



# LIBERTY COMMON SCHOOL

*Common Knowledge, Common Virtues, Common Sense*

Liberty Common Upper School  
Grades 7-8  
Course Descriptions  
2010-2011

## Liberty Upper School and High School Overview

		Upper School		High School			
PERIODS	COURSE TYPE	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
1	Math (40 cr)	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II & Trig.	Pre-Calculus	Math Elective
2	Science (40 cr)	Science 7	Science 8	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Science Elective
3	English (40 cr)	English 7	English 8	Western Literature	British Literature	American Literature	English Elective
4	Social Studies (40 cr)	History 7	History 8	Western Civilizations	Economics	US History and Geography	Social Studies Elective
5	Foreign Language (30 cr)	Latin 1	Spanish 1 or Latin 2	Spanish 2 or Latin 3	Spanish 3 or Latin 4	Spanish 4 or AP Latin	
6	First Semester	Computer Essentials	Composition 1	Speech	Personal Finance (10 or 11)	Composition 2	
	Second semester	Core Music 7	Core Music 8/ PE 8	Health			
7	First Semester	Core Art 7	Core Art 8			Personal Finance (10 or 11)	
	Second semester	PE 7					
8	First Semester						
	Second Semester						
Core credits		70	65	60	50 or 55	60 or 65	40
Elective credits		10	15	20	25 or 30	15 or 20	40

### Key

Core Required Classes	
Electives	

## Upper School Core Classes

Liberty Common School upper school students (grades 7-8) take both CORE and ELECTIVE classes.

The following is a list of required, core classes per grade.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**English 7** (select fiction and non-fiction classics, poetry, writing)

**History 7** (World and American History)

**Science 7** (Chemistry and Life Science)

**Math** (Pre-Algebra OR Algebra 1)

**Latin 1**

**Core Art History/Appreciation 7 / PE 7** (one semester of each)

**Computer Essentials / Core Music 7** (one semester of each)

**Elective** (year long or two semesters)

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**English 8** (select fiction and non-fiction classics, poetry, writing)

**Composition 1**

**History 8** (World and American History)

**Science 8** (Physics and Respiration)

**Math** (Algebra 1 OR Geometry)

**Foreign Language** (Spanish 1 or Latin 2)

**Core Music 8 / PE 8** (one semester only, 2 days/week each)

**Core Art History/Appreciation 8** (one semester only)

**Elective** (year long or two semesters)

**Elective** (one semester)

# Upper School Elective Class Descriptions

\*Please note these selections are subject to change.

Note: Students are scheduled as follows: High school receives first priority, 8<sup>th</sup> grade receives second priority, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders are scheduled last.

## Art Electives

### **Drawing & Painting**

Semester course. In this class the students will draw and paint from photos and still lifes. They will use a variety of media such as graphite, watercolor, tempera, and others. In addition, the students will gain a deeper knowledge of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design.

### **Photography/Graphic Design**

Semester course. This class is an introductory class to photography. Students will learn how to compose photos, adjust cameras, develop film, and make prints. The class time will be split between the darkroom and the classroom. Students interested in taking this class should be aware that photography requires taking care of valuable equipment and chemicals. Producing good images requires time, practice, and attention to detail. The class will be limited to 12 students.

### **Woodshop**

Semester course. This class includes making woodworking projects using hand tools. The class will be limited to 16 students.

### **3-D Design: Sculpture and Relief**

This class exposes students to a variety of materials and styles used to create three-dimensional art. Students will learn about plaster carving, paper and pewter relief (Repoussé), and ceramic sculpture.

### **Art Discovery: Advanced Studio Art Projects**

Discover six different art techniques while you make six beautiful projects: Create a ceramic vase, make an exotic mask, silk screen a t-shirt or handbag, turn your handmade paper into a fancy greeting card or book, make a painting with watercolor, and a pen and ink drawing. These also make great personal gifts for your friends and family.

### **Commercial Art**

The Commercial Art class will cover a variety of areas that all involve the use of art for economic purposes. This could include graphic design (logos, fonts, printed materials), product design (designing commercial products and packaging), illustration, and architecture. Most of the projects will be 2-D, though some will involve making 3-D mock-ups of products. The class will also include a brief history of commercial art and its tremendous influence on our culture.

## Computer Electives

## **Computer Technology**

Semester course. This course offers a broad but practical introduction to computing. We will explore the hardware, software and concepts that underlie our use of computers for class, communication, and entertainment. During this exploration, we will: take a look at the history of computers, understand how information is represented by a computer, examine computer hardware by assembling/disassembling a computer and coming up with a dream machine, install an operating system, look at how software is written, uncover the architecture of the Internet, and practice different ways to exchange information over the Internet (web pages, email, files) including creating a website and web pages containing content from the course.

## **Introduction to Programming**

Semester course. Requires instructor approval. This course is a more in depth study of how software is written and is for students who would like to write or “program” their own software or games. To this end, we will study basic programming constructs and algorithms. This will lead to a deeper level of understanding of how computer hardware and software works. Programming projects for this course include writing drawing programs for both 2D and 3D graphics and writing simple games.

## **Music/Theater Electives**

### **Choir**

Full-year course. This choir will perform 2 concerts each semester and a musical or musical revue in the spring with a focus on basic singing techniques and beginning part-singing. This choir will also concentrate on 2 and 3 part harmony and a capella singing.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band**

This is a full-year course for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. This class will focus on developing skills on band instruments and performing concert music. This band performs 4 concerts per year.

### **Concert Band**

This is a full-year course for 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students with previous experience on a band instrument. This class will focus mainly on playing different types of music for band, increasing in difficulty, and performing as many concerts as possible. This band performs 4 concerts per year, plus performances at school events.

### **Orchestra**

This is a full-year course for 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade string players (violin, viola, cello and bass). This group will play various types of music for strings and perform several concerts during the year at Liberty and in the community.

## **Science Electives**

### **Natural Disasters Course**

This one semester course is designed to give the students an understanding of the events that lead up to natural disasters that impact not only the victims but also the rest of society. The three main categories are listed below along with some of the natural disasters that fall in those categories. The students will be given a basic understanding of the principles of each category so they can see how the disasters come about. The class will also include individual and/or group projects to enhance understanding.

#### **Meteorological Events**

Flash floods  
Floods  
Drought  
Snow storms  
Tornadoes  
Thunderstorm microburst  
Hurricanes  
Lightning  
Hail  
Acid rain  
Global warming  
Ozone depletion

#### **Geologic Events**

Earthquakes  
Tsunamis  
Volcanoes  
Land/rock/mud slides

#### **Astronomical Events**

Asteroid/Comet impacts  
Supernova  
Life cycle of our sun

## **Other Electives**

### **Physical Education Elective**

Semester course. Students will learn about the components of wellness. Team sports will be emphasized. Students will learn the history, rules, and skills for each sport. Please note students are required to purchase and wear a Liberty P.E. uniform consisting of tee shirt and shorts. The cost of the uniform is \$17.50.

### **Silent Study Hall**

Semester course. This is a SILENT study hall that does not allow any talking. Students are expected to complete schoolwork or read silently.