

2020-2021 Semester 1 Course Descriptions
Monday/Wednesday Middle School Classes
(Y= Year Long Course)

MS Life Science (Y)

Using the FOSS curriculum, students will complete scientific investigations on Heredity and Adaptation, Diversity of Life, and Populations and Ecosystems. The student will be using Google Classroom to receive and turn in assignments. The student should be prepared to attend periodic labs onsite or pick up supplies to complete labs at home. Students should expect to complete an assignment daily and will need a school issued email address, an internet enabled device, and an internet connection at home.

MS Physical Science (Y)

We will meet online each class period for activities, review of complicated concepts, and tests. We will meet two times per week at our scheduled class period in hopes that we will be able to resume normal school structure in semester 2. Students are expected to meet online for class via video, read textbooks and answer chapter questions, complete online activities. In addition, students will create at least one research project and presentation each semester. Regular online attendance, reliable internet, and the ability to work at home using a textbook and online classroom is what is needed to succeed in this class!

MS Writing Performance Task (FREE) (Y)

Two benefits of taking this class and completing all assignments on the schedule will be an opportunity to give and receive peer feedback on your writing and to practice the kind of writing that is required of you at the end of the year when you take state-mandated CAASPP Tests. In addition, we will interact online in fun ways and play games just to keep us smiling, laughing, and having fun. Each essay assignment begins by reading 2-4 literary or nonfiction passages. You will take typed and sketch notes on reading and use prewriting strategies such as creating outlines and the use of graphic organizers to plan each essay. Each day you will add just a bit to your work until it is complete. The writing process will be used all along the way including revising, editing, and self-evaluation using a rubric. In addition, you will practice different writing genres such as persuasive, informative, and narrative. Sign up for this class with the agreement to complete three hours or more of homework at home and the understanding that you will need to have a computer and internet connection.

8th Grade US Constitution

This course focuses on the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution. Using an online textbook (E Pluribus Unum) as our basis, we will discuss the fundamental ideas of our “founding fathers”, how the Bill of Rights came to be, the separation of church and state, and other key issues regarding our nation’s foundational period. Other topics will include early economic development/slavery, the Reconstruction era, federal Indian policy, and the sometimes understated role of women and minorities in our nation’s development. A physical copy of the text is an option if preferred.

Monday Afternoon Classes

Groups A & B Science

This class will be learning about science by using Mystery Science to watch videos and complete activities related to the topics studied. This semester students will be learning about Earth Science.

MS Poetry Writing

Students will meet once a week for an online poetry workshop. They will do warm-ups, read a variety of accessible poems, some silly and some serious, and then write original poetry. The class will learn about and practice literary devices, such as similes, metaphors, and onomatopoeias. They will also discuss online poetry videos and complete short writing assignments for homework. The workshop will be a place for students to express their thoughts and feelings, be creative, and have fun!

Group C Patterns of Life

Students will meet weekly using meet.google.com and use virtual tools to explore patterns together. Students will explore patterns in math, poetry, folktales from around the world, music, art, and science cycles.

Wednesday Afternoon Classes

Parent Workshop (FREE)

I will post a weekly class bulletin that will include ideas, information, and activities for creative ways to teach reading, writing and math in the home. At the end of each learning period, we will do an online class meeting during the time listed above, where students and parents can share their work, ask questions, and engage in learning activities. Learning periods 1, 3 and 5 will focus on reading and writing skills. Learning periods 2, 4 and 6 will focus on math skills. I will also be available to parents for guidance and support, via phone or email.

Groups A & B Animal Stories: Fiction, Nonfiction, and Art

We will read and discuss fiction and nonfiction about animals, and also watch and discuss videos about animals. Students will have the opportunity to create animal art projects with lessons from the teacher and supplies provided by the school. They will also be able to share completed art with the class.

Group C & MS Digital Art at Home

Students will be assigned weekly digital art assignments to be done at home. The course will cover photo editing, illustration, animation and graphic design. Access to a PC with a keyboard is required for weekly online meetings. Some experience with computers is recommended.

Group C Writing Workshop

Students will use google classroom and meet weekly using meet.google.com to practice playful creative writing activities as well as writing personal narratives. Students will write about a different piece of art to warm up and start each class using a stream of consciousness writing and music.

Gaming Club (FREE)

For grades 9-12

This is a club all about gaming! The first 15 minutes of each meeting is dedicated to club business like fundraising and planning tournaments and then the rest of the time is dedicated to gaming.

Tuesday/Thursday High School Classes

(Y= year long course)

Free Gaming Club for High School students! See Wednesday descriptions above.

Algebra 1 Basics (Y)

This is an algebra course recommended for high school students who are not on the 4-year college track. It covers much the same content as Algebra 1 but with shorter units and homework problems that do not go much beyond the basic algebra skill level.

a-g Integrated Math 1 (Y)

This course follows Math 1 standards using the CPM Integrated I text. During the first semester students will meet virtually twice each week during the regularly scheduled class time for lecture and group activities. Students will use an online platform to access course materials and links to helpful videos, submit homework from the text, and complete tests.

a-g Financial Literacy

Students will explore units in banking, saving, investing, borrowing, insurance, and credit among others. Students must be prepared to check email daily and complete homework assignments online. Students can receive college credit, please ask your CT for more information.

a-g Biology (Y)

We will be using the online Inspire Science Biology program. It's a virtual learning platform designed with everything a student needs to achieve a-g Biology levels; including virtual labs, to allow students to stay on track for community college/CSU/UC. This dynamic online course will be run by me, through which I can personally assign work to the entire class or an individual student who may need additional support.

a-g Integrated Math 3 (Y)

This course follows Math 3 standards using the CPM Integrated III text. During the first semester students will meet virtually twice each week during the regularly scheduled class time for lecture and group activities. Students will use an online platform to access course materials and links to helpful videos, submit homework from the text, and complete tests.

a-g Spanish 1 (Y)

This college-prep course is an introduction to the Spanish language and Spanish-speaking cultures. Students will learn Spanish vocabulary and grammar through imitation and repetition in speech and in writing using online activities and in class. Students are expected to participate in class activities and show a willingness to practice Spanish on their own. Students are expected to complete oral, listening, and written practices independently. This course will be virtual, which means students will need to attend class via video (such as Zoom or Google Meet) and attend periodically scheduled 1-1 video calls with Señora Erica. The school provides a textbook, chromebook, and headset with mic.

***Students must pick up materials prior to the first day of class and attend the one-time Spanish class orientation via Zoom (TBA) on Thursday, August 27 at 10:00am.**

a-g Environmental Science (Y)

This year-long science class can count as life or physical science, and will cover all of the concepts expected of high school students planning to attend a four-year college. We will meet online each class period for activities, review of complicated concepts, and tests. We will meet two times per week at our scheduled class period in hopes that we will be able to resume normal school structure in semester 2. Students are expected to meet online for class via video, read textbook and answer chapter questions, complete online and at home activities including engineering projects (supplies may sometimes be provided) and written reports, and give 2-4 presentations each semester. Regular online attendance, reliable internet, and the ability to work at home using a textbook and online classroom is what is needed to succeed in this class!

a-g Integrated Math 2 (Y)

This course follows Math 2 standards using the CPM Integrated II text. During the first semester students will meet virtually twice each week during the regularly scheduled class time for lecture and group activities. Students will use an online platform to access course materials and links to helpful videos, submit homework from the text, and complete tests.

a-g Spanish 2 (Y)

This college-prep course is continuation and expansion of the students' vocabulary, grammar, and understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures learned in Spanish 1. Classroom time will be focusing on speaking and listening, utilizing new and old vocabulary, through activities, games, presentations, and projects. Students are expected to complete oral, listening, and written practices independently and must have access to the Internet for online work. School provides Textbook, chromebook, and headset with mic. This course will be virtual, which means students will need to attend class via video (such as Zoom or Google Meet) and attend periodically scheduled 1-1 video calls with Señora Erica. The school provides a textbook, chromebook, and headset with mic. ***Students must pick up materials prior to the first day of class and attend the one-time Spanish class orientation via Zoom (TBA) on Thursday, August 27 at 10:00am.**

a-g Spanish 3 (Y)

This college-prep course is continuation and expansion of the students' communication skills learned in Spanish 2. This project based course will involve current events, book talks, conversation tables, writing activities, and games in Spanish. Students will not have a textbook, but will use Internet resources, short stories, and audio and visual programs in Spanish. Grammar topics and vocabulary will be pulled from the projects and activities. Students must come to class prepared as the class time interactions revolve around these projects and activities. The class will provide a chromebook and headset with mic if you need it. You must have reliable Internet service. ***If Students need a chromebook and headset with mic, please pick up from the school prior to the first day of class. Students must attend the one-time Spanish class orientation via Zoom (TBA) on Thursday, August 27 at 10:00am.**

a-g Evolution of Art (Y)

This course will focus on the artistic traditions of the Western World from the ancient period to today. Students will consider a variety of forms including paintings, drawings, sculpture, architecture and printmaking and will draw on their skills of critical visual analysis and historical context to understand the ever-evolving nature of art throughout human history. This course will incorporate a variety of issues in art history, including politics, gender, religion, patronage, function and audience. Throughout the year the students will be guided by Essential Questions: **What is art and how is it made? Why and how does art change? How do we describe our thinking about art? This course seeks to hone historical thinking and English writing skills and can be counted toward fulfillment of Visual and Performing Art, English and Elective credits.** I will incorporate more Kahn Academy Smart History videos to introduce materials with guided questions, Web Quest activities, some You-Tube documentaries with viewer guide questions, graphic organizers to organize major themes and concepts, timeline activities, interactive note sheets, short research projects, debate activities and presentations. I will do this using primarily Google Classroom and Zoom Meetings.

a-g College & Career Readiness

In this class, students will develop important skills which will help them reach their post-secondary education and career goals. Students work through a process that answers the questions: Who Am I? What Do I Want? How Do I Get It? Students follow up with research and workshops that will help develop positive attitudes & aptitudes that promote College & Career Readiness and Financial Literacy. Students may receive college credit, please ask your CT for more information.

US History (Y)

This US History course covers the development of the United States of America from the tumultuous times of the Civil War and Reconstruction through the modern era. We will address changes in population, the movement of people, economic booms and busts, and both wartime and peacetime. We will address political trends, the struggles of citizens for respect and equality, and the ordinary and extraordinary people who make history. Finally, this course will examine the ways in which history is recorded, the importance of primary documents, how literature deals with historical themes, cause and effect, and other aspects of our unique American culture (including the media, music, art, film, etc.). Each week students will be expected to complete the assigned reading and arrive prepared with questions and comments for classroom discussion. We will cover approximately three sections of reading in the textbook a week. Students will also keep an ongoing Annotated Chronology of their reading in a notebook throughout the year. The class will also include an end-of-term test at the end of each semester, several researched papers and/or class presentations, the occasional surprise quiz, and mandatory participation. All of these items will be discussed in class. This course is designed for grades 10-12.

CR English 1A (Y)

This course offers the Alder Grove students who pass full transfer-level credits (4.0) in college English, which will be awarded to them once they enroll in CR and take/pass classes there for at least ONE semester. **The course is thus designed for college-bound/college ready students in the 11th and 12th grades, and will extend over the entire school year.** It is recommended that *students who are interested should be writing and reading at or above grade level.* English 1A is a transfer-level course in critical reading and reasoned writing. Students analyze issues and claims presented in visual, oral, or written arguments and write analytical and argumentative essays based on those issues. Research and source-based writing, along with the employment of correct MLA documentation, is required. In addition, students will take in-class exams, write an extended research project, and present an end-of-term portfolio that showcases their best writing over the academic year. Students are required to have familiarity and facility with computers and the programs Microsoft Word, Google Docs/Slides, or PowerPoint, and a learning management system (Google Classroom) will be used to assign and submit essays and readings. This exciting course offers much potential for students who are looking to enter higher education with a cohort of Alder Grove students, and is taught by an instructor who teaches at CR and Alder Grove.

Poetry Writing

Students will meet once a week for an online poetry workshop. They will do warm-ups, read a variety of accessible poems, some silly and some serious, and then write original poetry. The class will learn about and practice literary devices, such as similes, metaphors, and onomatopoeias. They will also discuss online poetry videos and complete writing assignments for homework. The workshop will be a place for students to express their thoughts and feelings, be creative, and have fun!

The class will count for 2.5 a-g English credits. Students can sign up for creative writing and poetry for a full semester course (5 a-g English credits) or they can just take poetry for 2.5 credits and do the additional English work assigned by the CT for the remaining credits needed.

Creative Writing

Class will count for 2.5 a-g English credits. Students can sign up for creative writing and poetry for a full semester course (5 a-g English credits, if they choose) or they can just take creative writing for 2.5 credits and do the additional English work assigned by the CT for the remaining credits needed. This class will teach students creative writing skills: descriptive writing, personal narrative, use of dialogue, how to create believable characters, plot development, and short story writing. Students need to attend the weekly online class and expect 1.5-2 hours of homework weekly, on average.

CTE Web Design & Communication 1st Year (Y)

Careers in Web Design are in growing demand. Students will be designing their own apps while learning about web design careers and different types of interactive media. Students will use 2D/3D game engines to develop and publish. The course will provide access to the software programs needed to develop a web project from concept to completion. This is the first course of the CTE Web Design & Communication track.

CTE Web Design & Communication 2nd Year (Y)

Continued project based exploration of video game art and technology. Students will use 2D/3D game engines to publish their interactive apps. We will be learning to design products and deliver effective communication tools. The course will provide access to the software programs but a computer is needed to work at home. This is the second course of the CTE Game Design track, students are required to have passed GD1A or an approved equivalent.

Friday Classes

Please note appropriate grade levels.

Beginning Piano (grades 4-12)

In this class we will cover beginning, basic piano technique and theory (note and rhythm reading, dynamics), using short pieces of music as well as written exercises. There will be class meetings on Zoom or Google Meets and options for individual instruction throughout the week. Students who sign up for this class should have had little to no piano experience.

Building Math Minds (grades 6-8) Please sign up with your CT only.

Building Math Minds is a weekly 55-minute Math Intervention course that will be held virtually for the first semester using Google Meet and/or Zoom. The class will focus on number sense, fluency, problem solving, and math-confidence. Students will build math skills through the use of games, puzzles, rich tasks, number talks, and more. They will regularly be assessed to monitor and track progress.

Rock Band Skills (grades 5-12)

This class focuses on introducing students to playing in the genre of Rock music. Students will play songs which typify the genre, though we will also explore other types of music. Beginners are welcome, but the ability to use a tuner and tune an instrument at home, possibly with parent's help is required. Skills taught are basic chord progressions, song structure, actively listening while playing and successfully collaborating as a group. Students will work on individual skills and it is assumed that they will progress weekly on their current goals/assignments. Open to guitar, bass, vocals, keyboards, drums, and possibly some other instruments. Students will pick a piece/solo/ as their goal and work on it in addition to jamming with Pre Recorded "group" tracks provided by the instructor. The class will have a Google Classroom, where resources and discussions will be based. At the beginning of the semester Hilson will offer a session for parents on how to more effectively teach music at home. Periodic mini-lessons provided to check in on students' progress.

Intermediate/Advanced Piano (grades 4-12)

In this class we will focus on more advanced levels of piano playing as well as advanced scales and theory. Students will learn all major and minor scales in both hands as well as chords. Students will play at least 2 intermediate to Advanced piano pieces, one of my choosing and one of their choosing. We will focus time in class to learn these pieces online, either on Zoom or Google Meets. Also, there will be options for individual instruction throughout the week. Students signing up for this class should have some experience in playing piano.

Intro to Music (grades 1-3)

This class will focus on developing basic musical concepts and skills. This will include listening to music and learning the fundamental concepts of pitch and rhythm. The focus will be on developing key musical concepts, especially listening, and broadening the student's appreciation of various music styles from across the globe. In a nutshell the class involves listening, activities and singing/playing music to some extent through a weekly lesson. The class will have a Google Classroom, where resources and discussions will be based. At the beginning of the semester Hilson will offer a session for parents on how to more effectively teach music at home.

Dance (grades K-4)

In this class students will learn line dances, partner dancing, hip-hop moves, multicultural dances, freestyle and dance steps to various songs.

Flute Skills & Music Theory (grades 4-12)

Students will learn the parts of a flute, proper finger placement, posture, pitch, tone, technique, scales, proper care, how to play various songs, and how to read sheet music, transcribe sheet music.

Intermediate/Advanced Choir (grades 4-12)

In this class we will work on advanced vocal technique, harmonization, choral technique, and performance technique. The students will learn 3-5 songs throughout the semester and will meet on either Zoom or Google Meets with the option for individual instruction throughout the week.

Musical Theater (grades K-2)

Students will learn to sing age appropriate songs and traditional folk songs that include movements and beginning drama skills. Parents are encouraged to join, if they want to participate.

Social History of Rock & Roll (grades 9-12)

There's a lot of great music out there! This class, which involves weekly reading and listening, will allow students to make historical connections to Rock and Roll music. Rather than considering different 'genres' or 'styles' as isolated events, the course provides students with a framework to consider the development and origins of what we have come to know as Rock Music! We will briefly discuss earlier music history as needed for context. A key focus is how the music relates, or in some cases is estranged from, the social conditions which define the era in which it was created. The course will begin with an overview of Blues and will proceed up to the present day. for the Fall 2020 semester the course will be digitally based. Note-this class fulfills high school VPA/FL requirements. Also, I currently have the course up for consideration for reapproval as an A-G approved course entitled "A-G Social History Rock +Roll.", we will have that decision by August. Students wanting to go that route will be asked to complete several additional requirements including a research project and a multimedia presentation.

Storytelling & Puppet Theater (grades 4-12)

This class will focus on the art of storytelling and puppet theater skills. Students will first develop the art of storytelling, practicing telling a variety of stories to the class online. Students will then develop the art of puppet theater, where one puppet acts as the narrator and main character telling his/her story. Students will create puppets and perform puppet shows for the class online. HS students can earn 2.5 credits for the class (I will give them weekly extension assignments).

CTE Health Careers 1 (grades 9-12) (Y)

Students focus on day-to-day skills and expectations for health professionals, which include promoting wellness, maintaining a safe environment, creating medical records, and practicing good communication, collaboration, and leadership. In addition, students will expand their understanding of health and safety systems, how to address emergency situations, and deal with infection control issues. Students will also explore topics in medical science, terminology, procedures, and regulations - including an overview of physiology and medical measurements. Using real-life scenarios and application-driven activities, students learn the responsibilities and challenges of being health care professionals and deepen their knowledge of various career options.

Gender & Sexualities Alliance Club (grades 6-12) FREE

Students will join the Google classroom to meet up, socialize and discuss current issues.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Alder Grove Gender and Sexualities Alliance is to provide a free safe, non-judgemental space for LGBTQI+ students, regardless of how they identify.

Constitution: Respect everyone and the way they identify, use preferred names and pronouns, do not disclose any other person's personal information without permission (private conversations stay private), ask before assuming how someone identifies or what their pronouns are, if someone does not know a term or concept, use the opportunity to educate, not judge. Any questions, please email Cassie at cassie.moulton@aldergrovecharter.org.

Student Council (grades 6-12) FREE

Student Council meets weekly to plan school events and fundraisers.