Required: a digital camera and a flash drive.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART 2D
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: One year of Art 1 and one year of Advanced Art. Due to the rigor of this course a consultation with the student’s current Art teacher is advised
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: This course prepares students for college level art using a wide variety of media. Students will be expected to prepare a portfolio of at least 24 works of art showing consistently mature and well executed images in the 2D media of their choice. Students planning on attending this course need prior teacher approval in the spring and will need to submit a body of work created over the summer. Students qualified for this course must be able to work independently and have a clear idea of the concepts required for this level course.

BEGINNING CERAMICS
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: In this course, students explore methods of creating with clay, from hand-building to throwing of the potter’s wheel. Assignments include primitive pit-firing, low-fire ceramics, Raku tea bowls, sculptural ceramics and high-fire wheel thrown bowls.

ADVANCED CERAMICS I and II
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: Open to students with one year of high school Ceramics
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course offers a taste of college-style studio work; for students who are self-directed, enjoy problem-solving and love clay. Work on wheel is required. Some homework is also required.
ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART 3D
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: One year of Advanced Ceramics. Due to the rigor of this course a consultation with the student’s current Art teacher is advised
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: Students entering this college level course will have demonstrated a mastery of skills in Advanced Ceramics. Students will be working with guided independence and be responsible for maintaining their portfolios in time for the AP spring submission. Prerequisites for this course are 1 year beginning ceramics, 1 year advanced ceramics and an interview with the instructor prior to summer break. Students will also be asked to work outside of class, visit galleries and museums, and maintain a sketchbook. Only serious-minded and self-driven students will be considered for this course.

Performing Arts

DRAMA
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: None.
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Students will learn the basic stage terms and techniques. They will study character, its development and portrayal, learn the rehearsal process, and learn to interpret comic as well as serious scenes. They will perform in front of their peers and will participate in discussion. Daily attendance is imperative.

ADVANCED DRAMA
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: Drama I
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Students will continue to study character development through exercises, improvisation, and scene presentations. Students will take an active part in scene/performance discussions. Students will rehearse in groups with student directors. Costuming, theatrical periods and styles will be topics of discussion.

READERS THEATRE
Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This is the ideal course for beginning, motivated acting students. Readers Theater is a course designed to teach students the skill of reading plays aloud with verbal and facial expression. Students will learn the essentials of Readers Theatre characterization, styles of Readers Theatre directing and scripting techniques. This class is excellent for gaining self-confidence and for preparing students for Drama, Speech, or Radio and Television.
**ADVANCED READERS THEATRE**
Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: Readers Theatre and permission of the instructor.
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The Advanced Readers Theatre class is designed for advanced performance, directing and script writing. Students have already learned Readers Theatre technique and script adaptation. This advanced course will utilize these strategies with a wide presentation of styles and materials.

**TECHNICAL THEATRE**
Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: Readers Theatre and permission of the instructor.
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course will explore the contemporary principles and practices in preparing the scenic environment for the school performances. It will emphasize the breadth of knowledge. Precision in craftsmanship, and the creative imagination needed to solve a variety of scenic presentational problems. It will offer the student experience in a desired craft: acting, directing, stage management, lighting, sound design, scenic design, set building. It is a production/performance oriented course, with students guided toward their creative choices in the dramatic arts. Students will be participating in performances outside of class time--acting, stage managing, lighting, sound designing, costuming, prop building, and set designing. Enrollment is based on teacher approval.

**INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND**
Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: Interest in music and some instrumental training.
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Intermediate Concert Band is a performance oriented class with a focus on the developing and understanding the SJUSD Standards for music. This course provides the opportunity for students to develop skills and knowledge in areas such as theory, rhythm, tone production, blend, scales, reading and writing music, and historical and cultural context. This course prepares students for Advanced Concert Band. The emphasis will be on group instrumentation.

**ADVANCED CONCERT BAND**
Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: Director approval/audition
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Advanced Concert Band is primarily a performance-oriented class with emphasis on major and minor scales, music theory and advanced level literature. Music theory and history as they apply to individual playing techniques will also be emphasized. This band will study and perform music compositions from all periods of music. Concert band is a select group open to performers on band instruments.

**HONORS CONCERT BAND**
Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: Audition and Director approval
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This is an instrumental music performance class that incorporates in-depth musical analysis, theory, composition, ear training, historical and cultural background concurrently with rehearsal and performance of traditional concert band literature.
AM/PM JAZZ ENSEMBLE
Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: Audition and concurrent enrollment in Concert Band.
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: High School Jazz Ensemble is primarily a performance oriented class; however, music theory, history, and improvisation as they apply to individual playing techniques, will also be emphasized. These bands will study and perform music compositions from all periods of jazz history. Jazz Ensembles are select groups from Concert Band which perform the best of music in pop, rock and jazz styles. Auditions are held after the first week of class and at the end of the school year.

MUSIC APPRECIATION
Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts; Meets CSU/UC “F” Requirement
Prerequisite: None.
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Emphasis will be on the analysis of musical genres including Rock, Soul, Hip-Hop, Jazz, Country, Western (European) and other world music cultures. Listening skills will be developed along with in-depth biographical studies, units on censorship, careers in the music industry and film music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE 1
Graduation Requirement; (Physical Education Credit)
Grade: 9 (1 year)
Prerequisite: None
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on core program for Freshman P.E students. The course will include fundamental skills and knowledge of fitness, water safety, and an introduction to individual sports. Freshmen will incorporate Fitness for Life concepts as part of her course.

PE 2
Graduation Requirement; (Physical Education Credit)
Grade: 10 (1 year)
Prerequisite: Completion of PE 1
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is a continuation of fundamental skills and knowledge of team sports and the Fitness for Life program.

WEIGHT TRAINING
Elective Credit
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: Completion of PE 1 and PE 2
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course will focus on development of muscular strength and endurance in combination with aerobic and anaerobic conditioning. The course will utilize weight training, running, plyometrics, and Olympic-style lifting to improve a student’s overall physical fitness level.
PE 4 - OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
Elective Credit
Grades: 11-12
Prerequisite: Completion of PE 1 and PE 2
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Students will learn skills and knowledge of the many recreational activities the Sacramento area has to offer. The course will feature kayaking, archery, orienteering, snorkeling, bicycling, backpacking and fishing.

SCIENCE

Life Science

BIOLOGY
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Biology is a laboratory science course that focuses on the study of life by examining the five fundamental concepts of cellular biology, genetics, ecology, evolution and physiology. The scientific process and laboratory skills are emphasized along with biology’s connections to other scientific disciplines. Students learn scientific writing skills and also examine current biological issues.

AP BIOLOGY
Meets Graduation Requirement in Life Science; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement
Prerequisite: C or higher in high school level Biology and Chemistry. Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory, survey biology class taken in college. This course involves an in depth study of the major areas of biology and advanced laboratory experiments complementing course content. Some areas of study include biochemistry, cell biology, bioenergetics, evolution, genetics, physiology and ecology. Students will be prepared to take the AP Biology exam which is optional but highly encouraged. This is considered an honors course (5 point grading scale) for admission to most universities. Upon passage of the AP Biology exam, students may receive college credit.

HONORS PHYSIOLOGY
Meets Graduation Requirement in Life Science; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement
Prerequisite: Completion of Biology with a C or higher
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Physiology is an advanced biological study of the anatomy (structure) and physiology (function) of the major systems of the human body and is of value to all students who want to understand their own body structure and functioning. It is particularly beneficial to anyone who plans to take a similar course at the college level.
BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOETHICS
Meets Graduation Requirement in Life Science; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement
Prerequisite: Completion of Biology with a C or higher
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Biotechnology is the fusion of technology with biology in its broadest sense, drawing upon such disciplines as biochemistry, cell biology, chemistry, engineering, genetics, information technology, microbiology, molecular biology, and physics. This course will first provide the student with a theoretical foundation of the science behind biotechnology and second an introduction of the laboratory procedures associated with the biotechnology industry. As it is difficult to separate new developments and discoveries that have never been used with their application, bioethics is a key component to the understanding of biotechnology. Therefore there will be a constant intersection on how ethics relates to biotechnology especially in biomedical research.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Meets Graduation Requirement in Life Science; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement
Prerequisite: C or higher in high school level Biology and Chemistry. Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. There are several major unifying constructs, or themes, that cut across the many topics included in the study of environmental science that provide the underlying framework for the course including but not limited to topics in biology, geology, chemistry, energy use, land planning, and pollution of the environment.

Physical Science

EARTH SCIENCE
Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Topics such as Astronomy, Geology, Meteorology, Oceanography and Plate Tectonics will be studied. Discussion and labs will give the average student a practical application of science, particularly addressing California’s unique setting.

CHEMISTRY
Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement
Prerequisite: Completion of Biology, recommended successful completion of Algebra 1
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: General Chemistry is a course where the topics of the properties of matter, atomic theory and structure, chemical equations and calculations, acids, bases and salts, chemical equilibrium and oxidation-reduction will be studied. Hands-on laboratory assignments will emphasize the course content whereby student will gain experience in observing, collecting, and analyzing experimental data.
**AP CHEMISTRY**  
Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement  
Prerequisite: C or better in Chemistry (both semesters) and completion of Algebra 2 with a C or better. Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.  
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)  
10 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course taken in college. Some of the objectives covered will be an in depth understanding of thermochemistry, bonding, solids, liquids and gases, kinetics, chemical and aqueous equilibrium, acids and bases, thermodynamics, electrochemistry and organic chemistry. Comprehensive laboratory experiments will be performed to emphasize the course content.  

Students will be prepared to take the AP Chemistry exam, which is optional but encouraged. This is considered an honors course for admissions to most universities. Upon passage of the AP Chemistry exam, students may receive college credit.

**PHYSICS**  
Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement  
Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 1 with a C or higher.  
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)  
10 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: This is a one-year high school physics course and a prerequisite for AP Physics. Topics include force and motion, gravity, momentum, energy, electricity, magnetism, waves, sound, light, and optics. Hands-on laboratory work, demonstrations, and classroom discussions are the core of the course. Some math is used, but the emphasis is placed on conceptual understanding and simple real work applications.

**AP PHYSICS 1**  
Meet Graduation Requirement in Physical Science; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement  
Prerequisite: C or better in Geometry (both semesters) and completion or enrollment in Algebra 2. Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.  
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)  
10 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. Through inquiry based learning, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. AP Physics 1 is a first year course in physics for motivated students who meet the prerequisites.

**AP PHYSICS 2**  
Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science; Meets CSU/UC “D” Requirement  
Prerequisite: C or better in Physics or AP Physics (both semesters) and completion or enrollment in Pre-calculus. Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.  
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)  
10 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: AP Physics 2 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as fluid statics and dynamics; thermodynamics with kinetic theory; PV diagrams and probability; electrostatics; electrical circuits with capacitors; magnetic fields; electromagnetism; physical and geometric optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics. Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. AP Physics 2 is a second course in physics for students who have successfully completed either Physics or AP Physics 1.
HEALTH
Graduation Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grades: 9-12 (1 semester)
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Health is a one semester class which meets the state requirements in Health, Safety and First Aid. Studies include nutrition, mental and emotional health, fitness, lifestyle and infectious diseases, and first aid. In addition topics such as how and why to avoid risky behaviors such as tobacco, alcohol and drug use will be discussed. Three weeks of health are devoted to “Family Life.” Parents must sign a permission slip for their sons/daughters to be excluded from this portion of the class.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Meets Graduation Requirement in Social Science; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement
Grades: 11-12 (1 semester)
Prerequisite: None
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Cultural Anthropology is a semester course of study in cultural anthropology. The purpose of the course is to appreciate the tremendously wide range of human behavior which exists around the world. The course will provide a broad overview of the field of anthropology, both theories and principles.

WORLD HISTORY
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “A” Requirement
Prerequisite: None.
Grades: 10 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course features a chronological approach to world history. The first two weeks of the semester will be a review of the four strands of social science, and early development of western institutions. This course continues to survey World History from the Renaissance through the end of the Cold War with an emphasis on western European history and its influence on the world. This course will stress note taking skills and geography.

HONORS WORLD HISTORY
Meets Graduation Requirement for World History; Meets CSU/UC “A” Requirement
Prerequisite: Must qualify for Honors English 1
Grades: 10 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on the economic, social, political and geographic forces that have shaped the contemporary world. In depth analysis of the progress of western institutions and ideas will be evaluate by written formal essays and assessments that reflect student comprehension of complex historical causation. The course covers the ancient world through the development of democratic principles, nation states, and globalism. Students will understand the complexity of our modern world and the development of a global conscience.
**GEOGRAPHY**  
Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science; Meets CSU/UC “A” Requirement  
Grades:  9-10  
Prerequisite:  None  
5 Credits

Geography is intended to present the world’s geographic regions and to relate that knowledge to events in today’s rapidly changing world. Contemporary issues confronting the world today, such as trade, problems of developing nations, urbanization, environmental pollution and conservation of the world’s resources are addressed. Students develop certain basic geography skills. These include map reading and place name identification along with the interpretation of charts and diagrams. As students gain a global perspective of geography, they become increasingly aware of their role as a global citizen today.

**UNITED STATES HISTORY**  
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “A” Requirement  
Prerequisite:  None  
Grade: 11 (1 year)  
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: U.S. History is a full year course that emphasizes the Twentieth Century. The course begins with an overview of early American History through the Reconstruction Era. Major areas of inquiry include industrialization, reform, World War I, Depression and New Deal, World War II, Cold War, Civil Rights, Watergate and contemporary issues. Students will be exposed to how each era in American History defines the Constitution as a living document.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY**  
Meets Graduation Requirement for U.S. History; Meets CSU/UC “A” Requirement  
Prerequisite: Recommended A’s or B’s in World History. Due to the rigor of AP History, Rio recommends that students consult with their current history teacher for advisement.  
Grade: 11 (1 year)  
10 Credits

Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP US History exam. This is considered an honors course for admission to most universities, and upon passage of the AP U.S. History exam may receive college credit.

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to be congruent with the regular U.S. History course. Students will be given a solid foundation in the subject matter of U.S. History with an emphasis on analysis and interpretation of primary sources, documentary materials, maps, statistical tables and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events. Students will learn to express themselves with clarity and precision in essay examinations and research papers. The course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in American History.

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**  
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “A” Requirement  
Prerequisite:  None.  
Grade: 12 (1 Semester)  
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: American Government, the culminating course in the Social Science Department, should prepare an intelligent and informed voter at age 18. The course is designed to build upon and perfect the analytical skills and social science concepts. Students will participate in a variety of experiences which will help identify and clarify values and conflicts regarding public policy. Topics of study include civil rights and responsibility; foundations of American government; decision making at the federal, state, and local governmental level; and analysis of voting behaviors.
AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Meets Graduation Requirement for U.S. Government and Social Science; Meets CSU/UC “A” Requirement
Prerequisite: Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current history teacher for advisement.
Grade: 12 (1 semester)
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: AP U.S. Government and Politics serves as an introduction to the United States and California State governments. The purpose of the course is to prepare students for their role as citizens in a constitutional republic, as well as to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in May. The course examines the philosophic beginnings of democracy, the structure of the Constitution and government, civil rights and civil liberties, and creation of public policy. A strong emphasis will be placed on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community and in the United States.

AP U.S. COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science Elective; Meets CSU/UC “A” Requirement
Prerequisite: Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current history teacher for advisement.
Grade: 12 (1 semester)
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The AP course in Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. Comparison assists both in identifying problems and in analyzing policymaking.

AP PSYCHOLOGY
Meets Graduation Requirement in Social Science; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grade: 11-12 (1 Semester)
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course differs from the regular psychology course in that it has a strong emphasis in the biological sciences. AP Psychology offers an in-depth look at history & approaches, behavior, sensations & perception, learning & cognition, motivation & emotion, development, personality, testing & individual differences, abnormal treatment, therapy and social aspects of psychology. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP exam, which is optional. This is considered an honors course for admission to most universities, and upon passage of the exam may receive college credit. Completion of this course will satisfy Senior Social Science requirement for graduation.

PSYCHOLOGY
Meets Graduation Requirement in Social Science; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement
Prerequisite: None
Grade: 11-12 (1 semester)
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course will explore the definition of human behavior and will cover an introduction to the behaving organism; life span developments, learning and the cognitive process, personality theory, abnormal psychology, therapy and change.
**ECONOMICS**  
Graduation Requirement; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement  
Prerequisite: None  
Grades: 11-12 (1 Semester)  
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course covers basic economic concepts and includes a study of the tools of analysis such as charts, graphs, statistics, and marginal analysis; economic indicators, scarcity, opportunity costs; basic economic questions of what, how, and for whom; the market system, freedom of choice, private ownership, profit and loss, consumer skills; labor relations and government, monetary and fiscal policy; financial institutions, the business of cycle, inflation, deflation and unemployment; historical theory of economics and comparative systems, international trade, and U.S. economic history; opportunities for students to develop creative and thinking skills. The course meets the graduation requirement for Economics.

**AP MACROECONOMICS**  
Meets Graduation Requirement for Economics; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement  
Prerequisite: None.  
Grade: 11-12 (1 Semester)  
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The course is an in-depth treatment of macro economics. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP Economics exam, which is optional. This is considered an honors course for admission to most universities and upon passage of the AP Economic (macro) exam may receive college credit. This course fulfills the graduation requirement for Economics.

**SOCIOMETRY**  
Meets Graduation Requirement in Social Science; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement  
Prerequisite: None  
Grade: 12 (1 semester)

DESCRIPTION: An introductory study of human behavior in the social context. Topics will include social institutions, social interaction, social change, social values and deviant behavior. Group and individual projects are used as assessments.

**WORLD LANGUAGE**

**FRENCH 1**  
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement  
Grade 9-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: None  
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The primary objective is the development of basic proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. A mastery of the French sound system is emphasized as well as mastery of the most frequent patterns in conversation. The student will learn to ask, recognize and reply to basic questions without seeing printed words. Students will be able to write and present short skits. They will develop knowledge regarding the French-speaking world, culture and geography.
FRENCH 2
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in French 1.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The student gains greater confidence, control and fluency as new grammatical structures and vocabulary are introduced. Speaking, listening, reading and writing skills are emphasized. Group discussions, dialogue and skit writing add patterned oral practice. The student will dramatically increase his/her knowledge of French culture.

FRENCH 3
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in French 2.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Seeking to strengthen the use of the language, the student employs the listening-speaking approach with more emphasis given to reading and writing. A student should have a large vocabulary and should be able to read at a fairly rapid rate with high comprehension. Many of the fine points of French grammar are covered at this level. The student will write and present skits which reflect the materials they are covering as well as cultural events. The major portion of French grammar is covered at this level. Students who are successful in French 3 progress to French 4 the following year.

HONORS FRENCH 3
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 or with teacher approval (1 year)
Prerequisite: “A” or “B” Grade in French 2
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Honors French 3 is an accelerated, in-depth third year French language program intended for the motivated language student. It is the recommended class for the students who plan to enroll in AP French. The course aims to increase the student’s ability to communicate in the target language through extensive vocabulary building and mastery of advanced grammar structures. Grammar concepts are presented in the context of contemporary and classic literature. Written and oral assignments will review the usage of most tenses. Students learn more about authentic language throughout the French-speaking world through the critique of French films, contemporary publication and current events.

FRENCH 4
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in French 3.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: An intensive "French only" environment prevails in this course. It is designed for those who continue their study of French due to interest in conversation, current events, history or simply to review grammar before college. While continuing to develop the four language skills, emphasis is placed on proficiency of the spoken language, use of vocabulary and modern culture.
AP FRENCH LANGUAGE
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: “A” or “B” grade with teacher recommendation in Honors French 3 or “C” grade or better in French 4
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This comprehensive course integrates AP teaching methods into all areas of language learning: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Emphasis is placed on advanced vocabulary and grammar, oral presentations, essays, newspaper articles, contemporary literary texts and film. The class is conducted in French and is designed to prepare students for the AP exam. Students who are successful on the French AP exam may earn college credit.

JAPANESE 1
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grade 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: None
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Japanese 1 introduces students to the fundamental language skills and culture of Japan. Students will study and develop basic listening, speaking, reading and writing ability utilizing beginning-level vocabulary and grammar. By the end of this course, students will develop the confidence to use spoken Japanese in everyday topics such as their family, interests and school life. The culture and civilization of Japan is integrated into all aspects of the course, including food, anime, manga and J-POP.

SPANISH 1
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grade: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: none
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This introductory course is designed for students with little or no previous study of Spanish. Some students in class might have studied Spanish in middle school, but have not grasped some of the important structures of the language. This course teaches basic language patterns and vocabulary. Repetition and comprehensible input are important components of this course. Focus is on all four language skills listening, speaking, reading and writing. Culture is an integral part of the course and is introduced through the use of media, games, adapted readings and class discussions. In addition to written tests and quizzes, students may also be assessed by means of aural activities. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course; they reinforce concepts/skills introduced and explored in class, which enable students to participate in class in a meaningful way. Completion of homework assignments is a must. Active participation is required.
SPANISH 2
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in Spanish 1.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Students continue to further develop and improve listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Emphasis is placed on comprehension of Spanish, as well as, reading and writing practice in the target language using a variety of activities incorporating familiar vocabulary and structures. Supplementary materials are introduced to enhance language use.

Aspects of contemporary Spanish culture are introduced through the use of media, games, and adapted readings and in small or large group discussions. In addition to written/oral tests and quizzes, students are assessed using a variety of formats: oral dialogues, presentations, written compositions and other means. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course as they not only reinforce concepts and skills that are introduced in class, but also enable students to participate in class discussions. Completion of homework assignments is essential to success in this course. In an effort to better prepare students for further honor classes and the Advanced Placement Course, it is imperative that students in Level 1 exhibit diligence with regard to attitude and work ethic. Continuous effort to use the target language is essential. Active participation is a must!

SPANISH 3
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in Spanish 2.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This class provides students the opportunity to further develop, improve and refine their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Emphasis continues to be placed on aural skills with additional emphasis on reading and writing in the target language. Supplementary materials are implemented to enhance language use. Students experience multiple opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in Spanish in different contexts. Aspects of contemporary Hispanic culture are emphasized through cultural readings, media, games, and class discussions. Assessment of student performance is identified through written tests and quizzes. In addition, students may also be assessed by means of oral tests, spoken dialogues, presentations, short compositions and other displays. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course. They reinforce concepts/skills introduced and explored in class, which enable students to participate in class discussions and activities in a meaningful way. Completion of homework assignments is essential to being successful in this course. Pre-AP activities will be integrated into the curriculum.

SPANISH 4
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in Spanish 3.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Students who have attained measurable proficiency in the use of the language may proceed to advanced levels in which all of the linguistic skills are reinforced through concentrated practice. Students are more thoroughly acquainted with different Hispanic cultures through internet communication and video, making use of authentic Spanish presented through these mediums. Classes are conducted exclusively in Spanish and students are required to speak it at all times.
AP SPANISH LANGUAGE
Elective Credit; Meet CSU/UC “E” Requirement
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
Prerequisite: "A" grade in Spanish 3 or "B" grade or better in Spanish 4.
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: After Spanish 3, or preferably Spanish 4, the exceptional student may elect to enroll in the most intensive Spanish course offered at Rio Americano. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP Spanish exam, which is optional. This is considered an honors course for admission to most universities, and upon passage of the AP Spanish exam may receive college credit.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

GRAPHICS 1 –COMPUTER GRAPHIC DESIGN
Elective Credit
Grades: 9 (1 Semester)
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The goal of this class is to provide students with a background in computer programs that are used by graphics professionals to create graphics for Print, TV and Web publications.

Adobe Illustrator: This illustration or drawing program allows students to create ANY object or line shape imaginable. Combine this ability with powerful text capabilities an array of unique tools and students have can produce professional designs including logos, banners, posters and signs.

Adobe Photoshop: This is the graphics industry's premier photograph and image editing software. It can be used to create almost any image that you can imagine. With sophisticated painting tools, filters and masking capabilities students can create an amazing array of designs suitable for a wide range of applications.

GRAPHICS 2 -ADVANCED GRAPHICS AND WEB DESIGN
Elective Credit
Prerequisite: Completed previous level of graphics with minimum of a C.
Grades: 9 (1 Semester)
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Graphics 2 students will learn new Photoshop techniques to create composite images. These graphics that allow the designer to control the transparency of specific layer areas to create complex images. Graphics 2 students utilize animation tools such as Macromedia Flash and their expertise in Illustrator and Photoshop to develop animations suitable for video and the web. Graphics 2 students also will create web sites that exhibit their work.

WEBSITE DESIGN
Elective Credit
Prerequisite: Successfully completed computer applications with a minimum grade “B” or better or met district computer competency.
Grades: 9 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Students enrolled in this class will be responsible for gathering, editing and producing content for the “Official Rio Americano Web Site”. Students will have an opportunity to use a variety of web applications such as Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, Photoshop, Premiere depending on experience level. Instruction of programming code will not be covered in detail but students interested in this area should have some time to explore this area.
COMPUTER ASSISTED DESIGN / DRAFTING
Elective Credit
Prerequisite:
Grades: 10-12
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course provides entry-level, upgrade and advanced training in drafting and computer aided drafting occupations. Instruction emphasizes software utilization through the development of projects. These projects develop skills in mechanical, architectural, civil, electronic, and isometric drafting, program customization, trouble shooting, as well as communication. Job seeking skills are reviewed and a professional resume and portfolio are developed.

BEGINNING WOODWORKING TECHNOLOGY
Elective Credit
Prerequisite: None
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Beginning woodworking is a course that introduces the student to wood working machinery and the fabrication process. Students learn how to safely operate shop equipment and hand held power tools. Course work includes various wood working joinery and construction methods. Students will build useful products which will illustrate many methods of joinery and culminate in the construction of a cabinet. They will construct these projects from a variety of species of wood including: pine, oak, maple, walnut, cherry, purple heart and incense cedar. This class is a fast-paced hands-on approach to learning how to manufacture with wood.

ADVANCED WOOD WORKING – CABINETRY
Elective Credit
Prerequisite: Completion of Beginning Wood Working with a C or better
Grades 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This is an advanced course where students are expected to know how to operate all wood working machinery in a safe manner. Students will use advanced construction methods to fabricate complicated wood working projects including tables, cabinets and bookcases. Students will have some freedom to select their own projects, but will be expected to include advanced operations such as dovetails and raised center panel doors in their work.

ROBOTICS
Elective Credit
Prerequisite: Completion on Wood Tech with a C or higher
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This intense introductory course explores the field of electricity, electronics, and robotics. Topics include the theory of AC, DC, Ohm’s law, inductance, and capacitance. Students are introduced to these concepts through practical hands on experiences using residential electrical applications and automotive electronic models. This class has a heavy emphasis on computers, web page design, and computer repair. Second semester focuses on robotics design and programming. This class competes in NASA’s First Robotics Competition and students are expected design and build a robot for the competition. This class qualifies participants that receive an A or B for (4 units of credit- ET 302 Principles of Electricity and Electronics) from American River College. Students who pass this course will also receive a completion certificate from ROP.
HOME TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATOR
Elective Credit
Prerequisite: Completion on Wood Tech with a C or higher
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This advanced course focuses on robotics technology and robotics fabrication. Students explore various mechanical designs analyzing effective design concepts. Topics include fabrication techniques utilizing the wood shop, machine shop, welders, and mechanical fasteners. This course also introduces students to Computer Automated Drafting and Design. Students will use our computer driven machinery to fabricate parts and projects. This class competes in NASA’s First Robotics Competition and students are expected design and build a robot for the competition. This class qualifies participants that receive an A or B for (4 units of credit - ET 385 Digital Home Technology and Integration) from American River College. Students who pass this course will also receive a completion certificate from ROP.

Regional Occupation Program - ROP
(Elective Credit) (15 credits)
Career related classes for Juniors and Seniors who are 16 or older. Please see the ROP/Coordinator in the Student Services Center for applications and additional informational.

ROP - OFFICE CAREERS
Legal / Medical / General
Grade: 11-12 (Offered at Rio)
Prerequisite: None.
Recommended: Type 30 wpm.
(one or two semesters)

DESCRIPTION: The students will learn legal or medical terminology, WordPerfect, telephone etiquette, record-keeping and filing procedures, types of correspondence, professional documents and forms, proofreading, basic office procedures, proper attire and work habits. Students also develop an effective resume, and learn interview techniques. Take interest inventories and explore career/college information. Students receive classroom training, are placed in a business training office 4 afternoons a week and receive real world of-work experiences. When skill proficiency is reached, many students receive pay for on-job hours.

ADVANCED WOOD WORKING – ROP CABINETRY:
Elective Credit
Grades: 11-12
Prerequisite: Completion of Beginning Wood Working with a C or better

DESCRIPTION: This is an advanced course where students are expected to know how to operate all wood working machinery in a safe manner. Students will use advanced construction methods to fabricate complicated wood working projects including tables, cabinets and bookcases. Students will have some freedom to select their own projects, but will be expected to include advanced operations such as dovetails and raised center panel doors in their work. The ROP section of this class will include a section devoted to wood working technologies, career options and the business side of the profession.
AVID

AVID 1, 2, 3, Senior Seminar – Advancement Via Individual Determination
(Elective Credit)
Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: Selection based on AVID criteria

AVID is an international program for motivated students with college potential. The class teaches organization, study skills, college research, and the Socratic method to promote inquiry, analysis and critical thinking. The AVID elective gives students the extra push necessary to not only help them with acceptance to four-year colleges but to foster the skills necessary for them to be successful college students.

CIVITAS

HONORS INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL STUDIES
Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science; Meets CSU/ UC “G” Requirement
Prerequisite: Enrollment in Civitas, or instructor permission.
Grade: 9 (1 Semester)
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: A first semester course for Civitas that focuses on an introduction to political science and study of political theory. The curriculum requires students to identify, define and research politics on the national level. Service learning and a class project are required.

HONORS STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement
Grade: 9-12 (1 semester)
Prerequisite: Enrollment in Civitas, or instructor permission.
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course, as part of the Civitas curriculum, introduces students to the national and California State political systems and constitutions. Students will examine course content through a discussion of American values, political parties and institutions both at the national and state level, through media and public opinion and its influence on policy making with a focus on state and local government.

HONORS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science; Meets CSU/ UC “G” Requirement
Grade: 10-12 (1 semester) *
Prerequisite: World History or enrollment in Civitas
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Basic introduction to global politics focusing on a broad range of issues and problems relating to conflict and cooperation among nations, and on similarities and differences among nation governmental institutions, structures and processes. Hot topics currently in the news are key discussion points for this class which features a mock United Nations.
HONORS CIVITAS SPEECH & COMMUNICATIONS  
Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement  
Grade: 10 (1 semester)  
Prerequisite: Enrollment in Civitas, or instructor permission.  
5 Credits  

DESCRIPTION: Theory and technique of public speaking. Emphasis on organizing, supporting, and clearly stating ideas. Practice in informative and persuasive speaking. Focus on current politics and public policy as topics.

HONORS PHILOSOPHY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT  
Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science; Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement  
Grade: 11-12 (1 semester) *  
Prerequisite: none  
5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Representative selection of philosophical problems will be explored in areas such as knowledge, reality, religion, science, politics, art and morality. This course focuses on problems of social justice, ethics, and epistemology, philosophy of religion, metaphysics, free will and determinism and political philosophy. The class requires participation in Socratic Circles; midterm presentation of a philosopher; paper on Orwell’s political ideals and a final paper about student’s personal philosophy based on acceptance or rejection of philosopher’s ideas during the semester; final exam – debate on hot ethical topic.

DIRECTED PROJECT CIVITAS (Independent Study)  
(Elective Credit)  
Prerequisites: Supervising teacher approval and completion of other Civitas requirements.

DESCRIPTION: Senior students enroll for an independent project with instructor permission. Students will complete the Civitas Senior Project in the course. Culminates Civitas activity and includes mandatory junior and senior lunch meetings, 75 hour internship experience, required meetings with advisor on senior project and presentation. Represents 300 hours of coursework. Maximum 5 units of credit at supervising teacher’s discretion. Enrollment is limited.

* All Civitas classes are open to seniors if space is available with except for Directed Project.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT  

STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
Elective Credits  
Grade: 9-12  
Prerequisite: Election to a student government office  
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Student Government is required for all student body and class officers. Concentration is on the organization, development and implementation of student activities.
AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a college readiness system for elementary through higher education that is designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance.

Mission Statement:

AVID’s mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

Student Profile:

AVID targets students in the academic middle - B, C, and even D students - who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Typically, they will be the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low-income or minority families. AVID pulls these students out of their unchallenging courses and puts them on the college track: acceleration instead of remediation.

AVID Curriculum:

The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and senior high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is driven by the WICOR method, which stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading. AVID curriculum is used in AVID elective classes and in content-area classes in AVID schools.

Applying to Program:

Potential AVID students must go through an application and interview process and be approved by the AVID coordinators. Because AVID is a multi year program, applications are only available to incoming freshmen, current freshmen and first semester sophomores. Applications are available online or from the AVID coordinators or counselor.
PHILOSOPHY OF RIO BAND
The Rio Americano Band Program has a long history of fantastic music, pride, and top-notch education. We fully intend on furthering that tradition this year. We are very excited about the challenges and adventures that await all of us.

The goals of Rio Band are to provide the finest possible musical education, and to create an atmosphere that promotes character and excellence from all of our students. This is done in a positive and creative atmosphere that focuses on independent thought, self esteem, maturity, creativity, respect, leadership, teamwork, work ethic and personal responsibility. Music is the means to the end of creating successful, creative and happy adults.

While we will participate in some competitions, winning will never be a goal for us. We strive to approach every rehearsal and performance with professionalism, and to play all styles of music with a deep respect for history and culture. As a result of these efforts, we tend to win awards. Either way, we are equally proud of our kids.

Virtually every instrumental music program begins with Concert Band - a large ensemble. From there, if the number of students supports it, the school administration can offer other smaller classes, other levels, or other kinds of bands. In our case, we've been fortunate to add 4 Jazz Bands, other levels of Concert Band, and Small Ensemble class.

It is important to remember that all the decisions we make regarding policies are done for the good of the students and the overall good of the program. Implementation is done only after careful scrutiny and virtual assurance that the change is for the better. Feel free to contact us with any questions at either jomurray@sanjuan.edu or maxwell.kiesner@sanjuan.edu.
CIVITAS

Rio Americano High School in Sacramento, California, offers Academia CIVITAS, a four-year program of political studies and public service. It provides students with advanced and specialized learning in the social sciences and an enriched sense of citizenship.

MISSION STATEMENT
To prepare students to be active, responsible, knowledgeable citizens who accept their role as civic minded adults.

PROGRAM SPECIFICS CURRICULUM
In addition to completing the SJUSD graduation requirements, CIVITAS students complete a minimum of 6 semesters of specialized courses. CIVITAS is a college preparatory program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Civitas requires that an application be submitted prior to enrollment. Applicants must:
- Have a 3.0 or better grade in English and Social Science
- Submit 2 letters of reference from adults who know them well
- Complete a spontaneous essay
- Complete an interview

REQUIRED SEMESTER COURSES INCLUDE:
- Honors Introduction to Political Studies
- Honors State & Local Government
- Honors International Relations
- Honors Speech and Communications
- Honors Philosophy of Political Thought
- CIVITAS Senior Independent Project

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES
Students participate in collaborative learning groups, analyze and develop public policy models, debate controversial topics, conduct research and examine domestic and global issues and work on advocacy projects.

COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING
This three part component begins with service-learning in the freshman and sophomore years, a junior internship and culminates with a Senior Project. The common thread linking these experiences is: “A Commitment to Our Communities.”

SERVICE LEARNING
Each student is required to contribute 100 hours of volunteer service in the greater Sacramento community. These activities must relate to the academic program of CIVITAS.

INTERNSHIPS
The CIVITAS Internship program links the academic curriculum to “real life” experiences in the community. It is an extended learning opportunity requiring 75 hours of participation with a mentor, after school or during school breaks. Students are in the workplace for educational purposes only and are not considered employees.

SENIOR PROJECT
This culminating activity includes a research paper, a portfolio that houses all materials gathered during the internship/research and a senior project developed from the student’s internship. This is the student’s gift back to the community. A panel of teachers, parents, and community members review and evaluate the senior project.