

The Link School 2015/16 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 Emily Wheeler.

English for year 8 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 Science (1 credit) taught by Jon Bernhard.

Year 8 Link Environmental Science course will be a year long focus on ecological community. Students will discover understanding of separate ecosystems/communities; desert, alpine, forest, riparian, all with an inclusion of ornithological community dynamics. Throughout this course students will grow a broadened understanding of interconnections between climate & abiotic factors to vegetation & food webs that reach avian diversity. Students will develop a sense of community interactions around Link, on field expeditions, and the international trip in Ecuador.

SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

Western Civilization (1 credit) taught by Bill Fabian.

When we read the news or travel the world, we discover that places where people live have broad names. Some live in the Far East, a reference to Asia. Some live in the Middle East, the primarily arid sub-continent of the Arabian Peninsula. Many Europeans and the people of the Americas live in the West. Although these designations are based on physical geography, they also define the culture in which one lives.

We live in “The West,” a culture that developed over thousands of years. Where did Western ideas about government, economics, religion, and scientific and moral reasoning come from?

Through this course, we explore the roots and development of Western culture, starting with the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome and extending into the 20th Century. To make this sweep of history more personal, we study inspired individuals whose contributions still impact us today. We watch videos as our textbook, conduct research projects, and develop creative presentations. To keep us connected to our own times, we discuss current events throughout the year.

The Collapse of Societies (.5 credit) taught by Bobby Lewis.

This course will explore what historically has led to the failure of societies, and is designed as a compliment to the Year 8 study of what makes communities healthy. The classes will be reading and discussion based and will include a speaker series, case studies, and field components.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish 1 (1 credit) taught by Megan Wills.

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 the Hispanic culture. Specific attention will be paid to the terms students will need while travelling in Ecuador in January and the Ecuadorian cultures and history. 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 Megan Wills.

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 use the target language to explore the world they live in more in-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 Ecuador. Students will have an understanding of the entire indicative mood and an introduction to the imperative mood by the end of the year. Students will expand their vocabulary in Spanish and grow in their understanding and use of proper Spanish grammar.

Spanish 3 (1 credit) taught by Megan Wills.

This course is designed to review the indicative mood and teach the subjunctive mood. The entirety of the imperative mood will be taught. Grammar rules will be reviewed and expanded upon. Vocabulary will be reviewed and expanded in known topic areas and into new ones. Students will work on developing their listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. Spanish literature will be introduced.

Spanish 4 (1 credit) taught by Megan Wills.

This course will reinforce all grammar and vocabulary learned in levels 1-3. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and learn about economics, the arts, the world of work, history, politics and social issues in the target language with a special focus on Ecuador and terms they will need to help them travel and get around when in country. Students will continue to work on developing their listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. Students will work on reading authentic Spanish literature and discussing it.

MATH: (1 credit) taught by Bryan Reed.

Students will be placed in one of the following range of math classes: Pre-algebra, Algebra I or 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. Classes are conducted as a hybrid of online instruction and instruction from Bryan Reed, as well as other tutors throughout the year.

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

ENRICHMENT COURSES: (1 credit)

- Expedition Based Leadership Seminar
- Photo/Video Production/Computers
- Culinary Arts & Sustainable Foods
- Service Learning & Stewardship
- SAT/ACT Prep