

The Link School 2017/18 Course List

* The complete course catalog for Link School courses for the coming year will be available in late August after the staff curriculum prep time. The following is a quick look at what's on the docket.

ENGLISH

Regular and Honors English (1 credit) taught by Makenzie Murray

English for year 9 will focus on literature's place in society—specifically how changes in society have influenced changes in literature. We will explore the question, “How has literature been shaped by society?” Conversely, we will also explore whether certain times in society have been shaped by literature. These questions will carry us through several different literary genres and time periods, all the way into today. Students will read a variety of pieces from all over the world, including short stories, novels, poems, and essays. They will also have the opportunity to practice writing several different types of pieces, such as narratives, analytical essays, persuasive papers, and research papers. Vocabulary practice, grammar, and punctuation lessons will be woven throughout the year.

SCIENCE

Environmental studies: Mountain Ecology (1 credit) – taught by Christian Hagenlocher

Topics that will be covered this year include:

Mountain Ecology provides students with a foundational understanding of ecological processes of mountain environments around the world. This inquiry-based class will examine the relationships between living and non-living components of the mountain environments, including climate, plant and animal diversity, habitat zones, and conservation issues specific to montane habitats.

SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY

Modern American History (1 credit) – taught by Bill Fabian

This course traces the journey of Americans from the closing of the Western frontier in 1890 to the present day. Through historical video documentaries, research projects, and today's news articles, we will explore key historical trends, events, individuals, and social movements that played a role in the 20th century but still are “hot” topics in 2017. We begin with the development of our nation's modern identity that developed under Teddy Roosevelt. Some of the topics we study include how the US evolved into a global superpower; the fortunes and misfortunes of minorities, including African Americans, women, and immigrants; the suspension of civil liberties; examples of civil disobedience; relations with Russia; the traumas of World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War and how they changed our views of ourselves; and a special emphasis on Link's theme for the year: being stewards of the natural environment. Always we will ask: what from our past defines who we are today?

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I (1 credit) taught by Joel Benson.

This course is designed to give students a firm foundation in listening, speaking, reading, and writing the Spanish language as well as give them a basic introduction to cultures and history of Latin America. Specific attention will be paid to terms students will need while traveling in Mexico in January. By the end of the school year students will be able to communicate in the present, present progressive, simple future, and preterit tenses on a rudimentary basis.

Spanish II (1 credit) taught by Joel Benson.

This course is designed to take the firm foundation students have made in Spanish I and expand their listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills in the target language. Students will explore the world in greater depth and be able to use their language to discuss and write about the program activities we do here at Link, including the January trip to Mexico. Students will have an understanding of the indicative mood and an introduction to the imperative mood by the end of the year. Students will expand their vocabulary and grow in their understanding and proper use of Spanish grammar.

Spanish III (1 credit) taught by Joel Benson.

This course is designed to review the indicative mood and teach the subjunctive mood. The entirety of the imperative mood will be taught. We will delve further into our understanding of grammatical rules and expand vocabulary and conversational skills, especially related to the trip to Mexico in January. Students will work on developing their listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Spanish literature will be introduced.

Spanish IV (1 credit) taught by Joel Benson.

This course will reinforce all grammar and vocabulary learned in levels I-III. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and learn about economics, the arts, history, politics, and social issues with a special focus on Mexico and terms they will need to help them travel and get around while in country. Students will continue to work on developing their listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students will work on reading and discussing Spanish literature.

MATH (1 credit).

Students will be placed in one of the following math classes: Integrated Mathematics, Business Math, Math Review, Pre-algebra, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Trigonometry/Statistics. Placement will be based on previous work completed and what each student needs for graduation, college, & career preparation. Some of the math classes are conducted as a hybrid of online instruction and teacher-led instruction, while others are completely teacher-led.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: (1 credit) Students engage in daily workout routines and spend a week per month on demanding backcountry expeditions.

ENRICHMENT COURSES: (1 credit)

- Cultural Studies – specifics to be determined
- Expedition Based Leadership Seminar
- Photo/Video Production/Computers
- Culinary Arts & Sustainable Foods
- Service Learning & Stewardship
- SAT/ACT Prep