



EXCELSIOR SCHOOL

COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL





A place to be a CRITICAL THINKER,
a PRODUCTIVE COMMUNICATOR,
and a RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN.

*Empowering & Inspiring
Students to Succeed*



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Excelsior! Excelsior is fully accredited by Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC). We offer Day and Boarding School options for local and International students.

We are located in Arcadia, California, a home to the Santa Anita Park Racetrack, Arcadia Park, and Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Our campus is surrounded by tremendous cultural and learning resources, including the Rose Bowl, California Institute of Technology, numerous museums, colleges, and universities, theatres, and ethnic communities from nearly every country in the world. Our students often use these resources to foster greater understanding in their classes.

Our classes have low teacher to student ratios that allow for individualized instruction. Our students are taught in various classrooms including the updated science lab with modern equipment and safety devices, and the computer lab with multimedia features.

Excelsior School's mission is "To produce critical thinkers, productive communicators and responsible citizens who are prepared for college and life." As a college preparatory school, it is our aspiration to help each student become a life-long learner who will not only succeed in college but also in life.

This year, we will be focusing on two missions: deepening our interdisciplinary approach; and expanding our Student Life and Residential programs. As we embark on these tasks, a tremendous focus will be placed on reading and writing in all content areas. Our school has fully

adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which "requires students to take part in their learning and to think more critically about content. The increased rigor of the Common Core will help our students to become college and career ready."

In addition to enriching our academics, we will also be expanding our Student Life and Residential Programs on and off campus. Our Student Life and Residential Programs include a variety of on-campus weekend events, as well as off-campus trips and activities. Our student life and residential programs help every Excelsior student find and explore himself/herself. Students are provided with opportunities to get involved in various extracurricular activities including monthly Town Hall Meetings, Movie Nights, BBQs, Retreat Programs, various intramural sports, Talent Shows, Hiking, Rock Climbing, Bowling, Karaoke Nights, attending professional sports games, community service opportunities, special holiday celebrations, and etc. These programs help our students to build social skills, confidence and self-esteem.

Excelsior School is committed to providing students a rigorous learning community that holistically focuses on the total development of our students.

We welcome you to visit us and see for yourself.

Bethel Lynn
Principal, Excelsior School

Since 1986,

Excelsior School has been committed to providing a school environment that values ethical, social, emotional, and intellectual development for all students. Our students come from all over the world, including Canada, China, Thailand, Russia, Iran, Georgia, Cambodia, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Brazil, Nigeria...etc., and around the United States. Surrounded by tremendous cultural learning resources, our students develop skills necessary to succeed in our fast-changing, multi-cultural, and technological world.

Excelsior currently enrolls students from all over the world!



Vision Statement

We are committed to providing a school environment that values ethical, social, and emotional advancement in conjunction with intellectual development.

Mission Statement

Excelsior's mission is to produce critical thinkers, productive communicators and responsible citizens who are prepared for college and life.

Schoolwide Learners Outcomes (SLOs)

Critical Thinker

- Define, analyze, and creatively solve complex problems
- Flexibly resolve issues by using an interdisciplinary approach
- Utilize technology to meet the requirements of an increasingly complex world

Productive Communicator

- Use appropriate research skills and technology to acquire and evaluate information
- Write, speak, and present proficiently in order to convey unique opinions
- Integrate creative intellectual collaboration

Responsible Citizen

- Understand and appreciate global culture, diversity, and historical context
- Practice ethical behaviors which benefit the commonwealth
- Evaluate one's contributions to the community





ACCREDITATION



Excelsior School

is accredited by

*The Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

(WASC)

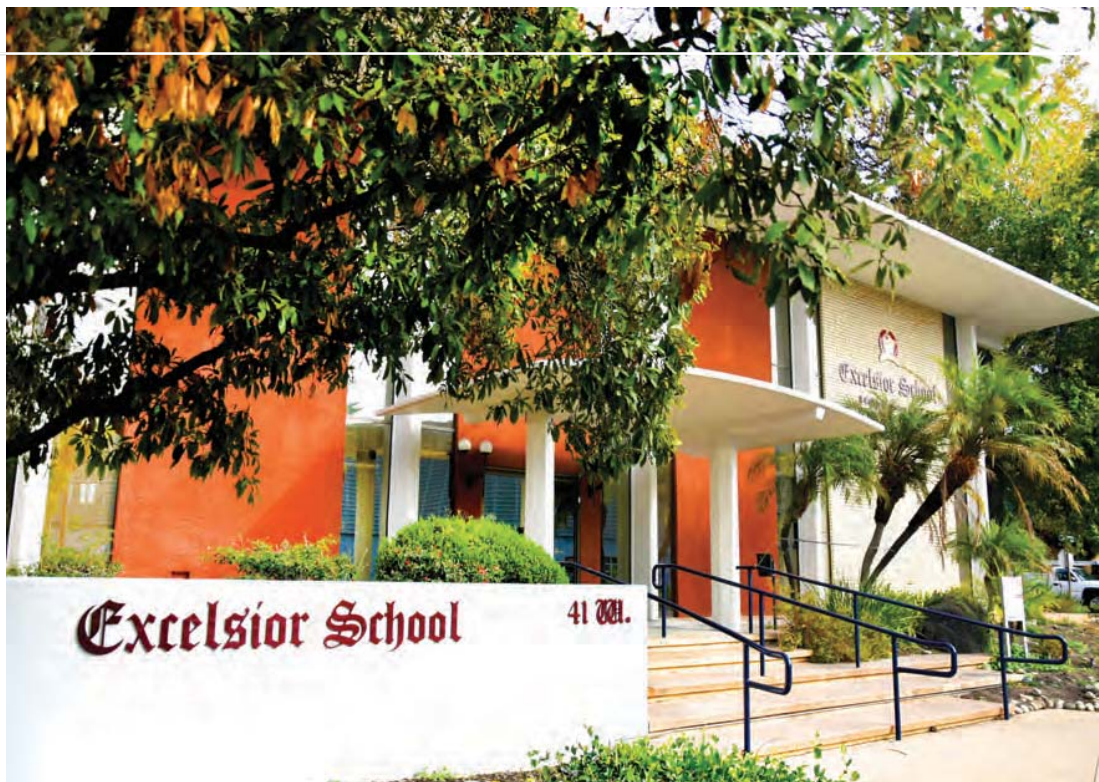
The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is one of six regional associations, which accredit public and private schools, colleges, and universities in the United States. Regional accreditation began about 100 years ago and arose from a desire on the part of educational institutions to establish standards of quality.

Accreditation is a voluntary, non-governmental process, which plays an important role in developing and maintaining the high quality of education in this country.

Accreditation certifies to other institutions and the general public that education programs meet established standards. High school accreditation is established through a partnership between WASC and the California Department of Education (CDE). This ensures that diploma-granting high schools meet the standards of WASC and the CDE Program Quality Review required by the California State Education Code.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is the most prestigious and widely accepted accrediting body for schools in California. The accreditation process ensures that academic standards are high and the school is focused on continuously improving the learning of their students.

WASC accreditation validates the excellent work of our parents and staff – Excelsior School is a place where students learn and grow in an environment of their choosing supported by a personalized curriculum tailored to their specific needs and learning style.



SCHOOL PROFILE

Excelsior School is a small private college preparatory school, grades 9-12, that opened its doors in 1986. Excelsior School is located in Arcadia, California, a home to Arcadia Park, Santa Anita Park Racetrack and Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. With only few steps away from the heart of Downtown Arcadia, our students are surrounded by tremendous cultural and learning resources, including the numerous museums, colleges, and universities, theatres, and ethnic communities from nearly every country in the world.

Excelsior offers blended learning that combines traditional classroom methods with online digital media. Blended learning is more effective than both face-to-face and online education. Our classes have low teacher to student ratios that allow for individualized instruction. Over the years we have acquired a diverse, well-qualified and highly experienced faculty, which is always willing to advance the growth of each student in an interdisciplinary manner. Our students are taught in various classrooms including the updated science lab with modern equipment and safety devices, and the computer lab with multimedia features.

Our alumni have attended many of the prominent colleges in California and elsewhere. A few examples are UCLA, USC, Pennsylvania University, Boston College, Loyola Marymount University, Occidental College, Pepperdine University, Fordham University, New York University, Syracuse University, and many others.

Since 1992, Excelsior School has received the authorization under Federal laws to enroll non-immigrant international students.



Why choose Excelsior?

With these key elements, Excelsior can make students succeed:



Blended Learning

We utilize Traditional Classroom Learning & Dynamic Online Learning to enhance student's study.



Excellent Support

A strong community of support from alumni, staff, and qualified and dedicated teachers who care about students' success.



Individualized Attention

Low students-to-teacher ratio and small group learning allow for individualized attention.



Accredited Curriculum

Our school has fully adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which requires students to take part in their learning and to think more critically about content.





ACADEMICS

Curriculum

Excelsior School is a small, boarding high school that offers a rigorous, college-preparatory education. Our school, a WASC accredited institution, has established an excellent track record of graduates matriculating at distinguished colleges and universities.

Our school's curriculum is designed to develop an awareness of student potential. Commitment to community service and individual responsibility are also strongly emphasized to raise responsible members of the community. An in-depth, enriched curriculum and a growing number of **extracurricular activities** allow students to become critical thinkers and productive communicators. A close knit school community is formed from low student to teacher ratio.

The Excelsior School curriculum is varied and challenging, providing a strong **college-preparatory program** in various fields of study: English, History, Mathematics, Computer Science, Science, Foreign Language, Art, Performing Arts and Physical Education. **Advanced Placement** preparation is available in English, History, Math, Science courses. The Excelsior faculty employs a wide variety of teaching methods. All courses emphasize reading, writing and research skills. The school provides educational field trips to local museums, theaters and historical sites to strengthen learning experiences.

The Visual and Theater Arts are also an integral part of the Excelsior experience. Each student is required to enroll in at least one full-year studio art course and one music course before graduation.

College Counseling

The college counseling program is committed to the careful matching of each student with a school that is particularly appropriate for each student. Excelsior recognizes and considers that each student is unique — that student has his/her own educational and professional goals, academic strengths, financial resources and preference for certain geographical locations.

A full-time college counselor directs an intensive counseling program that begins as soon as a student enrolls in the school. Each student is advised to pursue a course of study that emphasizes his/her particular talents and strengths. Students have access to teachers and administrators to go over all aspects of the college application process. Help with personal statements is also part of the curriculum for seniors.

SAT prep is provided for all students. All freshmen, sophomores and juniors take the PSAT. SAT I and SAT II tests are taken when appropriate in the sophomore, junior and senior years. During the spring of the junior year and fall of the senior year, students meet in a monthly class with the counselor to go over all aspects of the college application process.

We offer **college night** for all senior parents. In the fall, seniors visit colleges, arrange interviews and prepare applications and essays. The school also arranges for universities to come visit and talk about their corresponding schools.

Students also have access to **extensive computer resources** for researching colleges.

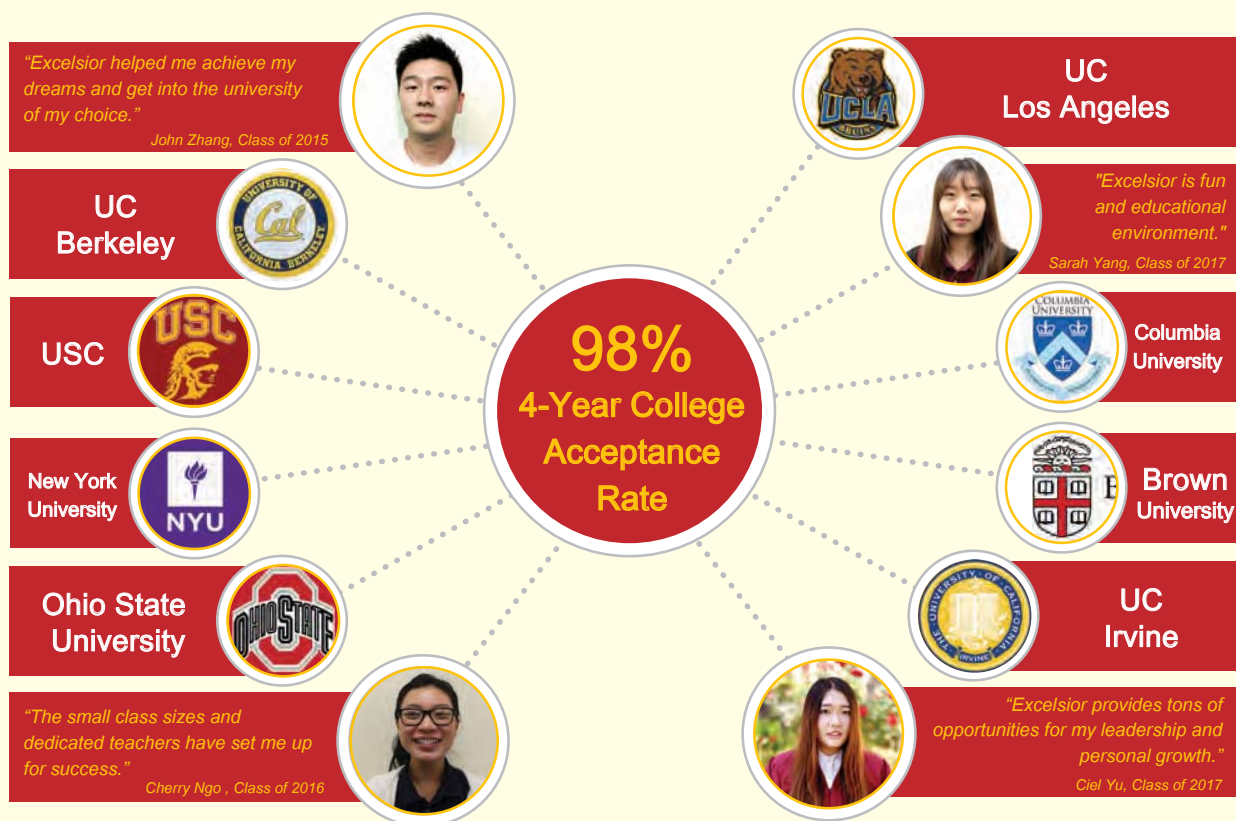


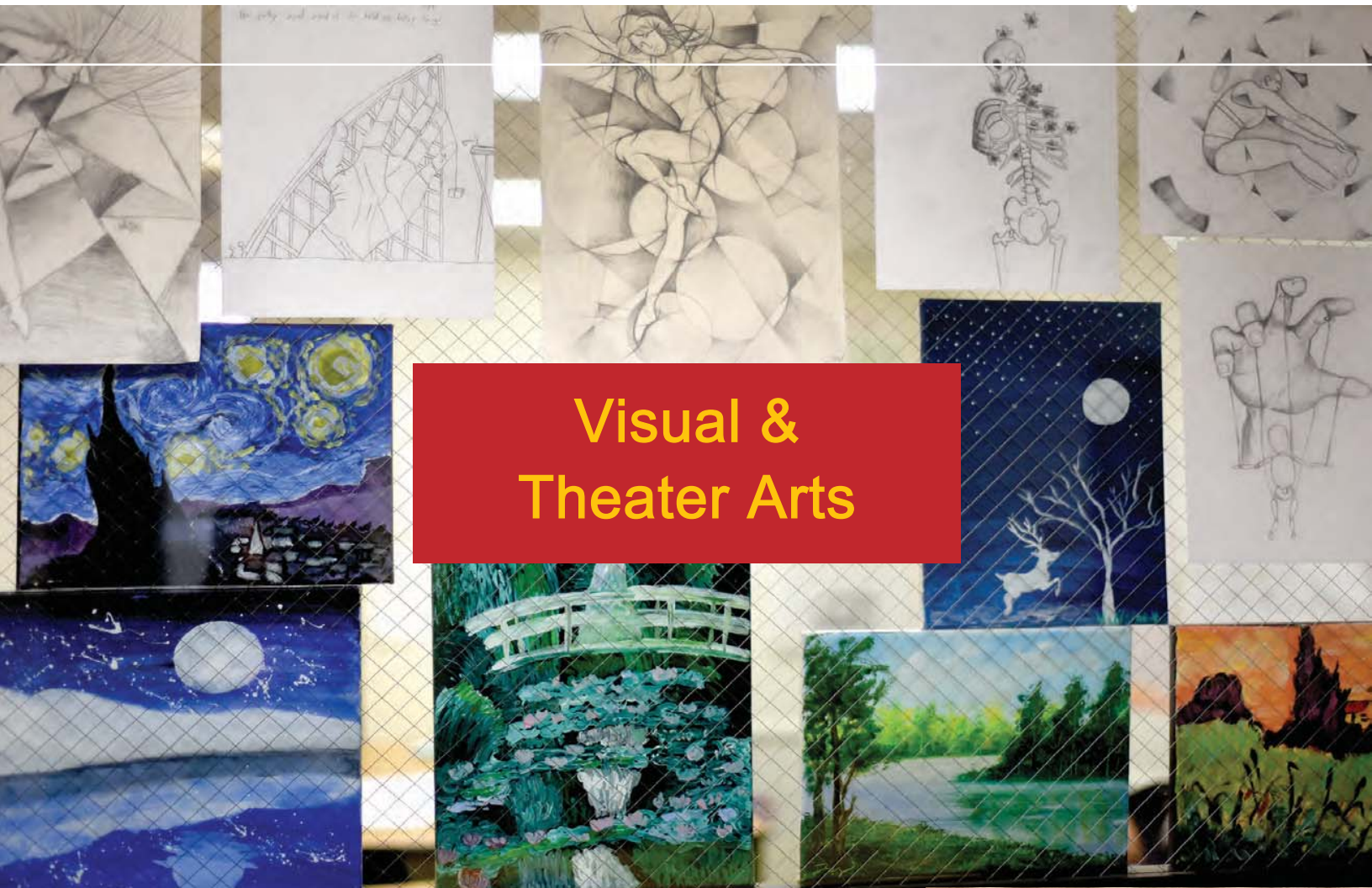


University Acceptance

Excelsior School students have been accepted to many acclaimed universities throughout the United States. Below is a list of just some of the schools students from Excelsior have attended.

- Brown University
- Columbia University
- University of California Berkeley
- University of California Irvine
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of Colorado
- Cal Poly Pomona
- Pennsylvania State University
- New York University
- Michigan State University
- University of California Riverside
- University of California Santa Barbara
- University of Southern California
- University of Rochester
- The Ohio State University





Visual & Theater Arts

The Excelsior Visual & Theater Arts Programs provide students with creative and challenging environment to discover, explore, develop their potential, and express their unique voice through art-making process, while prepares them with pre-professional training to be able to continue working in the various fields of art, design, performing art and theatre.

Visual Art students will learn fundamental skills and techniques by experimenting different media, methods and ways of creative expression. They will also focus on understanding the historical and cultural context, concepts and ideas. The fundamental year focuses on basic skills, concepts and theory in 2-D and 3-D Art and Design. Students advance to a diverse curriculum that offers classes that include Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Computer Graphics, Video Production and Fashion Design. Classes are supplemented by visiting artists, as well as field trips to LA museums and galleries. Students have exhibit opportunities twice a year.

Theater Art students will learn fundamental acting techniques and theatre technology that prepare students to work in entertainment related field or in technical theatre. Students will study acting, body movement, voice and speech, theatre history sets, as well as lighting, sound, costume and makeup. Our students have access to Hollywood Production Studios where they can learn hands-on experiences from the professionals in the industry. We also provide individualized schedules and independent study for students. A number of very successful actors/entertainers have attended our school.



We Provide
Intense Programs
and Studio Experiences
for Students in
VISUAL & THEATER ARTS





Visual Art Class List

9th Grade - Fundamental

- Drawing I
- Painting I
- Design (2D & 3D)
- Art History & Analysis

10th / 11th Grade - Intermediate

- Figure Drawing
- Illustration
- Sculpture I
- Computer Multi-Media
- Oil Painting
- Graphic Design I
- Photography I
- Video Production I
- Animation I
- Mixed Media
- Fashion & Costume Design I

11th / 12th Grade - Advanced

- Graphic Design II
- Photography II
- Video Production II
- Contemporary Painting
- Animation II
- Sculpture II
- Senior Studio
- AP Art History
- AP Studio Art
- Advanced Computer Multi-Media
- Fashion & Costume Design II

Theater Art Class List

9th Grade - Fundamental

- Acting & Movement
- Voice & Diction
- Theatre History

10th / 11th Grade - Intermediate

- Acting & Voice I
- Study of Shakespear
- Camera Work
- Movement - Combat & Sword Play
- Technical Theatre I (Sound, Costume, Set, Lighting, Makeup, Stage Production)

11th / 12th Grade - Advanced

- Acting & Voice II
- Movement - Dance
- Acting for Camera
- Audition Portfolio
- Senior Project
- Technical Theatre II (Sound, Costume, Set, Lighting, Makeup, Stage Production)





Admission Policy

Excelsior School admits students of any color, racial or ethnic origin. They are entitled to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities accorded to students at the school. Excelsior does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, ethnic origin or religious affiliation. This includes the administration of its education policies, admissions policies, and scholarship and aid programs.

Entrance requirements are based on intellectual ability, personal character, and a demonstrated willingness to learn. The specific criteria for admission to Excelsior School include:

- Report cards or transcripts
- Written recommendations from teacher/counselor/principal
- Placement exam scores
- Completed application form

Excelsior School is first and foremost a community with an unparalleled academic program that seeks to educate future leaders. The Admission Committee selects students who possess character, scholarship, an interest in belonging to a vigorous and diverse community, and a willingness to share extracurricular talents or abilities.

Of course, the best predictor of academic success is past performance combined with a clear understanding of academic expectations. Through teacher and personal recommendations, a current transcript, a personal interview, and student essays, the Admissions Committee seeks to assess a student's capacity to thrive in the Excelsior environment. We also use standardized testing to support our assessment of student academic ability and potential. Students with special talents should not hesitate to submit portfolios or videos of independent work or activities.

Foreign Student Program

"Excelsior is authorized under Federal Laws to enroll non-immigrant alien students."

Excelsior School is authorized under federal laws to enroll non-immigrant alien students who are citizens of countries other than the United States. International applicants who need an F-1 Student VISA are required to submit documentation in addition to the academic credentials necessary for admission committee review.

The following documents are required and all must be received before an I-20 can be issued

- Personal statement or statement from benefactor affirming that all expenses will be met during the student's period of enrollment at Excelsior. Expenses include tuition, fees, books, housing, medical and all other living expenses (in U.S. dollars).
- Declaration of Finances Form must be accompanied by a current bank statement issued within 90-180 days of the expected start date (in U.S. dollars). Current bank statement must verify that funds are available to support the student's stay at Excelsior.
- Students must have health insurance. Students who have health insurance that is valid in the United States must show proof of insurance coverage in English at registration (a minimum of \$250,000 U.S. dollars in coverage). Otherwise, students must purchase health insurance at registration.
- Tuition payment for the first semester (U.S. currency bank check payable to Excelsior School).

How to Enroll to International Program?

To apply for enrollment at Excelsior School's international program, you must meet the following minimum requirements:

- A student must be high school age, 15 to 19 years old.
- Your academic grade point average (GPA) must be 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for the school year programs and 2.0 or above for the summer and winter programs.
- Students need to demonstrate qualities that are essential to intercultural adjustment such as flexibility, open-mindedness, curiosity, and tolerance for personal error.
- An ability to adapt to an unfamiliar environment is necessary.

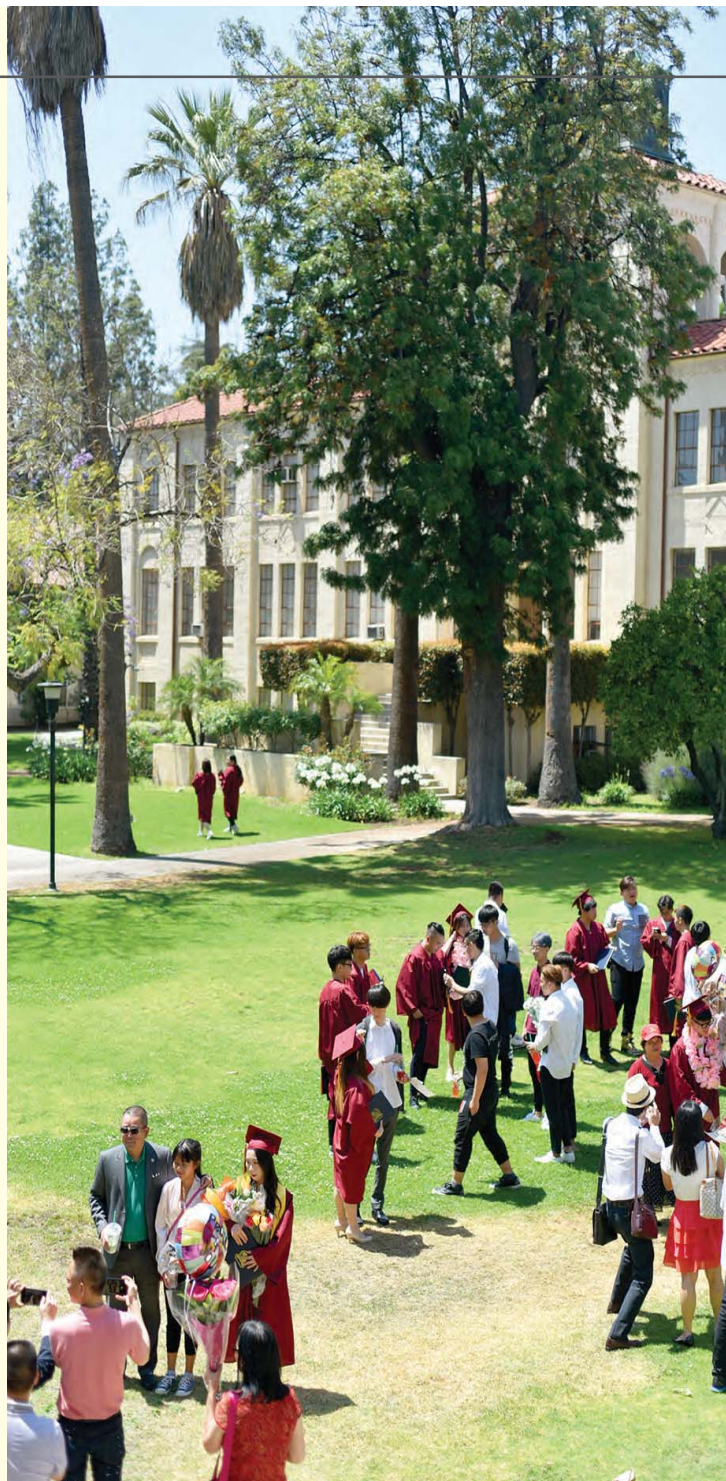
English Language Proficiency

An international student's ability to excel at Excelsior School is dependent upon his/her ability to communicate in the English language.

Excelsior School requires English proficiency in reading, writing and speech.

Any international student who has taken the Test of TOEFL examination, please send your TOEFL scores to Excelsior School. Excelsior School's TOEFL DI code is 0075.

Please contact our Admission Office regarding other English proficiency assessments.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Athletics

Associated with California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section (CIF-SS), Excelsior offers competitive sports for our students. Our athletic program includes:

- Boys' and Girls' Cross Country
- Boys' Soccer
- Girls' Soccer
- Boys' Basketball
- Boys' Badminton
- Girls' Badminton

What is CIF-SS?

California Interscholastic Federation is the central body for all high school athletes to compete against one another in the Southern Section and is the largest out of ten sections.

"The essential elements of character building and ethics in CIF sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship." (262, CIF-SS Blue Book)



"We are committed to providing a school environment that values ethical and emotional development, which are equally important to intellectual development."

STUDENT LIFE





LEADERSHIP AT EXCELSIOR

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."

Excelsior School offers students ample opportunity to polish their leadership skills both in and out of the classroom. We provide activities and organizations that encourage the students to share their time and talent with the community and to help make the world a better place. Leadership skills are developed through Academic Organizations, Athletics and Extracurricular Activities. Additional activities are added as student interest presents itself.

Student Leadership

Excelsior School encourages students to participate in student activities as a way of fostering and promoting their leadership abilities and their talents in specific areas of interest. The Activities Director works with all student leaders and moderators to insure the overall success of this program.

ASB / Student Council

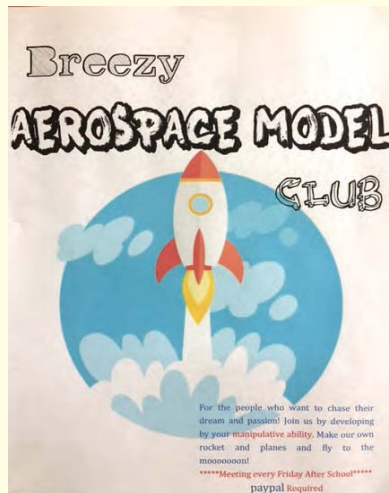
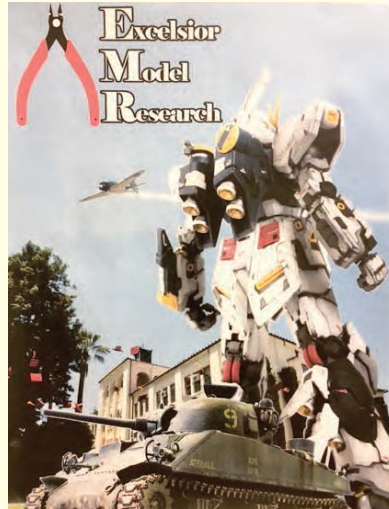
Every student registered at Excelsior is a member of the Associated Student Body (ASB). As a member of ASB, each student has the responsibility to function as a conscientious citizen by supporting worthwhile projects initiated by the student council, and by entering into the process of selecting qualified members of student government.

At Excelsior, we believe that a successful Student Council is integral to nurturing responsible, collaborative and pro active young people. The Student Council aims to build a sense of community and strength within the school by complimenting the school's mission to widen students' horizons, build confidence and independence and encourage excellence. The Student Council consists of the following elected members who must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average to be eligible: ASB Officers, Class Officers and Class Presidents.

ASB / STUDENT COUNCIL

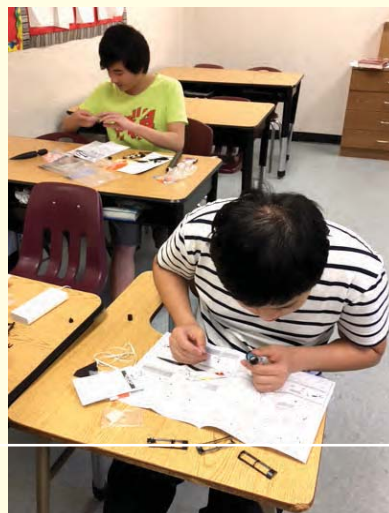


STUDENT CLUBS



STUDENT CLUBS

Excelsior School encourages students to participate in student activities as a way of fostering and promoting their leadership abilities and their talents in specific areas of interest. The Activities Director works with all student leaders and moderators to insure the overall success of this program.



Excelsior School GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Course Requirements	Required Semester Credits
English:	4 years of English	40
Social Science:	3 years of Social Science 1 year of World History 1 year of United States History 1 semester of American Government 1 semester of Economics	30
Mathematics:	2 years of Math Algebra 1 / Integrated Math 1 and Geometry Integrated Math 2 or higher level courses.	20
Science:	2 years college prep laboratory science Including both biological and physical sciences	20
Fine Arts & Foreign Language:	1 year of fine arts and foreign language	20
Physical Education:	2 years of Physical Education	20
Electives:	80 units of credit Student may select elective courses in the following areas: art, business, consumer and homemaking education, English, foreign language, mathematics, music, industrial technology education, physical education, reading, science, social science and work experience / CCOC/ ROP.	80
TOTAL:		230
EXAM: Pass the high school proficiency examinations		

Grading System

Students attending Excelsior School will be assessed using the following grading scales. Students will be expected to follow the Academic Misconduct and Cheating policy (plagiarism) as outlined in the student handbook.

Credit

Five semester credits are granted for successfully passing a course which meets five periods per week for one semester. No credit is earned for courses which are repeated if credit has been previously granted or for courses in which an "F" grade is received.

Grading Scale	GPA	*Weighted GPA
90 - 100 = A	A = 4.0	A = 5.0
80 - 89 = B	B = 3.0	B = 4.0
70 - 79 = C	C = 2.0	C = 3.0
60 - 69 = D	D = 1.0	D = 2.0
59 - 0 = F	F = No Credit	F = No Credit



Excelsior School

UC / CSU APPROVED

COURSES LIST

a - History / Social Science - 2 years required

Two years of history/social science, including one year of World History, Cultures or Geography; and one year of US History or one-half year of US History and one-half year of American Government / Civics.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
AP European History	AP Euro	World History / Geography / Cultures	AP	
AP Government and Politics U.S.	AP GovPol US	U.S. History	AP	
AP Human Geography	AP Human Geography	World History / Geography / Cultures	AP	
AP United States History	AP US Hist	U.S. History	AP	
AP World History	AP World Hist	World History / Geography / Cultures	AP	
U.S. Government & Politics	U.S. GOV	U.S. History		
U.S. History AB		U.S. History		
World History, Cultures, & Geog. AB		World History / Geography / Cultures		

b - English - 4 years required

Four years of college preparatory English. Students may only use 1 year of ESL/ELD, SDAIE, or Sheltered English.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
AP English Literature and Composition	AP Eng. Lit	English	AP	
English 10AB		English		
English 11AB		English		
English 12AB		English		
English 9AB		English		
English AB (H)		English	H	

c - Mathematics - 3 years required, 4 years recommended

Three years of college preparatory mathematics that includes the topics covered in Elementary Algebra/Algebra 1, Geometry and Advanced Algebra/Algebra 2. Approved Integrated Math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
Algebra I AB		Algebra 1		
AP Statistics	AP Stat	Advanced Mathematics	AP	
Calculus AB (AP)	Calculus AB	Advanced Mathematics	AP	
Geometry AB		Geometry		
Intermediate Alg./Trigonometry AB		Algebra 2		
Math Analysis AB		Advanced Mathematics		Pre-Calculus

d - Laboratory Science - 2 years required, 3 years recommended

Two years of laboratory science, including two of the three fundamental disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This requirement can also be met by completing the latter two years of a 3-year Integrated science program.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
AP Biology	AP Bio	Biological Science	AP	
AP Physics 1	AP Phys 1	Physics	AP	
AP Physics 2	AP Phys 2	Physics	AP	
Biology AB		Biological Science		
Chemistry (AP)	AP Chemistry	Chemistry	AP	
Chemistry AB		Chemistry		
Physics - Lab		Physics		

e - Language Other than English - 2 years required, 3 years recommended

Two years of the same language other than English.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
French I AB		LOTE Year 1		
French II AB		LOTE Year 2		
French III AB		LOTE Year 3		
Spanish I AB		LOTE Year 1		
Spanish II AB		LOTE Year 2		
Spanish III AB		LOTE Year 3		

f - Visual & Performing Arts - 1 years required

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
AP Music Theory	AP Music	Music	AP	
Art History & Analysis AB	Art History & Analysis AB	Visual Arts (Intro)		
Introduction to Music Theory	Intro Music	Music (Intro)		
Theater Arts	Theater Arts 1	Performing Arts		

g - Elective - 1 year required

One year (two semesters), in addition to those required in "a-f" above. All courses must be listed under "a-f" above with the exception of courses marked with a blue diamond (◆) in Mathematics, Language Other than English, and VPA; plus the following:

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
Academic English Language Development (AELD)	Academic ELD	English		
Computer Science (Programming) AB		Math		
Creative Writing AB		English		
Economics AB		History / Social Science		Semester
Intro. to Anthropology	Intro. to Anthropology	History / Social Science		
Introduction to Sociology	Sociology I	History / Social Science		
Physical/Earth Science AB		Science-Physical		
Psychology	Psychology	History / Social Science		
Web Development	WEBDEV	Math		

University of California ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A-G Requirement (starting 2003): Students must complete the following minimum requirements:

a) College Prep English: 4 years

English that includes frequent and regular writing and reading of classic and modern literature. Not more than two semesters of ninth–grade English can be used to meet this requirement.

b) Mathematics: 3 years (4 recommended)

(Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)

c) History / Social Science: 2 years required

Includes one year of U.S. History and one year of World Studies.

***d) Lab Science: 2 years (3 recommended)**

CP Integrated Science I, II, and III (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Physiology

e) Language (other than English): 2 years (3 recommended)

Must be the same foreign language

f) Visual and Performing Arts: 1 year

Students must complete a year-long approved course from a single visual and performing arts subject area (dance, music, visual arts, or drama/theater.)

g) College Preparatory Electives (1 year required)

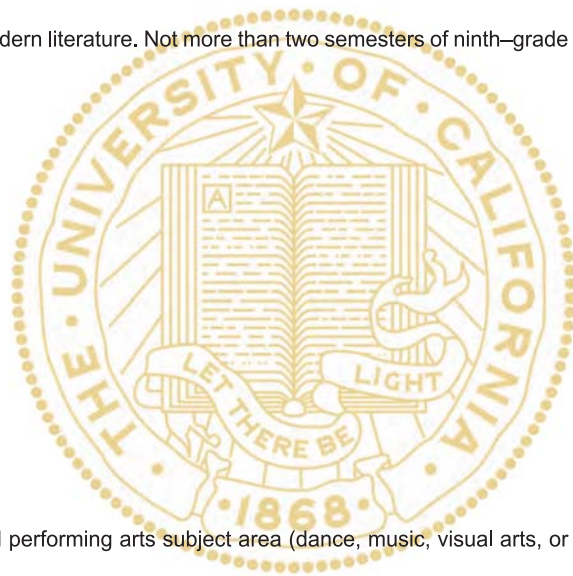
Additional courses taken in subject requirement a-f above. They are to be chosen from the following subject areas: social science, English, advanced math, laboratory science, foreign language, and visual and performing arts. Also selected elective courses listed on the UC approved list.

SAT I or ACT and SAT II required

Students must submit test scores for either the SAT 1 or ACT and two SAT II tests (Subject Tests including writing, mathematics level 1 or level 2, and one test in one of the following areas – English literature, foreign language, science, or social science).

Students applying for admission to the fall term must take these tests no later than December of their senior year, preferably earlier, to ensure that their application receives prompt and full consideration

* The Science College Requirements must satisfy 1 year life science and 1 year physical science.



California State University ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A-G Requirement (starting 2003): Students must complete the following minimum requirements:

a) College Prep English: 4 years

English that includes frequent and regular writing and reading of classic and modern literature. Not more than two semesters of ninth-grade English can be used to meet this requirement.

b) Mathematics: 3 years

(Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)

c) History / Social Science: 2 years required

Includes one year of U.S. History and one year of World Studies.

***d) Lab Science: 2 years**

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physiology

e) Foreign Language: 2 years

2 years same language

f) Visual and Performing Arts: 1 year

Students must complete a year-long approved course from a single visual and performing arts subject area (dance, music, visual arts, or drama/theater.)

g) Elective Course: 1 year

(includes any subjects a-f above and selected college prep elective courses)

SAT I or ACT required

Other requirements include:

- Graduation from high school
- An eligibility index that places applicants among the top one-third of California's public high school graduates.

GPA	SAT	ACT
Above 3.0	qualifies with any score	
2.80	660	14
2.60	820	18
2.40	980	22
2.20	1140	26
2.0	1300	30

**Scores from the Writing section will not be used for admission purposes to the CSU.



EXCELSIOR SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

ENG 101A - FRESHMAN ENGLISH 1

Grade: 9 1 Semester 5 Credits

The first semester of the freshman year focuses on the writing process and literary themes that will be developed throughout high school. The composition skills that we teach stress critical thinking, paragraph development, coherence, the grammar skills needed to write well, and to talk intelligently about the writing process. The play *Inherit the Wind* is supplemented with short stories, poetry, and non-fiction. Throughout the semester students learn literary terms such as exposition, irony, foreshadowing, and suspense. Students also develop the oral skills needed to give a narrative speech.

ENG 101B - FRESHMAN ENGLISH 2

Grade: 9 1 Semester 5 Credits

The second semester of the freshman year reinforces writing concepts learned earlier in the year. Students experience various types of writing including journals, literary essays, and personal essays. The literature study this semester centers around *Romeo and Juliet* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Again the course is supplemented with short stories, poetry, and non-fiction. The writing continues to emphasize paragraph development including introductory and concluding paragraphs.

ENG 102H - ENGLISH I - HONORS

Grade: 9 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Honors teacher recommendation

Students in this course will learn narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and expository essay writing skills. Readings include novels, short stories, essays, dramas, biographies, poetry, and an epic poem. Literary studies include critical analysis and analytical reading.

ENG 201A - SOPHOMORE ENGLISH 1

Grade: 10 1 Semester 5 Credits

The first semester of the sophomore year introduces the student to classical themes and archetypes such as the initiation, the quest, and the hero. Selected works include myths and legends, *The Odyssey*, and such modern works as *The Catcher in the Rye*. Teachers will also choose one work from the following list: *Antigone*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Oedipus*, or *The Tales of King Arthur*. Supplemental works of different genres reflecting the themes will be introduced. Intensive and varied composition work will include the writing of the multi-paragraph essay, knowledge of expository speech techniques, and the giving of an expository speech.

ENG 201B - SOPHOMORE ENGLISH 2

Grade: 10 1 Semester 5 Credits

In the second semester of the sophomore year the thematic focus will be extended to include the role of the individual in society. Required works include *Lord of the Flies* and one of these works: *A Separate Peace*, *The Sound of Waves*, *Montana 1948*, *Of Mice and Men*, or *Othello*. Short stories and poetry are also part of the curriculum. Related written assignments reinforce core literature and themes. The focus of student writing will be the organized multi-paragraph essay.

ENG 202H - ENGLISH II - HONORS

Grade: 10 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Honors teacher recommendation

Students in this course will continue to develop the essay and language skills required for entry into advanced placement programs in English. World literature is the basis for reading and writing activities. Composition skills are emphasized.

ENG 301A - JUNIOR ENGLISH 1

Grade: 11 1 Semester 5 Credits

In the junior year, English students analyze all genres of American literature. Students compare works of different periods that deal with similar themes, learn to appreciate the impact history has had on our literature, and analyze the writings of major American authors. Students will acquire an understanding of the major periods in literature including American Puritan Thought, Deism/Rationalism, Romanticism, Transcendentalism, and Realism. Required works include *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and works by historically significant authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Stephen Crane. Frequent and varied composition work will accompany all units. Students learn the logic, rhetoric, and advanced writing techniques needed to write a persuasive essay and to give a persuasive speech. The persuasive essay, speech and a historical investigation research paper are all requirements of this semester.

ENG 301B - JUNIOR ENGLISH 2

Grade: 11 1 Semester 5 Credits

In the second semester of the junior year, students will explore the themes of American literature as they apply to the twentieth century. Required works include *The Great Gatsby* and a choice of *Death of a Salesman*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Glass Menagerie* or *A Raisin in the Sun*. As in all English classes, composition will be an integral part of the study of literature.

ENG 302H - ENGLISH III - HONORS

Grade: 11 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Honors teacher recommendation

Students in this course continue to develop the skills required for entry into advanced placement programs in English. American literature is the basis for the reading and writing activities. The course examines American ideas as reflected in American literature and traces the themes and literary movements in America.

ENG 303H - ENGLISH III / AMERICAN / U.S. HISTORY

Grade: 11 2 Semester 20 Credits Weighted Grade

Two Hour Block Course

This course combines the curriculum of American/U.S. History and American literature into an interdisciplinary, cross-curricular program of study. The course will meet graduation requirements for Junior English and Twentieth Century U.S. History. Students are involved in simulations, research, and other special projects. Composition skills are emphasized.

ENG 401A - ENGLISH IV - CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Grade: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

This course will involve examining a number of literary works including poems, essays, short stories, novellas, and novels to illustrate the social and philosophical underpinnings of our contemporary human existence.

ENG 401B - ENGLISH IV - SENIOR COMPOSITION

Grade: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Students in this course will learn expository, research, and creative writing. This course will also focus on the development of vocabulary, literary analysis, and logical thinking.

ENG 401C - ENGLISH IV - WORLD LITERATURE

Grade: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Students in this course will study an array of world literature, including poetry, short stories, novels, and drama. Emphasis will be on developing analytical reading and writing skills.

ENG 402H - ENGLISH IV - SHAKESPEARE

Grade: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This course deals with the author's historical, tragic, and comedic plays, as well as his sonnets. Emphasis will be placed upon critical writing that demonstrates a clear understanding of Shakespearean themes and conventions. This course requires the permission and/or recommendation of the faculty involved.

ENG 403H - ENGLISH IV - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Grade: 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: English III - Honors and / or teacher recommendation

This course fulfills senior composition requirements upon completion of the entire year. Students in this challenging course will prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam. Critical reading and in-class writing skills are emphasized. Because of the mature reading level, honor students who are interested in this course may wish to review the reading list. Only students planning to take the Advanced Placement Exam should take this course.

ENG 404A - AP SENIOR ENGLISH 1 - HONORS

Grade: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This course will continue the study of poetry introduced in AP Junior English 2. A Shakespearean play and two or three novels and/or plays will be included in the literature requirements. Students will study Chaucer, sixteenth century poetry, and other pre-eighteenth century literature. Students will be required to write a minimum of three lengthy essays of literary analysis, in addition to a personal essay appropriate for college applications.

ENG 404B - AP SENIOR ENGLISH 2 - HONORS

Grade: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

AP English 2 is a course designed to help students sharpen their analytical skills and to structure their review of literature in preparation for the challenging AP Exam in Literature and Composition. The course includes analysis of various types of literature, such as poetic explication, as well as the study of techniques involved in the writing of timed essays of analysis. Students are expected to read well and employ composition skills with a high level of competence before entering this course. Students will write approximately one essay per week and reread and analyze six to eight works of literary merit in the first quarter of the course. In the five weeks preceding the exam, students will complete a variety of activities intended to prepare them for the rigorous examination. Following the AP exam, the students complete independent projects related to literature.

ENG 011C - JOURNALISM I

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semester 10 Credits or 10 Elective Credits

Prerequisite: Completed application and teacher recommendation

This course will teach students basic journalism skills. Writing design and layout is emphasized. This course is a prerequisite for Journalism II.

ENG 012C - JOURNALISM II

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semester 10 Credits or 10 Elective Credits

Prerequisite: Completed application

Course may be repeated for credit but not for grade change.

This course will meet computer technology proficiency requirement upon completion of the entire year. This course will implement the skills learned in Journalism I by publishing the school newspaper.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

ESL 101C - BEGINNING ESL

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semester 10 Credits or 20 Elective Credits

Prerequisite: Placement by language assessment

This course may be repeated for credit but not for grade change.

This course is for students whose English experience is very limited. The focus is on language acquisition. Emphasis is on functional vocabulary, basic grammar, listening, and oral skills. Reading, writing, and study skills are introduced. Students enroll for 3 hours of ESL daily.

ESL 102C - INTERMEDIATE ESL

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semester 10 Credits or 10 Elective Credits

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Beginning ESL, intermediate level on language assessment measures, or teacher recommendation

This course may be repeated for credit but not for grade change.

This course is for students whose English experience is limited yet functional. The focus is on more specific/specialized vocabulary and more complex grammar structures. Emphasis is on written expression and reading; however, speaking and listening skills continue to be developed. Study skills are further defined and refined. Students enroll for two hours of ESL daily.

ESL 103C - ADVANCED ESL

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semester 10 Credits or 10 Elective Credits

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Intermediate ESL, advanced level on language assessment measures, or teacher recommendation

This course may be repeated for credit but not for grade change.

This course is for students whose English (speaking, reading, and writing) skills are generally good. The focus is on listening, reading, writing, and speaking, especially as these skills are used to acquire and communicate ideas. Emphasis is on establishing fluency in writing and speaking, along with sharpening reading and listening comprehension. Students enroll for one hour of ESL.

EXCELSIOR SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FINE ARTS

FRT 201 - INTRODUCTION TO ART

Grades: 10, 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None, may be repeated for a maximum of two semesters

This course provides instruction in two and three-dimensional art forms. Students will be given the opportunity to develop their skills in drawing, painting and perspective. Design will be investigated through problem solving activities such as printmaking, sculpture and paper mache. This course is designed to accommodate beginning art students and promises to be challenging to the most experienced. It prepares students for advanced classes.

FRT 101A - ART & DESIGN I

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to basic principles and elements of design. It involves right brain drawing techniques emphasizing line, positive/negative space, perspective, value, texture, lettering, and portrait proportion utilizing pencil, pen and ink, and various other media.

FRT 101B - ART & DESIGN II

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: Art & Design I

This course adds color in a variety of media and further develops composition using elements and principles of design. Subjects include color graphics, life drawing, landscape, still life, portrait and experimental media.

FRT 301A - PAINTING I

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: Art & Design I and II

This course is for the serious art student who wishes to learn the tools, techniques, and processes of watercolor, acrylic, oil and other various painting media. Historic and current artists are studied to learn about style, subject matter, and composition.

FRT 301B - PAINTING II

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: Painting I and instructor recommendation

This course will continue the study of painting techniques with a concentration in student-generated subject matter based on independent student-teacher contracts. Students will work on thematic development, in-depth media exploration and/or student generated problems and solutions.

FRT 302 - ART HISTORY

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Art History will cover some of the earliest efforts man made to create art. We will look at these efforts chronologically from cave paintings to the early twentieth century. Students will participate in the following activities for each unit: slide-illustrated lecture, class and small group discussions, and reading and writing assignments based on textbook and supplementary sources. Students will be required to visit one art museum by the end of the semester.

FRT 303H - AP HISTORY OF ART - HONORS

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Advanced Placement History of Art will trace the development of man's artistic accomplishments from prehistory to the present. Emphasis will be placed on learning to analyze art in terms of its visual nature, as well as being able to understand and describe the time frame and cultural situation from which a work of art was produced. This course will be conducted in the manner of a college level art history survey. It is recommended that students who elect this course have advanced skills in reading, writing and discussion. Students who pass the Advanced Placement examination in the History of Art may earn college credits and/or advanced placement in college art courses. To enroll in the AP History of Art class, students need a letter of acceptance from the instructor. Museum field trips are required.

FRT 202 - DRAWING

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Art & Design I and II

This course is designed as a comprehensive understanding, appreciation, and exploration of drawing, both wet and dry media in perspective, landscape, portrait, still-life, and figure drawing. Historical aspects, contemporary trends, and art criticism included.

FRT 304 - MUSIC HISTORY AND APPRECIATION

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course will follow music from its early beginnings to current trends. Listening skills, basic theory, and historical perspectives are among the many facets of music appreciation to be covered. Creative participation is encouraged and field trips will be included.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

FLS 101 - FRENCH I

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course emphasizes oral communication in French with close attention to basic grammar and vocabulary. Development of reading and listening comprehension is accomplished through short readings and the presentation of auditory stimuli via audio and visual media. Students will begin to write original paragraphs in the second semester. Students are introduced to the culture of French speaking countries.

FLS 201 - FRENCH II

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: French I

This course continues to emphasize the skills taught in French I. Reading comprehension and oral communication skills continue to be an integral part of the program. At this level vocabulary building is emphasized through listening, reading, writing and speaking. Students also continue their study of Francophone culture.

FLS 301 - FRENCH III

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: French II

In this course emphasis in the class is placed on the mechanics of French which will enable the student of think and speak clearly in the language. Students will write compositions, study French culture, and prepare oral presentations. Selections from various French authors such as St. Exupery, Camus, and Sartre will be studied. Some sections may be designated honors.including poems, essays, short stories, novellas, and novels to illustrate the social and philosophical underpinnings of our contemporary human existence.

FLS 401H - FRENCH IV

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: French III

This course will continue to refine skills acquired in French III. Emphasis will be on conversation, writing skills and a general grammar review. Literary studies of works by Sartre, Ionesco, and Sagon will also be included.

FLS 402H - AP FRENCH IV - HONORS

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: French III

Advanced Placement French 4 is designed to further develop oral and written language skills covered in preceding years. It is the equivalent of a third-year college course in French composition and grammar, with emphasis on both formal and conversational situations. The study of French literature and culture is stressed. Students enrolling in Advanced Placement Foreign Language should have attained reasonable proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Since they must speak the foreign language as part of the AP exam, students must be willing to participate in a mostly communicative classroom situation.

FLS 102 - MANDARIN I

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Replacement Test

This course is designed to introduce students to Mandarin Chinese through a communication-based approach. The course provides practice in listening for comprehension and practice in speaking by the use of basic sentence patterns and an emphasis on good pronunciation. Students will acquire the essential Mandarin language survival skills needed to function at a minimum in the classroom and in the target community.

They will also be introduced to the culture, the Pin Yin phonetic system and the simplified written form of Chinese characters.

FLS 103 - MANDARIN II

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Mandarin I

The course builds on the skills developed in Mandarin 1, emphasizing more extensive practice in listening and speaking skills through the use of basic sentence patterns, helping students develop mastery of the basics of oral and written Mandarin. Vocabulary building plays a greater role in increasing communication skills.

FLS 202 - MANDARIN III

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Mandarin II

This course further develops speaking and listening skills, and provides reinforcement of language learned in the first two years of instruction. It stresses continued expansion of vocabulary and strengthening of reading

and writing skills. A Chinese dictionary is used extensively. Readings and audio-visual materials expose students to Chinese culture and civilization.

FLS 302H - MANDARIN IV

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Mandarin III

Mandarin 4 further develops listening and reading comprehension skills as well as speaking and writing ability. The course increases students' understanding of Chinese through extensive reading of modern and classical literature, newspapers, and magazines. Emphasis is placed on in-depth study of Chinese culture. The course is conducted in Mandarin.

FLS 403H - MANDARIN V - HONORS

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Mandarin IV

Students will read and discuss significant literature, poetry, prose and fiction by Chinese authors from Mainland China, Taiwan and overseas Chinese communities. Focus will be on developing students' critical thinking ability and using appropriate oral and written language styles in various contexts. In addition, students will learn to understand native customs, values and attitudes in social and professional situations.

FLS 104 - SPANISH I

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Extensive oral practice emphasizing communication and application of grammatical structures in oral patterns comprise the basis for this course. Students are introduced to the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. In the second semester the students will begin to write original paragraphs and to read more extensively in the target language.

FLS 105 - SPANISH II

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Spanish II continues to emphasize the skills taught in Spanish I. Reading comprehension and oral communication skills continue to be an integral part of the program. At this level much emphasis is placed upon the instruction of the various Spanish verb tenses. In preparation for the more advanced courses, the students utilize their knowledge of original paragraph writing to develop compositions. They also continue their study of Hispanic culture. One section will be designated honors.

FLS 203 - SPANISH III

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Spanish II

The Spanish III emphasis will be placed on the mechanics of the Spanish language which will enable the student to think and speak clearly in Spanish. The student will be required to prepare numerous oral presentations and write several essays and reports.

FLS 303H - SPANISH IV

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Spanish III

This course focuses on the refinement of speaking and listening skills. Much work is devoted to the study of authentic materials, such as newspapers and advertisements. The readings, which include short stories and poems, are used to increase vocabulary and cultural knowledge, as a springboard for oral and written communication.

EXCELSIOR SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FLS 404H - AP SPANISH IV

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Spanish III

Advanced Placement Spanish Language is the equivalent of a third-year college course in advanced Spanish composition and grammar. The course emphasizes the use of Spanish for active communication. Dedication to speaking, listening, and reading Spanish in and outside the classes are necessary for success in the course and on the AP test. The AP Spanish Language Examination administered in May assesses the achievement of students by evaluating their level of performance in the use of the language. Students are required to demonstrate achievement by understanding written and spoken Spanish and by writing and speaking easily in correct and idiomatic Spanish.

GUIDANCE & COUNSELING

GUC 201C - COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course is for students who wish to do volunteer work without pay in the community. This is excellent training for students interested in careers in business or social service and for students who want to make a difference for others. Students receive 5 credits for 90 hours per semester. Students attend class on campus once a week during the semester and the rest of the time is spent at the volunteer site. Students must complete a log prior to receiving credit. A grade of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory will be assigned at the completion of the course.

GUC 101C - LEADERSHIP DYNAMICS

Grades: 9,10, 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This class will provide students an opportunity to explore and experience school leadership. Students will study the theories, attributes, and impact of good leadership. Talents, skills, and tools necessary for productive leadership will be practiced through a variety of campus and community involved projects and activities. Important world leaders, interpersonal skills, public speaking, planning, goal setting, facilitation, local leadership, campus leadership, shared decision making, business, government, future leading careers, and diversity will be included in the class curriculum. The student will have access to technology resources such as power point, Internet, and college and career search programs.

MATHEMATICS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Four semesters (20 units) of math are required for graduation. Beginning with the graduating class of 2004, students must pass one year of Algebra 1 as part of their 20 credits of math required for graduation. Students can meet this new Algebra 1 requirement by completing the year course titled Algebra 1 or the three-semester Algebra G program.

PREREQUISITES

In order to be admitted to any math class, a student must have a "rising C

average" in the preceding course. This requires a "C" average and at least a "C" in the last semester of the class. A few math classes require a "B" average, and/or teacher recommendation; see the course descriptions below for these exceptions. Please note that for Algebra G, all three semester grades are averaged together.

Example: If an algebra student earns a grade of "D" in the fall and then a "B" in the spring, he/she may go on to geometry since both a "C" average and at least a "C" was earned in the last semester. However, if a "B" is earned in the fall and a "D" in spring, the student may NOT go on because a grade of "C" was not earned in the last semester of the class, even though the average grade is a "C."

Math classes may be taken over the summer to improve a grade in a previous class in order to meet the prerequisite. All work must be done at an ACCREDITED school and students must submit an official transcript of completed work.

MAH 101 - INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA

Grades: 9,10, 11 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course prepares students to take Algebra, and thus covers all of the fundamental arithmetic skills using the set of real numbers, plus incorporates use of variables and variable expressions. Topics also include data analysis, probability, and simple functions. Problems are presented in context, and students are expected to read, interpret and respond both orally and in writing.

MAT 401 - INVESTIGATING MATH 2

Grades: 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Completion of one-year high school math

This course is designed for seniors who have completed Introduction to Algebra or who have attempted Algebra 1 or Algebra 1G without success. Topics covered can vary to help meet the needs of a variety of students.

MAT 102 - ALGEBRA 1

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: 8th grade math or Intro to Algebra with a rising "C" average

Algebra 1 covers the fundamental properties of the real number system. Topics include simplifying algebraic expressions, laws of exponents, solving first and second-degree linear equations and inequalities, solving systems of equations and inequalities, functions and function notation, graphs of linear and quadratic functions, radical equations, ratio and proportion, and the quadratic formula. Many problems are presented in context and students are required to read, interpret and respond.

MAT 103 - ALGEBRA 1G1, 1G2, 1G3

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 3 Semester 15 Credits

Prerequisite: First semester of Introduction to Algebra with an A or B, and a teacher recommendation

This three-semester course covers the same material as Algebra 1 (301) but at a slower pace. Students who have mastered the necessary skills in the Introduction to Algebra class in the Fall semester may take Algebra 1G1 starting in the Spring, and then complete the Algebra G series the next year.

MAT 104 - GEOMETRY

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 with a rising "C" average

Geometry is the study of points, lines and areas in a single plane with extensions into three-dimensional space. Emphasis is also placed on creating a consistent set of axioms and using deductive reasoning to derive theorems. Students need to have a strong foundation in algebraic concepts.

MAT 105H - GEOMETRY - HONORS

Grades: 9 **2 Semester** **10 Credits Weighted Grade**
Prerequisite: Algebra 1 with a grade of "B" or higher, and Teacher recommendation

Geometry honors cover the same material as Geometry 311 and investigates many concepts more fully. Students are expected to solve more complex and sophisticated problems, with an intensive emphasis on proofs.

MAT 201 - ALGEBRA 2

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 **2 Semester** **10 Credits**
Prerequisite: Geometry with a rising "C" average

A further study of Algebra, this course includes higher degree equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, complex numbers conic sections, probability, sequences and series, and an introduction to trigonometry.

MAT 202H - ALGEBRA 2 - HONORS

Grades: 9, 10 **2 Semester** **10 Credits Weighted Grade**
Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Geometry H with a grade of "A," and teacher recommendation and qualifying grade on entrance exam

This honors-level course is similar to Algebra 2, but also includes more trigonometry and analytical geometry. Problems are generally more difficult and may require insight, creativity and visualization as well as exceptional algebra and geometry skills.

MAT 301- MATH ANALYSIS

Grades: 10, 11, 12 **2 Semester** **10 Credits**
Prerequisite: Algebra 2 with a rising "C" average

This course prepares the student for Calculus. Topics covered include an in-depth study of all the elementary functions, inverse functions, conic sections, matrices and determinants, higher degree polynomial functions, logarithmic and exponential functions, sequences and series, math induction and an in-depth study of trigonometry.

MAT 302H - PRE-CALCULUS - HONORS

Grades: 10, 11 **2 Semester** **10 Credits Weighted Grade**
Prerequisite: Algebra 2H with "B" or higher, and teacher recommendation

The course content is similar to Math Analysis, but material is covered at a faster pace. The 3-semester sequence of Algebra 2H and Pre-Calculus covers the same material found in the 4-semester sequence of Algebra 2 and Math Analysis. Pre-Calculus is offered only in the fall term.

MAT 402 - CALCULUS (Introductory Calculus)

Grades: 12 **2 Semester** **10 Credits**
Prerequisite: Math Analysis with a rising "C" average

This class will cover the traditional calculus concepts of limits, derivatives and integrals, plus an intense review of pre-requisite material. Each of these ideas will be examined numerically, graphically, verbally, as well as analytically to enhance understanding. Students will complete projects and experiments using the graphing calculator and other technology. Calculus is designed as an alternative to Advanced Placement Calculus A and B, for students who do not want the demands of an AP class and want a head start on college calculus. The entire AP Calculus curriculum will not be covered in this course.

MAT 403H - CALCULUS A (AP and HONORS)

Grades: 10, 11, 12 **1 Semester** **5 Credits Weighted Grade**
Prerequisite: Math Analysis with a rising "C" average or Pre-Calculus with a rising "C" average

This one semester class is the beginning of calculus. Topics covered include functions, limits, continuity, and differentiation rules for elementary functions, trig functions, logarithmic and exponential functions. Applications of the derivative are covered extensively. An introduction to the definite integral and integration are also included.

MAT 404H - CALCULUS B (AP)

Grades: 11, 12 **1 Semester** **5 Credits Weighted Grade**
Prerequisite: Completion of Calculus A with a rising "C" average

This course includes a thorough study of integral calculus, covering a variety of integration techniques, as well as many different applications of the definite integral, such as area and volume. This course also includes extensive work in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in May, of which successful completion may allow students to earn college credit. [Note: This course is intended for students who have not yet taken the AP Calculus BC exam.]

MAT 405H - CALCULUS C (AP)

Grades: 11, 12 **1 Semester** **5 Credits Weighted Grade**
Prerequisite: Completion of Calculus A and B with a rising "C" average

Topics covered in include simple differential equations, exponential and logistic growth, parametric and polar functions, vectors, and infinite series. This course also includes extensive work in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in May, of which successful completion may allow students to earn college credit. [Note: This course is intended for students who have not yet taken the AP Calculus BC exam.]

COMPUTER SCIENCE

COM101 - COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Grades: 9, 10, 11 **1 Semester** **5 Credits**
Prerequisite: None

This class is for the student who wants a basic introduction to the Windows operating system. Improving keyboarding skills and learning word processing, spreadsheets, and a basic Web structure are the class focuses. Students completing this course have a good foundation in computer literacy and can move on to additional computer courses.

COM 102 - COMPUTER SCIENCE

Grades: 9, 10, 11 **1 Semester** **5 Credits**
Prerequisite: None

This class will emphasize a variety of areas. Students will begin with computer literacy and the Windows environment. Desktop applications including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint will be covered. Students will progress to web page production including html, frames, and other advanced topics.

EXCELSIOR SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PERFORMING ARTS

PRT101 - INTRODUCTION TO INSTRUMENTS

Grades: 9, 10, 11 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Students in this beginning instrument course can hone their instrumental skills and improve their musicianship in preparation for entrance into one of the more advanced instrumental groups. Entrance into this class is dependent upon enrollment numbers and classroom space. Currently, this class meets in the spring semester.

PRT201H - AP MUSIC THEORY - HONORS

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Students must have the ability to read and write musical notation; permission of instructor

AP Music Theory covers the first year of college work in music theory and is designed for students of the musical structure. The curriculum introduces the student to musicianship, theory, musical material, procedures, and to some extent, history and style. Emphasis is placed on integrating melodic, harmonic, textural, rhythmic, and formal aspects of music. Musicianship skills such as dictation and other listening skills, sight singing, and keyboard harmony are considered and important part of the theory course. The goal of this course is to develop a student's ability to recognize and understand the basic materials and processes of music that is heard or read in the score, providing a solid foundation in intervals, scales, chords, patterns and terms used to describe the elements of music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PED 101A - FRESHMAN PE

Grades: 9 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Students will participate in four major sport areas; soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. Along with these sports, students will participate on a daily basis in cardiovascular fitness, upper body strength, abdominal strength, and flexibility. Once a week, students will participate in a weight training program. A Wellness Report Card is completed and mailed composition, blood pressure, lung capacity, and their scores on the following fitness tests: mile run, curl-ups, sit and reach, and, push-ups. Each week, students will be offered instruction in Health, covering such topics as lifestyle appraisal, nutrition, diet analysis, the skeletal system, first aid, and CPR.

PED 101B - FRESHMAN PE

Grades: 9 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Students will participate in four major sport areas; basketball, football, softball and swimming. A one week aquatics seminar will be offered to those students who are interested in snorkeling and kayaking. Along with these sports, students will continue to work on improving their cardiovascular fitness, upper body strength, abdominal strength, and flexibility through daily activities. They will also be tested in the following skill-related fitness areas: agility, balance, hand-eye coordination, and power. Students will continue to utilize the weight room once a week. Health topics this semester will include tobacco, alcohol, drugs, teen sexuality, AIDS and HIV.

PED 201A - SOPHOMORE PE

Grades: 10 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Students will continue to develop skills acquired during their freshman year and will be exposed to new activities. The primary emphasis of the sophomore curriculum is individual and dual sports, with badminton and swimming as required core activities. Three or four days a week, students will participate in team or individual sports activities. They will have a choice of two activities throughout the semester from the following selections: basketball, football, softball, and field sports. In addition, one or two days a week, students will participate in personal fitness and weight training.

PED 201B - SOPHOMORE PE

Grades: 10 1 Semester 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Students will continue to participate three or four days a week in dual, team, and individual sports with golf and tennis as required core activities, choosing two of the following selections: track & field, outdoor education, soccer, and volleyball. In addition, one or two days a week the student will participate in weight training and personal fitness.

SCIENCE

SCI 101 - BIOLOGY

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Enrolled in Algebra 1 or Algebra G series or a more advanced math course.

Biology is a balanced approach serving both the college preparatory liberal arts student and the science student requiring a college preparatory course in biology. The central theme is molecular rather than anatomical or systems. The course provides an accurate, modern background to help the student understand the biological issues. Critical topics include DNA, evolution, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, energy and reproduction. The student is expected to develop scientific thinking, a reasoned approach to problem solving and an understanding of the role science plays in daily lives.

SCI 201H - AP BIOLOGY - HONORS

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 1 with a "B" or higher; Completion of Biology with an "A". Completion of Algebra 1 with a "B" or higher; Completion of Biology with an "A".

Students will study materials presented in a rigorous, biochemical oriented, introductory college biology course which stresses basic biological principles, problem solving and laboratory experiences. The course includes a study of molecules and cells; genetics, evolution, organisms and populations. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement Biology examination in May.

SCI 102 - CHEMISTRY

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits

Prerequisite: Freshman and Sophomore 3.0 GPA overall; Freshman and Sophomore completion of Algebra 1 with "B" or higher. Juniors/Seniors - completion of Algebra 1 with a "C" or higher

Chemistry is a balanced approach serving both the liberal arts and science student requiring a college preparatory course in chemistry. Students will develop basic foundations in atomic structure, atomic periodicity, bond structure, chemical formulation, and nomenclature culminating in solving stoichiometric equations. The course also includes the study of gases, solutions, and rates of reactions and their temperatures.

SCI 202H - CHEMISTRY HONORS - HONORS

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: Sophomore must have a "B" or higher in Geometry Honors. Junior and Senior must have received a "B" or higher in Geometry

Honors Chemistry is designed for the student who wishes to study a college level chemistry course without the constraints imposed by AP Chemistry. This course is taught using a college freshmen text providing a foundation for students entering engineering, health sciences, mathematics, or science as a career. The course includes an in-depth study of gases, solutions, and rates of reactions and their temperatures. Quantitative and qualitative observations are made on both small scale and macro scale systems in chemistry. Students will develop basic foundations in atomic structure, atomic periodicity, bond structure, chemical formulation, and nomenclature culminating in solving stoichiometric equations.

SCI 301H - AP CHEMISTRY - HONORS

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: Completion of Chemistry (with an "A"), Chemistry Honors, Physics Honors, or AP Physics (with at least a "B") in both semesters

AP Chemistry is a full year elective course designed to be equivalent to a first year college level general chemistry course, emphasizing the mathematical basis for chemical phenomena. Due to the lengthy and complex nature of the laboratory experiments performed in the course, students planning to take AP Chemistry need to have a strong background in science and mathematics, and be willing to devote extra time outside the classroom. This course will provide an excellent background for students who wish to pursue science majors in college. Topics covered include structure and states of matter, reactions, and descriptive chemistry. Emphasis is placed on independent learning, strong communication skills and mathematical reasoning. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement Chemistry Exam in May.

SCI 203 - PHYSICS

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits
Prerequisite: Completion of both semesters of Geometry or a more advanced math course at Excelsior with a "C" or higher. Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2 or Math Analysis is not required, but is encouraged

Students investigate the following topics: energy, forces, motion and matter at a college preparatory level of analysis. Laboratory activities are designed to lead to discovery and appreciation of concepts in these areas.

SCI 204H - PHYSICS HONORS - HONORS

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: Sophomores who have completed Geometry Honors with a "B" or higher. Juniors and seniors who have completed Geometry or a more advanced math course at Excelsior with a "B" or higher. Algebra 2 is not required for enrollment, but is strongly recommended. Concurrent enrollment in Math Analysis is encouraged

Honors Physics is designed for students who wish to approach a college level physics course without the constraints imposed by AP Physics. This course addresses physics topics as rigorously as possible without the use of calculus, so a sound functional grasp of fundamental algebra is essential. Honors Physics provides a foundation for students entering engineering, health sciences, mathematics, or other sciences as a career. Qualitative and quantitative observations and measurements of physical systems involving interactions between matter and energy are made in the course of laboratory investigations. The extent of these investigations, and student responsibility for lab procedure design and execution, is greater than would be found in the standard college preparatory Physics course. The features of the physical systems studied include mass, motion, force, work, heat, sound, light, and electricity.

SCI 302H - AP PHYSICS - HONORS

Grades: 10, 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: Completed Algebra 2 Honors with a "B" or Algebra 2 with an "A"

The AP Physics course provides a systematic introduction to the main topics of physics and strongly emphasizes the development of problem-solving ability. It is assumed that the student is very familiar with Algebra 2 and Trigonometry. In most colleges, this is a one-year course and is not the usual preparation for more advanced physics and engineering courses. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement Physics examination in May. To remain in AP Physics, a student must earn a "C" or above in the first semester.

SCI 303 - ENVIRONMENTAL CROSS-AGE SCIENCE

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits
Prerequisite: Must have completed one year of lab science (biology, chemistry, or physics) and have an interest in science, environmental issues, and instruction of middle and elementary students.

This semester class offers students the opportunity to develop labs and activities for the elementary and middle school student. These activities will be planned, developed, and taught by the students in the class, and presented throughout the semester to the younger students. Themes will include energy, systems, scale and structure, and patterns of change, all touching upon environmental issues. Class time will include lesson preparation, development of instructional strategies, teaching students at the middle and elementary schools, and evaluations of their performance. The high school student will develop a portfolio containing lesson plans, presentations, labs, and evaluations.

SCI 304H - AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - HONORS

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: must have completed both a biology and either a chemistry or physics course with an "A" in one and at least a "B" in the other. If AP or Honors has been taken and a "B" earned, the "A" requirement is waived

AP Environmental Science is an elective intended for students interested in using scientific principles to understand the human impact on the environment. Students investigate the following topics: human population dynamics, environmental quality, renewable-nonrenewable resources, global changes, their consequences, environment, society, interdependence of Earth's systems, and the choices for the future.

EXCELSIOR SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIAL SCIENCE

SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR AP and HONORS Social Science Classes

DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION A

An entering sophomore must request permission from a counselor to take the course. The counselor will make a determination based on the student's English and Modern World History grade, whether or not he/she should be placed in Honors:

1. B in English
2. B in Modern World History
3. 3.30 over-all GPA

AP US HISTORY

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: Sophomore students who enroll in AP US History should meet the following criteria:

- A minimum grade of "B" in Modern World.
- A minimum grade of "B" in Development of Civilization A (Honors) or PAC RIM International Studies Honors.
- A minimum grade of "B" in English Honors or "B" in College Prep English.
- An overall GPA of 3.5.
- Advanced writing and language skills.
- Teacher recommendation where appropriate.

To remain in AP American History, a student must maintain a C average in the course.

AP GOVERNMENT

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade
Junior students who are interested in enrolling in AP Government must apply for the course in the Spring before their senior year with the AP Government instructor.

All students applying for AP Government will have their transcripts reviewed. Special consideration will be given to students with a GPA of 3.5 or better, and with grades in previous Social Science and English courses of B or better.

All AP Government applicants must receive a "B" or better in Development of Civilization A and in AP U.S. History. For those students transferring from another school or those who do not take Development of Civilization A or AP U.S. History, they will be required to take and pass a reading and an essay exam.

To remain in AP Government, a student must maintain good attendance and a "C" average in the course.

STY 201 - MODERN WORLD HISTORY

Grades: 10 2 Semester 10 Credits
Prerequisite: None

This course is the study of significant movements, events and ideologies from the Enlightenment to the present day as they are reflected in world literature and historical sources.

STY 202 -DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Grades: 10, 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits
Prerequisite: None

A study of human's development from prehistoric time through the Age of Discovery, including Egypt, Middle East, Greece, Rome, medieval society, the Renaissance and Reformation. Focus will be on the contributions of the many different peoples to Western Society.

STY 301 - AMERICAN EXPERIENCE-HISTORY

Grades: 11 2 Semester 10 Credits
Prerequisite: None

This course is an interdisciplinary program for juniors in American Literature and US History. Integrating the two disciplines into a single course offers the potential for an enriching and enlightening curriculum as students and instructors explore the American experience together.

STY 302 - 20th CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits
Prerequisite: None

This course traces the development of the United States from the Spanish American War to the present. Students will review the significant factors responsible for the emergence of the United States as a major world leader.

STY 303H - AP US HISTORY - HONORS

Grades: 11, 12 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor based on written application and recommendation of English teacher. See prerequisite list at beginning of the social science section

AP US History is an advanced college level course, which emphasizes research, writing, and discussion. Students, who complete this course and perform successfully on the Advanced Placement Exam in May, may earn college credit from a participating college or university.

STY 304H - 20th CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY - HONORS

Grades: 11 2 Semester 10 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation. See prerequisite list at beginning of the social science section

This course is designed to increase student understanding of the American people through study questions directed to social, historical, and cultural events. Study will begin with short review sections covering events to 1890, then will focus on turn of the century, to present day in more comprehensive units.

STY 401 - ECONOMICS

Grades: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits
Prerequisite: None

Students study fundamental economic concepts such as scarcity, opportunity costs and trade-offs, productivity, economic systems, economic institutions and incentives. The course will also include such microeconomics concepts as market and prices, supply and demand, competition and market structure, income distribution and the role of government. Macroeconomics concepts include international trade, unemployment, inflation and deflation, and fiscal and monetary policy.

STY 402 - CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Grades: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits
Prerequisite: None

This course is a survey of the U.S. Federal System at the National, State and local levels. Students study the U.S. Constitution and examine American political, social, economic and legal systems. The economic and political systems of the major countries of the world are compared and contrasted with those of the US.

STY 403H - AP CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT - HONORS

Grades: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor based on written application and recommendation of English teacher. See Social Science prerequisites for AP and Honors classes

This is an accelerated course in the American Governmental System. Included is a thorough examination of these aspects of our government: The Constitution, fundamental rights, political system and major governmental institutions. The course prepares students for the May Advanced Placement American Government Exam.

STY 404H - AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT - HONORS

Grades: 12 1 Semester 5 Credits Weighted Grade
Prerequisite: "B" or higher in AP US History and overall GPA of 3.3 or Teacher Recommendation

This course will encompass a comparative study of the governments of four core nations, Great Britain, France, China, and Russia, along with a fifth developing nation of India, Mexico or Nigeria. A comparative study requires an understanding of five major areas of the select nations: sources of public authority and political power, the relationship of the citizen to the state, the political institutions and framework, the relationship between social and economic classes, and the state, and the sources, scope, and consequences of political change. In addition, students will be taught basic methodology essential to the comparative study of politics. Thus offering the college bound student a greater understanding of modern world affairs. The course prepares students for the May Advanced Placement Exam.

REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM (ROP)

ROP 301 - BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to provide students with the skills to be successful in a business of their own. Study will include business opportunities, salesmanship, presentation of merchandise, business plans, sales promotion, marketing, personnel, financial knowledge, laws, licenses, permits, and insurance.

ROP 302 - OFFICE TECHNOLOGY

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to train students for entry-level positions in the business/clerical area. Students may choose to be placed at a community classroom site for additional training.

ROP 303 - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits
Prerequisite: None

This class is designed to provide students with the skills to be successful in a business of their own. Students will develop business skills during classroom sessions and while working in the high school student store, The Trading Post. Students must agree to work four shifts per week in the student store. Ten credits will be earned, five for class work and five for participation at the Trading Post. Student attendance and behavior is regularly reviewed.

ROP 304 - WORK EXPERIENCE

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits
Prerequisite: Must have a job

Must have a job food, retail, or office occupations - gives special attention to students who are currently working. A knowledge of customer relations, career advancement, safe work habits, tax preparation, and terminology used in the industry will be stressed.

ROP 305 - RETAIL MARKETING

Grades: 11, 12 1 Semester 5 Credits
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to provide students with the necessary skills for entry-level employment in merchandising and retail sales occupations. Students will acquire knowledge of basic sales techniques, cash register training, sales promotions, stock keeping and inventory control, and hands-on experience in the retail merchandising setting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Excelsior School

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Admission Office

Phone: 626-623-6339 ; 626-623-6337 (Chinese)
Fax: 626-623-6293
Email: admission@excelsiorschool.com

Director of Academic Programs

Phone: 626-623-6334
Email: principal@excelsiorschool.com

Director of International Students

Phone: 626-623-6331
Email: katherinekuo@excelsiorschool.com

Schedule a Visit:

Phone: 626-623-6339
Email: admin.asst@excelsiorschool.com

Social Links



APPLY ONLINE

www.ExcelsiorSchool.com / Admissions.html

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented herein. However, all information is subject to change. Please check with the school administrative department or website for the most up-to-date information.



EXCELSIOR SCHOOL
COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
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