



LIBERTY COMMON SCHOOL

Common Knowledge, Common Virtues, Common Sense

Liberty Common Junior High School
Grades 7-8
Course Descriptions
2011-2012

Liberty Junior High School and High School Overview

			Upper School		High School			
Period	Course Type	Credits	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
1	Math	40	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2 & Trig	Pre-Calculus	Math Elective
2	Science	40	Science 7	Science 8	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Science Elective
3	English	40	English 7	English 8	Western Literature	British Literature	American Literature	English Elective
4	History Geog	40	History 7	History 8	West Civilization 1	World History	AP US History	History Elective
5	Foreign Language	30	Latin 1	Spanish 1 or Latin 2	Spanish 2 or Latin 3	Spanish 3 or Latin 4	Spanish 4 or AP Latin	Personal Finance
6	1st Semester		Comp Essentials	Composition 1	Economics	Intro to Engineering	<i>Composition 2</i>	
	2nd Semester		Core Music 7	Core Music 8/PE 8				
7	1st Semester		Core Art 7	Core Art 8				
	2nd Semester		PE 7					
8	1st Semester							
	2nd Semester							

Core Credits	70	65	60	55	55	40
Elective Credits	10	15	20	25	25	40

Key

Core Required Classes	
Electives	

Junior High School Core Classes

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

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

7th Grade

Math (Pre-Algebra OR Algebra 1)
Science 7 (Chemistry and Life Science)
English 7 (select fiction and non-fiction classics, poetry, writing)
History 7 (World and American History)
Latin 1
Computer Essentials / Core Music 7 (one semester of each)
Core Art History/Appreciation 7 / PE 7 (one semester of each)
Elective (year long or two semesters)

8th Grade

Math (Algebra 1 OR Geometry)
Science 8 (Physics and Respiration)
English 8 (select fiction and non-fiction classics, poetry, writing)
History 8 (World and American History)
Foreign Language (Latin 2, Spanish 1 or French 1)
Composition 1
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)

Junior High School Elective Class Descriptions

*Please note these selections are subject to change.

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

Art Electives

STUDIO ART FOUNDATIONS

Studio Art Foundations offers a wide range of exciting opportunities to explore, learn and practice a variety of artistic processes. Focus is placed on the application of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as well as developing skills in the areas of drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, and digital media. To solve artistic challenges, students learn to use both creative and critical thinking skills. Course content includes art production, as well as art history, aesthetics, criticism and studies in visual culture.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

This class introduces students to graphic design as a form of visual communication through the use of type, image, form, and color. Students will develop various graphic design commissions to be published for Liberty Common High School. Projects will also explore design processes in visual identity and communication, creative problem solving, and basic design practice of critiques and discussion. Students will learn to use graphic design software and manipulate digital images.

PAINTING/DRAWING FOUNDATIONS

This course is designed to develop students' drawing and painting skills. Students investigate traditional media through simple exercises, which will build upon one another. Students will develop the foundations for hand-eye coordination and basic visualization. We will study how to draw the human face and figure, linear perspective, composition, and the elements and principles of design. Although, technical and aesthetic development will be emphasized, students will also explore their own personal voice through homework assignments and independent work.

PHOTOGRAPHY FOUNDATIONS

This is a semester course for 8th- 12th grade students. Beginning photography focuses on the fundamentals of the medium, both technically and expressively. Composition, film development, darkroom printing techniques, and presentation are utilized in building an understanding of the medium. A combination of lecture, assignments, discussion, critique and extensive studio work enables students to thoroughly explore the medium.

Students will also build foundation in digital photography combines the usage of photography with Photoshop. Students will manipulate digital photographs using both compositional and computer skills. An emphasis is placed on the placement and framing of the subject. The cultural and social ramifications of imagery used in photography are addressed in a critical and analytical manner. This includes issues of appropriation and other 'postmodern' ideas, and the use of photography

in a 'painterly' fashion.

Computer Electives

THE ART OF WEB DESIGN

Topics for this course include web-based design, digital presentation skills and design, desktop publishing, and image manipulation for web application.

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

Prerequisites: Algebra 1

This is a semester course for 8th- 12th grade students. 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.

Science Electives

ENGINEERING EXPLORATIONS

This project-based class will introduce fundamental engineering principals for mechanical, electrical and bioengineering. It will focus on the engineering method which will be demonstrated through iterative problem-solving cycles. This course will serve as a good foundation to the Intro to Engineering Course offered in tenth grade. There will be a fee associated with this course.

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

Music/Theater Electives

CONCERT CHOIR

This is a full-year course for 7th and 8th grade students. 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.

INTERMEDIATE BAND

This is a full-year course for 7th and 8th grade students. This class will focus on developing skills on band instruments and performing concert music of increasing difficulty. This band performs 4 concerts per year.

STRING ORCHESTRA

This is a full-year course for 7th-12th 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.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATER ARTS

This is a semester class for students in 7th and 8th grade. This course will introduce students to the foundational concepts of drama and musical theater through participation and application of those concepts to in-class exercises, scene study, and short dramatic presentations. Practical, design and written activities provide opportunity for exploration of themes, self-expression and a basic understanding of performance skills. Cooperative group work and evaluative reflection are key concepts of the course.

Other Electives

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVE

Semester course. Students will learn and practice physical wellness. Elective Physical Education's emphasis will be centered around learning cardiovascular fitness (heart rate monitors), major muscles/muscle groups, and an introduction to weight training principles. Elective Physical Education also provides an opportunity to play a mix of competitive team and individual sports each week. Students will be required to wear the Liberty P.E. uniform. The cost of a uniform is \$17.50 for both shirt and shorts.

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.

WOODSHOP

Semester course. This class includes making woodworking projects using hand tools. The class will be limited to 16 students. There will be a fee associated with this course.