

The Link School 2018/19 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

Based on grade and experience with English, students will be divided into two English classes – A and B.

English B (1 credit) taught by Makenzie Murray

English B provides an integrated study of reading comprehension, literary analysis, oral communication, and written composition that aligns with Common Core Standards for grades 9-10. Students practice reading skills such as identifying themes, citing textual evidence, understanding characters, and explaining an author's use of language. Students compose creative narratives, persuasive essays, and informative essays that demonstrate developing mastery of language and confident comprehension of texts. Reading selections include classic and contemporary novels, short stories, poems, essays, a graphic novel, and explanatory texts. Written compositions are assessed with the guidance of the 6+1 Writing Traits.

English A (1 credit) taught by Makenzie Murray

English A emphasizes the development and refinement of skills introduced in English B, including reading comprehension, literary analysis, oral communication, and written composition. In line with Common Core Standards for grades 11-12, students practice reading skills such as comparing and contrasting themes, drawing inferences from texts, analyzing elements of a story, and recognizing exceptional language. Students' compositions include a creative narrative that demonstrates advanced dexterity with language and a research paper that uses evidence to support a perspective addressing a substantive cultural, social, or environmental issue. Reading selections include classic and contemporary novels, short stories, poems, narrative and persuasive essays, a graphic novel, and explanatory and peer-reviewed texts. Written compositions are assessed with the guidance of the 6+1 Writing Traits.

SCIENCE

Fundamentals of Life (1 credit) – taught by Christian Hagenlocher

This course examines the basic scientific principles and processes necessary for life on Earth. Beginning with Chemistry, students will explore atoms, elements, and compounds that make up organic molecules, as well as the chemical reactions that drive life processes—including photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Building on this knowledge we will investigate life at a cellular level, covering the structure and function of cells, and the genetic blueprints responsible for the diversity of life. Students will conclude the course by investigating physical science through the study of forces, electricity, waves, and sound. Classes will use hands-on models, simulations, and labs to teach science in a project-based learning curriculum, covering introductory concepts in Biological, Physical, and Chemical sciences. Students that already have foundational knowledge in these areas will be provided with a parallel in-depth track of study building on these same foundational principles.

SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY

World Cultures (1 credit) – taught by Bill Fabian

Why should I be curious about my world neighbors? Am I a global citizen who appreciates and is sensitive to other cultures? What defines a culture? How are cultures changing in this age of instant social media? Through this course, students explore the vastly different societies that define how humans live. We approach cultures with an open mind and explore how physical geography and current events impact how these cultures develop. Particular attention is given to the BRICS countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, as well as Europe, Iran, and the Lakota Nation here in the U. S. Through discussion of current events, we touch on numerous other cultures as well.

There is no textbook for this class. Instead, we observe and discuss the portrayal of cultures through videos—both documentaries and movie theater films. We also utilize current articles in the printed press and on the Web, with emphasis on articles from The Christian Science Monitor. Through research projects, students learn to identify reliable Web sites, mine and evaluate commercial databases for additional information, properly cite information, and paraphrase in their own words. Projects include small group visual presentations on selected European cultures, investigations into how individuals are making a difference for good in Africa, and a formal research paper in the spring on topics chosen by students within the context of the class.

Throughout the year, students participate in preparing international dinners that give us a literal “taste” of the people and places we study.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish 1 (1 credit) taught by Catilin Trathen.

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 2 (1 credit) taught by Catilin Trathen.

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 3 (1 credit) taught by Catilin Trathen.

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 4 (1 credit) taught by Catilin Trathen.

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.

Spanish 5 (1 credit) taught by Catilin Trathen.

This course will reinforce grammar and vocabulary learned in levels I-4, as well as introduce more complicated concepts for speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will focus more on different areas of the Spanish-speaking world, as well as on reading and discussing Spanish literature.

MATH (1 credit) taught by Ben Sleeman and Gage Edgar.

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 total)

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

Fall - US Foreign Policy in Latin America (.25 credit) taught by James Orlet

We will study the effects of United States foreign policy on Latin America. We will look at our involvement in political decisions as well as the history of the drug cartels and how our war on drugs and the demand in the US for illegal drugs fueled the cartels. When in Colombia, we will meet with locals affected by the cartels and our policy decisions.

Spring - Literature of Spiritual Exploration (.25 credit) taught by Bobby Lewis

The Literature of Spiritual Exploration course will be a .25 credit enrichment course designed to study some of the ways other cultures, religions, and individuals explore spiritual identity. Students will develop a greater understanding of the nature of this search as well as familiarization with literature that explores the topics of spiritual identity, God, and life-meaning from a wide range of perspectives. This will primarily be a reading- and discussion-based course. Writing assignments will be both essays and journaling assignments designed to explore spiritual growth topics. In addition, the course will explore other traditions through speakers and field visits to sacred sites. Lastly, students will develop the ability to explore inwardly through prayer, meditation, and abstinence during solo experiences on a day vision quest.