

Brigsdale High School

Course Descriptions

ENGLISH

Requirement: All students shall complete 4 credits of English

Course: English I
Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th Grade
Prerequisite: None

English I is a literature based program using the textbook as the primary resource. Selections allow students to be exposed to multiple genres and to classical as well as modern authors. Discussions and assignments promote critical thinking and focused writing. Class novels provide students with the opportunity to experience complete stories, discuss viewpoints, and become more knowledgeable about character, symbolism, imagery, theme, and figurative language. The novels require a more sustained focus from students which is beneficial in many areas of study. Writing assignments develop focus and critical thinking, as well as comparing/contrasting classical and modern concepts. Personal choice novels give students the opportunity to explore different genres and writers and to enjoy reading. They also receive opportunities for public speaking through Book Talks. Hands-on creative assignments allow students to interpret what they read in a creative, multi-faceted approach. Second Semester final is a 3-5 page research paper which exposes students to the type of writing required in most college courses.

Course: English II
Duration: 1 year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 10th
Prerequisite: None

English II is a literature based program using the textbook as the primary resource. Selections allow students to be exposed to multiple genres and to classical as well as modern authors. Discussions and assignments promote critical thinking and focused writing. Class novels provide students with the opportunity to experience complete stories, discuss viewpoints, and become more knowledgeable about character, symbolism, imagery, theme, and figurative language. The novels require a more sustained focus from students which is beneficial in many areas of study. Writing assignments develop focus and critical thinking, as well as comparing/contrasting classical and modern concepts. Personal choice novels give students the opportunity to explore different genres and writers and to enjoy reading. They also receive opportunities for public speaking through Book Talks. Hands-on creative assignments allow students to interpret what they read in a creative, multi-faceted approach. Second semester final is 5-7 page research paper which requires students to use the style and citation format required by most college classes.

Course: Western Literature
Credit: One semester (.3 credits)
Grade Level: 11th & 12th Grades
Prerequisite: None

The Western Lit class provides an overview of literature from Europe, and the Middle East from the Sumerians, through the Greeks and Romans, the Renaissance, the Romantic Period, and 20th Century writers. Most of the selections are taken from the textbook, which also provides historical background. Discussions concerning the literature and its history are the main focus of this class. Writing activities include character studies, and critical writing concerning style, theme, plot, and figurative language. Class novels covered provide students with the opportunity to receive an in-depth experience of some of the literature of this time period. The focus is primarily on classical literature. Hands-on activities provide an in-depth focus and creative writing opportunities.

Course: American Literature
Duration: One semester 9.3 credits)
Grade Level: 11th & 12th Grades
Prerequisite: None

The American Literature class covers American writers from Native Americans through the 20th Century. Most of the selections are taken from the text, which also provides historical background. This class is largely discussion-focused due to the amount of information to be covered. At least one class novel is read, providing students with an in-depth experience of American writing. Hands-on activities provide an in-depth focus and creative writing opportunities. This class uses poetry as one of the writing choices and completes a Poetry Notebook as the culminating activity.

Foreign Languages

Requirement: Each student shall complete two years of foreign languages

Course: Spanish I
Duration: One year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

The first year Spanish course is designed to establish for the students a basic Spanish vocabulary by speaking, reading, writing and listening to Spanish. Students will learn to conjugate verbs, write simple sentences and paragraphs and read simple sentences and paragraphs. Students will learn about the history and culture of Mexico and development of the language. At the end of year one students will be able to converse in a beginning level.

Course: Spanish II
Duration: One year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9-12th Grade
Prerequisite: Spanish II

Designed to be taken after Spanish I, Spanish II will continue to enrich a student's vocabulary through speaking, reading, writing and listening to Spanish. Conjugating irregular verbs and writing multi-paragraph selections will be skills emphasized. By the end of the second year of Spanish, students will be able to converse verbally at an intermediate level.

MATHEMATICS

Requirement: Each student shall complete 3 credits of mathematics

Course: Pre-Algebra
Duration: 1 year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 Grades
Prerequisite: None

Students learn beginning skills for setting up and solving linear and rational equations and inequalities. The class covers statistical graphs and measures of central tendency as well as simple probability problems and looks at measurement, area, perimeter, and volume of simple plane and three dimensional figures.

Course: Algebra I
Duration: 1 year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 7-12 grades
Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or equivalent

Learning Algebra helps students grasp the tools that allow them to access more complex problems in the future. Algebra I includes the evaluation of expressions involving signed numbers, exponents, and roots; properties of real numbers; absolute value; equations and inequalities involving absolute value; scientific notation; solving equations with one and two variables; polynomials; functions; and probability. Topics mastered in this course provide the foundation for all further math classes.

Course: Geometry
Duration: 1 year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 Grades
Prerequisite: Algebra I

Students learn logic and reasoning skills through the use of proofs in a variety of situations while focusing on segments, lines, angles, and plane figures. Students also look at transformations, and concepts of perimeter, area, and volume of both plane and three dimensional figures.

Course: Algebra II
Duration: 1 year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 Grades
Prerequisite: Algebra I

Students will learn skills to set up, graph, and solve linear, quadratic, rational, polynomial, exponential and logarithmic equations and inequalities. This course also covers elementary concepts from statistics and probability and the use of trigonometric functions in problem solving.

Course: Advanced Math
Duration: 1 year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 Grades
Prerequisite: Algebra II

Students will improve on skills to set up, graph and solve linear, quadratic, rational, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic equations and inequalities. Students will also complete real world investigations and use mathematics software to complete technical writing in lab reports.

SCIENCE

Requirement: All students shall complete three years of science.

Courses: Physical Science
Duration: 1 year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 grades
Prerequisite: None

This course introduces the student to the sciences of chemistry, physics, and earth science through inquiry. In this lab based class, students will be asking questions and stating hypotheses that lead to different types of scientific investigations. Students will design, conduct, analyze and interpret data in order to formulate conclusions.

Courses: Biology
Duration: 1 year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 10-12 grades
Prerequisite: None

This course is a survey course in biological sciences. Emphasis will be placed on molecular and cellular biology, biochemical relationships, genetics, organisms and populations and ecology. Cellular topics such as transport, respiration, reproduction replication and development will be covered. In addition students will compare similarities and differences among cells representing six kingdoms. Students will learn a comparative focus to ways in which organisms from six kingdoms of life respond to changing conditions in their environment.

Courses: Chemistry
Duration: 1 year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 11 and 12 grades
Prerequisite: Algebra

This survey course will cover nine units of chemistry. Units are based on the text material, Colorado standards and national standards. Class will involve both labs and textbook work. Units to be covered include, matter and energy, the periodic table, ionic and covalent compounds, chemical reactions, states of matter, acids and bases, reaction rates, nuclear and biological chemistry. Throughout this course, labs will be used to enhance the conceptual study and reinforce the practice of the scientific method. Class is taught on an every other year basis.

Courses: Physics
Duration: 1 year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 11 and 12 grades
Prerequisite: Algebra, Geometry

In Physics, the students will be challenged to understand the basic concepts of Newtonian mechanics, relativity, the properties of matter, heat, light, sound, electricity and magnetism, atomic and nuclear physics. Throughout the course, labs will be used to enhance the conceptual study and reinforce the practices of the scientific method. Upon completion of this course, the students will be ready to enter freshman level college science courses. Class is taught on an every other year basis.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Requirement: Each student shall complete three years of social studies

Course: World History
Duration: One year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th Grade
Prerequisite: None

Students will become familiar with the history of Europe from the Middle Ages to World War I. Along with European history, students will learn about European influence on other regions of the world. Emphasis will be placed on the understanding of factors that create change throughout time. Research projects of historical figures will be completed throughout the year. Understanding of historical time periods will be displayed using a wide range of assignments, projects and assessments.

Course: American History
Duration: One year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 10th Grade
Prerequisite: None

Students will become familiar with the history of America from 1800 to 1960. Emphasis will be placed on discovering how American lives changed throughout time. An understanding as to why historical events took place will be mastered as well as an understanding as to how these events molded America into the country it is today. Students will study the cultural history of America to aid in their understanding of the influence of time periods on the American people.

Course: Geography
Duration: One year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

Students will examine the world through the study of five geographic themes of place, location, region, movement, and human/environmental interaction. The examination of current events will be required to better understand the worldwide challenges of today. Understanding of the geographic themes will be displayed in a wide range of assignments, projects and assessments.

Course: Civics
Duration: One year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

Students will become familiar with the workings of the American Government, the constitution and civil rights. Students will also be exposed to the responsibilities of citizenship. Emphasis will be placed on the origins of the American election process, voting procedures, career choices and personal finances. This course is designed for seniors so that those who turn 18 before Election Day may experience the voting procedure for the first time with some guidance.

Agriculture

Course: Introduction to Agriculture (Agriculture I)
Duration: 1 Year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 grades
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for students who are interested in agri-business, production agriculture, agriculture sales and services, agriculture marketing, agriculture mechanics, and agriculture finance. Emphasis will be placed on exploring careers available in agriculture, parliamentary procedure, public speaking, animal science, plant science and skill development in agriculture mechanics. Leadership development is included in the FFA. Students will begin a supervised agriculture experience program in the area of their choice.

Course: Intermediate Agriculture (Agriculture II)
Duration: 1 Year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 grades
**Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture with a passing grade of a D or better/
Instructor approval**

This course is designed to further the students' knowledge of intermediate agriculture. Agricultural business, accounting, computer applications, livestock science, plant science, soil science are covered in addition to agriculture mechanics. Increasing leadership opportunities are offered through the FFA, and each students supervised agriculture experienced program is strengthened.

Course: Agricultural Science
Duration: 1 Year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 grades
**Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture with a passing grade of a D or
better/Instructor approval**

This course is designed for students interested in studying Agricultural Sciences, or the application of scientific principals to the production of food and fiber and all services related there to. Areas of study will include: careers, animal nutrition, animal breeding and genetics, animal health, animal physiology, crop plant physiology, crop plant pests and diseases, soil and water conservation. FFA leadership skills and opportunities will continue and the supervised agriculture experience program is strengthened. Through tech prep initiative, students may receive advanced placement at Colorado post secondary institutions by passing a placement test upon completion of this course. Because of the complexity of the subject matter, this course will alternate curriculum content focus areas. On even numbered years, the curriculum will focus on animal sciences and on odd numbered years, the class will focus on environmental, plant and soil sciences.

Course: Agricultural Business
Duration: 1 Year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 grades
**Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture with a passing grade of a D or
better/Instructor approval**

This course is designed for students interested in studying the application of agricultural knowledge to services and business support production agriculture. Areas of study include: careers, finance, credit, investments and taxation, commodities, marketing, and economics. FFA leadership skills and opportunities will continue and the supervised agriculture experience program is strengthened. Because of the complexity of the subject matter, this course will alternate curriculum content focus areas. On even numbered years, the curriculum will focus on agriculture marketing and on odd numbered years, the class will focus on agriculture finance and credit.

Course: Agriculture Mechanics-Advanced (Agricultural Mechanics)
Duration: 1 Year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 grades
Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture with a passing grade of a D or better/Instructor approval

This class is designed for students interested in studying Agricultural Mechanics, or the application and adaptation of common mechanical skills to the industry of agriculture. Areas of study include: careers, safety, agriculture carpentry/construction concepts and practices, SMAW welding, oxyacetylene welding, cutting, GMAW welding, plasma arc and small group projects. FFA leadership skills and opportunities will continue and the supervised agriculture experience program is strengthened. Because of the complexity of the subject matter, this course will alternate curriculum content focus areas. On even numbered years, the curriculum will focus on metal fabrication and on odd numbered years, the class will focus on agriculture carpentry and construction.

Course: Horticulture-Basic (Horticulture)
Duration: 1 Year (1 Credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 grades
Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture with a passing grade of a D or better
Intermediate Agriculture with a passing grade of a D or better

This class is designed for students interested in studying Horticulture, or the application of common agricultural principles to the production, design, and marketing of cut flowers, vegetables, bedding plants, and landscaping materials and services. Areas of study include plant production cycles, plant nutrition, plant identification, floral design, landscape design, and green house facility design and operations. FFA leadership skills and opportunities will continue and the supervised agricultural experience program will be strengthened.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Requirement: Each student shall complete one credit of Consumer and Family Sciences

Course: Health
Duration: One semester (0.5 Credits)
Grade Level: 9th and 10th grades
Prerequisite: None

The focus of this course is to help students acquire academic knowledge and understanding in order to make healthy decisions during the teen years. Students explore the topics of self esteem, goal setting, peer pressure, drug and alcohol awareness, relationship decisions and responsibilities, teen health issues, and laws affecting teens. Emphasis is placed on teens as valued individuals who take responsibility for personal success and contribute to family and community well being.

Course: Nutrition and Wellness
Duration: One semester (0.5 Credits)
Grade Level: 9th – 12th grades
Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding and academic knowledge of characteristics that help them to develop individual lifelong healthy habits. Topics include wellness as a lifestyle, exercise and fitness, nutrition, and choosing wellness products and services. Emphasis is placed on implementing healthy nutritional choices, developing a fitness plan, differentiating between wellness myths and realities, integrating science principles as related to nutrition, and practicing wise consumer decisions.

Course: Relationships
Duration: One semester (0.5 Credits)
Grade Level: 11th and 12th grades
Prerequisite: None

In this course students acquire academic knowledge and understanding in order to recognize characteristics of healthy, respectful and caring relationships across the life span. Students explore individual and family relationships, communication skills, family structures, and dealing with crisis. Emphasis is placed on family dynamics, effective communication and healthy interpersonal relationships.

Course: Child Development
Duration: One semester (0.5 Credits)
Grade Level: 11th and 12th grades
Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to acquire academic knowledge and understanding of child and adolescent development necessary for strengthening the well-being of children and families. Students integrate knowledge, skills and practices for positive parenting/care-giving through the following units: Perspectives of Human Development; Research and Theories in Human Development; Understanding Development; Nurturing Development; and Challenges to Development. Emphasis is placed on providing a nurturing environment for children from before birth through adolescence, as well as the issues and decisions involved in creating healthy families.

Course: Life Management
Duration: One semester (0.5 Credits)
Grade Level: 11th and 12th grades
Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to develop educated consumers with an understanding and academic knowledge of consumer resources and financial institutions. Students integrate knowledge, skill and practices required by individuals and families to manage: Personal/Family Resources; Job and Career; Personal/Family Finances; and Personal/Family Wellness. Emphasis is placed on informed consumer decision-making; setting goals, solving problems, using interpersonal communication, and developing character.

Course: Fiber Arts
Duration: One Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th – 12th grades
Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this two semester program is for the student to gain knowledge and skills through the study of the principles and elements of design, color, fiber and textile materials, construction techniques, and safe use and care of equipment. The student uses design principles to create and complete textile, food, and craft products while exploring a variety of careers within related industries. Emphasis is placed on time management, organizational, and employability skills.

Course: Food Science (will meet either FACS or science credit)
Duration: One Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th – 12th grades
Prerequisite: None

Food Science allows students to acquire understanding and academic knowledge of the science of food experimentation and preparation techniques. During this course of study, students explore basic food science skills, food evaluation techniques, nutrition concepts, management skills, preparation techniques, consumerism, and career options. Emphasis is given to the use of scientific methods and the application of Colorado Model Content Standards for Science.

Course: World of Work
Duration: One Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 11th – 12th grades
Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to identify and assess various career paths and develop skills for obtaining and keeping a job. Students integrate knowledge, skills and practices in the following areas: the individual as it relates to work; career search; job application/interview; beginning a new job; workplace health and safety; work ethics; building work relationships; workplace legal matters; economics and the consumer; entrepreneurship; and managing financial decisions. A work component is also built into this program with the class running their own in-school business.

Course: Teacher Cadet
Duration: One Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 11th – 12th grades
Prerequisite: Completed application, teacher recommendations and a minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA

Interested in teaching as a possible profession? Interested in the role education plays in society? If so, this is the class for you! Students will be involved in a fast paced, innovative, hands-on curriculum where they gain knowledge about teaching and learning. Teacher Cadets will develop skills that are helpful in college and beyond, such as presentations, public speaking, writing, communication and reasoning. Students experience the rewards of teaching through a “mini teaching” field experience as a part of the course work. This is a year long, sequential accelerated elective course with college credit options. Teacher Cadet is aligned with the Colorado Teacher Licensure Standards.

Vocational Business

Requirement: All students shall complete one graduation requirement for computer literacy. No graduation requirement for other vocational business classes. Classes count as elective credits or for credits in other stated areas.

Course: Accounting Basic (Accounting I)
Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to the process company's use to process financial data and to organize it in an efficient manner. The course is an introduction to the accounting field and can also be used as an entry-level job skill. The objectives of this course are: 1) the student will be able to analyze source documents; 2) the student will be able to record transactions in a double entry system; 3) the student will be able to complete the accounting cycle; and 4) the student will be able to produce financial statements.

Course: Accounting Intermediate (Accounting II)
Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: Accounting Basic (Accounting I)

Prerequisite - Accounting I. This is a one year course in which students will expand on the concepts learned in Accounting I. Students will expand their basic accounting knowledge and apply it to more detailed accounting practices. The objectives of this course are: 1) students will become familiar with more complex accounting concepts; 2) students will be able to analyze financial statements; and 3) students will have some experience in using computer accounting programs.

Course: Business Math
Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This course helps prepare students to make decisions as consumers, wage earners, and citizens within our economy. Topics discussed in this course include making wise decisions in regard to finances, governments, and career opportunities. The objects of this course are :1) students will be able to manage their own finances wisely; 2) students will understand how government affects and regulates business; 3) students will learn about different types of careers and how to use decision-making tools to identify and evaluate their options.

Course: Work Study Experience
Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 11th & 12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

Students are employed in part-time positions under the cooperative supervision of the employer and the work study coordinator. With this “hands-on” experience, the students will gain valuable skills and knowledge in the business areas of accounting, marketing, finance, economics, human resources, business law and business ethics while being able to earn a paycheck at the same time.

Course: Computer Literacy I (Computer Basic) Required Class
Duration: 1 semester (0.5 credits)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This course will provide students with entry-level computer skills essential to any work place. Students will refine keyboarding, proofreading, formatting, and language skills using microcomputer programs. Also, students learn hardware and software care. The objectives of this course are: 1) the student will have a basic knowledge of computer; 2) the student will be able to run simple software packages; 3) the student will be able to use the computer for word processing.

Course: Computer Literacy II (Computer Basic) Required Class
Duration: 1 semester (0.5 credits)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: Computer Literacy I

This course is an extension of Computer Literacy I. Students will become more proficient in word processing as well as gain knowledge in database and spreadsheet creation and manipulation. Also covered, as time permits, are graphics, computer ethics, email and the Internet. The objectives of this course are: 1) the student will be able to use the computer to compile databases and spreadsheets; 2) the student will be able to create business cards, brochures, newsletters, and spreadsheets using different application programs.

Course: Publications
Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This course helps develop and refine the skills necessary for business employment. Students have hands-on experience in financing, designing, and publishing five bimonthly publications as well as the school annual. The objectives of this course are: 1) the student will learn how to compromise and work with others; 2) the student will learn how to manage time and understand the importance of meeting deadlines; 3) the student will gain knowledge of desktop publishing programs. This course may also be used as one English credit.

Course: Introduction to Business
Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This course will introduce the student to the business world. It will present a solid foundation about what business is, how it operates and how it is managed. It is a basic business course for those students interested in a career in business. Business areas that are discussed include but are not limited to accounting, finance, marketing, business law, business ethics and personnel management. This course will be very helpful for then freshman or sophomore student who plans to study other business classes.

Course: Business Economics (Business Intermediate)
Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This course familiarizes students with basic economic concepts. The course introduces fundamental economic concepts, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international economics. The objectives of this course are: 1) students will understand basic economic systems; 2) students will grasp the laws of supply and demand; 3) students will see the importance of monetary and fiscal policy; 4) students will realize the effect world economics have on each other.

Course: Business Law (Business Advanced)
Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This course stresses core business law topics including sales, credit, negotiable instruments, agency and employment, bailments, and business associations. The objectives of this course are: 1) students will be able to apply principles learned in legal situations; 2) students will be able to formulate an argument based on facts and principles; 3) students will understand the legal consequences of decisions.

Other Electives

Requirement: Students must complete a total of seven electives

Course: Mixed Choir
Duration: 1 year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9-12 Grades
Prerequisite: None

Mixed choir is for any student who wants to sing or learn how to sing. The songs will be a mix of popular music (50's, 60's, and 70's, etc) and other music genre. Working on vocal technique, sight singing, performing skills and learning to read music will be emphasized. This class will focus on learning to sing and singing for fun. The chorus will perform at major concerts, league choir and community events. Talented 11th and 12th graders are given the opportunity to participate in All-State choir if the student so chooses.

Course: Drama
Duration: 1 semester (0.3 credits)
Grade Level: 9-12 grades
Prerequisite: None

The purpose of drama as a semester long, repeatable course is to give the student an increased appreciation of and additional experience in theater as an art form. The student will act, direct, or be technically involved in scenes, one-act plays or full length productions. They will read, write, and evaluate plays as well as view and critique electronic and live performances. This course is paired with high school choir which is a 0.2 credit class.

Course: Test Preparation
Duration: 1 semester (0.3 credits)
Grade Level: 11 and 12 grades
Prerequisite: None

The purpose of Test Preparation as a course is to increase the understanding, awareness and achievement on the ACT test. This course is paired with high school choir which is a 0.2 credit class.

Course: Physical Education
Duration: 1 year (1 credit)
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grades
Prerequisite: None

Physical education courses will consist of a combination of games and sports such as volleyball, basketball, track and field, softball and weight lifting. Basic skills in each sport, along with teamwork and participation will be included in the curriculum. Students will be instructed in the rules and concepts of the activities, the importance of good health and physical fitness for life and the benefits derived from participation and cooperation.

