

The Link School 2016/17 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 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: Physical Science: Hydrology (1 credit)

Topics that will be covered this year include:

- The chemistry of water – studying the properties of water, PH, oxygenation and nitrates
 - Hydrogen bonding
- Riparian Zones: explored on river trips
 - Global warming effect on various aquatic populations
- Marine Biology:
 - Oceans and tidal energy – oceans and the water cycle (Baja)
 - Study of marine habitats
 - Survey evolution, adaptation, biology and anatomy of vertebrate and invertebrate sea creatures, including their taxonomy
 - Global warming effect on marine species and coral
- Structure of ice & snow
- Symmetry of water molecules

SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

American Government (.5 credit) – Fall semester, taught by Bill Fabian.

Students will explore the roots of American government with an in-depth study of the United States Constitution: its origins, its content, and its application through the past 229 years to today. The course will also focus on the American presidential election, with a study of the candidates, the issues, and the system. Depending on grade level and interest, students will conduct one of two research projects, one resulting in the creation of a voters' guide to the election, the other exploring the legal, historical, and cultural context of an American civic value.

19th Century US History (.5 credit) – Spring semester, taught by Bill Fabian.

During the 19th century, Americans forged a national identity as they conquered a continent. They struggled to put into practice the principles and ideals of the country's founding documents, sometimes successfully, sometimes at great cost and sacrifice. Through these experiences, the term “American” took shape and continues to guide our national purpose today. A focus of the

course will be the study of history through biography as we learn about the achievements of people who made a difference for good. We'll take an in-depth look at three individuals whose lives covered the century and intersected with key issues: Mary Baker Eddy, Mark Twain, and Augusta Tabor, a woman with special ties to the part of Colorado where The Link School is located.

Immigration Issues (.25 credit) taught by Bobby Lewis.

In most years the United States currently accepts more immigrants as permanent residents than all the other countries in the world combined. The Immigration Issues enrichment course examines the status of migrant workers in America, specifically in regard to current US law and practices and an evaluation of their effectiveness. Our particular focus is legal and illegal immigration from Mexico and Latin America to the US. It is taught as a compliment to the US Government class and works in collaboration with the English & Spanish classes. The course will be reading and discussion based and includes a speaker series, case studies, and field study on the US/Mexico border and Latin America.

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) 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