



Upper School
Curriculum Guide
2025-2026

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Academic Overview

The Upper School at Steamboat Mountain School, a 9-12 liberal arts program, prepares students beyond college. The academics are grounded in our core principles and mission and the identity of our community. These pillars shape the pedagogical principles, curriculum, and transformative competencies that occur inside the classroom.

Faculty at Steamboat Mountain School ground their teaching in five foundational pedagogical principles. Their classes are relationship oriented and learner centered, while maintaining high expectations for growth among all students. Teachers' units are rooted in inquiry, with essential questions at the center. The classes also maintain a local to global context, focusing on the individual and expanding outward to local communities and global communities.

Using these guiding principles as Steamboat Mountain School's teaching foundation, the school is in the process of exploring The World Course as a curriculum. Based on UN sustainability themes, The World Course fosters global competence among students and further aligns our academic program with our Global Studies program. Many classes at the upper school focus on the following themes: the environment, society and public health, global conflicts and resolutions, development, technology, innovation, globalization and human movement, diverse perspectives, personal and social responsibility, cultural competence, understanding the natural world, human nature, identity, power, oppression, and liberation. Although these themes do not encompass the entirety of the curriculum, they are threads that run through many classes in grades 9 through 12.

Our courses and curriculum aim to develop a variety of abilities in every Steamboat Mountain School student. By the time they graduate, our students have the skills to read discerningly, to think curiously, analytically, and creatively, and to communicate effectively – both orally and in writing. Graduates are inquisitive and confident, while still maintaining an observational attitude and a listening, open ear to all ideas. These practices foster empathy, gratitude, and a knack for drawing connections across disciplines. Ultimately, the academic program at Steamboat Mountain School teaches students to overcome challenges and fears, establish their own independent voice, and collaborate extremely effectively with others.

Steamboat Mountain School Mission:

Steamboat Mountain School cultivates the intellect and imagination of young minds, so that students grow in their curiosity, discover their potential, contribute meaningfully to their community, and engage in a dynamic, global society.

Our students are:

- **Vigorous in Learning**
 - Our students find their voices by developing their independent thinking skills so that they can collaborate productively in an increasingly connected world.
- **Courageous in Action**
 - When presented with challenges, our students both accept and offer support to strengthen their resilience and develop the confidence they need to take risks.

- Purposeful in Exploring

- Our students bring the world into the classroom and the classroom into the world, stepping forward into global citizenship as they experience, appreciate, and engage with the world around them.

Our school believes in Thriving Through Contrast.

- We intentionally embraces the dynamic equilibrium between contrasting principles by:
 - providing our students with challenge and offering them support
 - developing independent thought and encouraging collaboration
 - bringing the world into the classroom and bringing the classroom into the world
 - focusing on our school community and connecting with the global community
 - fostering self-awareness and inspiring broader impact

Requirements to Graduate

A minimum of eighteen (18) credits, including one (1) art credit, is required for graduation from Steamboat Mountain School. One credit is given for each course passed; a course consists of three classes of one-third credit per class. Credit is only obtained with an averaged final grade of sixty (60%) or better for the course. Please note that although 60%-69% is a passing grade for any Upper School course taken at the school, it is not considered a college-recommending grade. Many colleges and universities will not acknowledge credit for courses in which the received grade is a D+ or lower. Therefore, a student who receives a D+ or lower in a sequential course may be required to do remedial work, repeat the course, or attend summer school before continuing their course of study in that department.

English	Four years of English
Math	Three years of required math
Social Studies	Three years of social studies, including US History, World History, and Geography
Science	Three years of science courses, including Biology and Chemistry
World Language	Three years of Spanish. Although SMS offers Spanish exclusively, students who enter the school having reached level 2 in an alternative language may work with the Assistant Head of School to complete their world language requirement through online courses or work with approved tutors.
Arts	One credit in the arts. Although private lessons generally do not count toward this graduation requirement, the SMS works with students and families to encourage their continued pursuit of the arts outside of the School when the School is unable to provide appropriate classes for the student.
Physical Education	This credit can be fulfilled by participation in Steamboat Mountain School's Physical Outdoor Pursuits (POPs), the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club program with weekly dryland training in the fall and on-snow training and competition in the winter and spring, or an extracurricular physical activity offered by a third party that meets for at least four hours a week and is approved by the Assistant Head of School and Director of Outdoor and Global Programs. It should be noted that patterns of unexcused absences can jeopardize fulfilling this requirement.

Additional
Reqs.

Minimum number of classes: Students are generally required to take five courses per year. Exceptions must be approved by the Assistant Head of School. An exception may be permitted, for example, if a student is a high level athlete, will be missing a significant amount of school, and is on the trajectory to fulfill all necessary credits.

Global Studies: Although Global Studies is not a graduation requirement, each Global Studies trip counts as one academic credit.

The Capstone: SMS seniors must pass all requirements of the Capstone project in order to graduate.

Seminar: All students participate in Seminar, a grade level specific class covering Academic Skills (9th), Health & Wellness (10th), College & Career (11th), and College Counseling (12th).

Student Trajectory Map

Math Tracks

- Foundational:
 - Integrated 1 → Integrated 2 → Integrated 3 → Precalculus* or Single Mod Elective Classes
- Accelerated:
 - Integrated 2 → Integrated 3 → Precalculus* → Calculus 1*
- Advanced:
 - Integrated 3 → Precalculus → Calculus 1* → Calculus 2*

English Tracks

- English 1 → English 2 → English 3* → English 4*

Social Studies Track

- World History → Geography → US History* → Social Philosophy*

Science Track

- Biology → Chemistry → Anatomy and Physiology* OR Physics* OR Environmental Science*

Language Tracks

- Traditional:
 - Spanish 1 → Spanish 2 → Spanish 3 → Spanish 4* → Spanish 5*

*Honors options available

English

The English department exists to develop students' analytical, creative, and communication skills to promote ethical, personal, and collaborative understandings.

Analytical Writing, Reading, and Thinking

9th Grade English

The Nature of Human Nature

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *First class in the sequence*

Through close textual analysis, discussions, and critical reflections, students will examine themes such as power and authority, civilization and savagery, survival and resilience, and the nature of good and evil. Through the study of literature and mythology, students will gain insights into the universal aspects of human nature as well as the ways in which social, cultural, and historical factors shape human experiences and choices. Through a combination of discussions, presentations, and creative projects, students will engage perspectives on human nature and develop critical thinking skills, empathy, and cultural literacy. The class will also encourage students to reflect on the relevance of these timeless stories and themes to contemporary society and their own lives.

Identity: Self and Society

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: The Nature of Human Nature*

By the end of the class, students will develop a nuanced understanding of the complexities of identity formation, self-perception, and societal influences. It will explore the intersection between personal identity and desires and societal expectations and duty. We will also examine the factors and influences that create cultural identity.

Human vs. Machine

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Human vs. Machine*

Through close reading, film screenings, discussions, and creative projects, students will deepen their understanding of the complex dynamics between humanity and technology in dystopian narratives. By examining these texts in dialogue with contemporary debates about automation, artificial intelligence, and ecological sustainability, students will develop critical thinking skills and ethical awareness necessary for navigating the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly technologized world.

Novels to Film

10th Grade English

Conventions in Classical Noir and Intro to Film Analysis

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *First class in the sequence*

In the first class, students will learn fundamental concepts and accompanying terms needed for film analysis. Likewise, they'll assess how the skills needed for cinematic 'reading' translate to the close

reading skills inherent to complex humanities courses. Using the centerpiece of 'noir' film and literature, we'll examine archetypal tendencies within literature and film of the genre, modes of predicting outcomes via close 'detective' work while reading, and how directors translate such works to the screen.

Psychoanalysis and Romanticism within Noir

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Conventions in Classical Noir and Intro to Film Analysis*

For the second class, students will extend the skills and vocabulary acquired during the first class and apply similar methods to more complex theoretical and critical applications. In particular, they'll examine psychoanalytic and sociological lenses by which authors and directors shape narratives. Still within the noir genre, they'll assess how such complex study resonates within more contemporary literary and cinematic adaptations. Foci will include Freudian expectations of behavior and why they fall flat in reality, along with Blakean Romanticism and its applications for adult behavior.

Contemporary Adaptations of Noir

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Psychoanalysis and Romanticism within Noir*

The third class is an ongoing accretion of and reapplication of ideas covered during the previous three. Specifically, students will look at recent noir literary and film works to assess how they differ from traditional, archetypal modes and include (or manipulate) psychological and sociological presumptions. The year will culminate with the group challenge for students to write, cast, shoot, direct, edit and refine a complete noir film (of a reasonable length so as to be feasible and still coherent) that showcases the understandings they've accumulated over the year.

American Literature

11th Grade English¹

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

Dystopias of the Past, Present and Future

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *First class in the sequence*

"Dystopias Past, Present, and Future" is interested in the historical, contemporary, and speculative realms of societal critique. By examining dystopian narratives that offer us an alternative way of viewing America's past, present and future, participants will gain insights into the socio-political landscape, fostering a deeper understanding of the foundation of American society and its potential trajectories. This class's primary text will be *The Crucible*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *Parable of the Sower*.

Literature of Place

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Dystopias of the Past, Present and Future*

"Literature of Place" explores the relationship between people and place through literature. In this course students will analyze literary works where setting transcends its traditional role, emerging as a dynamic character in its own right. By engaging with texts that prioritize the interplay between people and place, students will deepen their understanding of the connections between literature, culture,

¹ Rising seniors who took Postmodernism in 24-25 will be taking American Literature in 25-26

and the world around us. This class will use a range of primary texts including fiction, non-fiction, poetry and film.

American Horror Stories

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Literature of Place*

"American Horror Stories" looks at the underbelly of American history through the lens of horror and true crime literature. This course offers a chilling exploration of historical injustices, uncovering the realities that lurk beneath the surface of our society. From colonial atrocities to contemporary criminal cases, students will analyze how horror and true crime narratives reflect, critique, and sometimes perpetuate societal norms and power structures.

Postmodernism

12th Grade English

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

Intro to Postmodernism: Humanism and Now

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *First class in the sequence*

Within the first class, students will be introduced to the complex web of ideas they'll reassess in increments over the course of the year, essentially beginning at the end in conceptual terms. To supplement their reactionary analyses of postmodern concepts, we'll then cycle back to the age-old philosophical undertakings and presumptions of humanism. By contrasting humanist claims with contemporary counter theory regarding truth and reasoning, they'll assess how such ideas have changed over recent decades. Central texts revolve around the social and ideological problems caused by dependence on humanistic assumptions of truth within worlds that increasingly construct their own senses of logic and 'truth.'

Postmodern Satire and Social Commentary

- *Fulfills one of three grade English credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Intro to Postmodernism: Humanism and Now*

The second class centers on the various questions and complications of what is vaguely called 'postmodern' and 'poststructuralist', and engages with paradox to consider how and why such questions without answers may be differently productive than whole answers with neat and tidy edges. In essence, we'll look at how artists contend with absurdity, nihilism, and chaos, often rendering productions that mimic the mess they see, rather than solving it.

Postmodernism, Redux: Now, Again

- *Fulfills one of three English credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Postmodern Satire and Social Commentary*

The third class is an ongoing accretion of and reapplication of ideas covered during the previous two. Students will take a deep dive into how systems and presumptions influence behavior, and how artists react to such systems. They'll likewise reconsider the opening premises of the course, even as far back as day one, to reconsider how the array of ideas they've acquired, while non-linear and collage-like in chaotic array, more accurately describe the world in which we live today than may a tidy, linear, or traditional design. In the process, they'll apply complex ideas and considerations of systems to real-world ethical problems, such as the use of A.I.

Elective English Classes

Poetry: Finding Voice

- *Single class, no prerequisite*

In this immersive class, students will embark on a journey of self-discovery and creative expression through the exploration of poetry. Through a combination of writing workshops, close reading, and critical analysis, students will uncover the power of language to articulate personal experiences, emotions, and perspectives while deepening their understanding of poetic techniques, forms, and traditions. In addition to writing and creative exploration, students will participate in collaborative discussions and presentations, sharing their own work and offering feedback to their peers. Through these interactions, students will develop critical thinking skills and learn to analyze and interpret poetry with nuance and sensitivity.

The Art of Songwriting

- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class is an English elective designed for students who are passionate about music and creative writing. This course will explore the fundamentals of songwriting, blending literary techniques with musical elements to create original songs. Students will study various genres and styles, analyze famous song lyrics, and learn about the historical and cultural contexts of different music movements. Through a combination of individual and collaborative projects, students will develop their own unique voice and style, ultimately composing and performing their original songs. No prior musical experience is required, just a love for music and a willingness to experiment with words and melodies.

Shakespeare: How Not to Fear the Bard

- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Did you enjoy *Romeo and Juliet* and desire more works by the Elizabethan poet before you reach college? Or maybe you're interested in acting and want to know more about a foundational artist in the field. Or perhaps you just enjoy high-minded discussions regarding amazing literature. The Shakespeare elective will cover the gamut. Within the four-week mod, we'll deep dive into three plays, spanning comedy, tragedy, and history, and we'll add details of the poet's life and times into considerations of how and why his artwork helped to transform entertainment in the late 1500's, and why it's still worth reading, performing, and experiencing today.

Artificial Intelligence: A Literary and Cultural Study

- *Single class, no prerequisite*

What is A.I. and how might it be used effectively? We'll cover a variety of answers to such questions from literary works and cultural perspectives spanning the past one hundred years. Plus, since the subject matter of the course is experimental and unfolding rapidly in its development today, so will the curriculum. Students will experiment with AI applications in various modes, apply them to writing, illustration, research, and discussion, and thereby wrestle with the ethical and existential difficulties inherent to new technology. Jett and Camden will assist me in designing the curriculum over the next several weeks, and next year's students will offer revisions and suggestions for adaptations (since we don't want computers to have all the fun).

Film History

- *Single class, no prerequisite*

For those interested in continued film studies, we'll focus on the historical progression of the industry from the early 1900's through the present. Subject matter will include the development and refinement of the Classical Hollywood system, post-War social anxiety and experimental cinema during the 1960's, the blockbuster movement, and contemporary modes of digital filmmaking, including the rise of international influences within today's industry. By necessity, the mod will be heavy on reading. And, we'll have the opportunity to see and critique a number of influential works by famous directors to gain a better sense of their craft.

Social Studies

The Social Studies department exists to build global and diverse understanding, create cultural competence and draw socially informed connections between events and humanity.

World History

9th Grade History

Middle Eastern Studies

- *Fulfills one of three 9th grade history credit requirements*
- *First class in the sequence*

Middle Eastern Studies explores the region's dynamic past and its profound influence on modern day. Through an examination of the political, social, cultural, and economic dimensions, students will gain a nuanced understanding of the Middle East, ending with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The World Wars

- *Fulfills one of three 9th grade history credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Middle Eastern Studies*

The World Wars class offers a comprehensive examination of the two World Wars that profoundly influence global dynamics today. Through a multifaceted exploration of the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions, students will gain a deep understanding of the causes, consequences, and legacies of these transformative conflicts.

Colonization in the Modern World

- *Fulfills one of three 9th grade history credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: The World Wars*

This course provides an in-depth examination of colonization in recent history; we'll explore the processes, consequences, and enduring legacies of expansionism across the globe. Finally, we will dive into neo-colonialism and modern day influence.

Human Geography

10th Grade Social Studies

Modern Cartography and Geology of the Mountain West

- *Fulfills one of three 10th grade history credit requirements*
- *First class in the sequence*

This class explores how cartography is an ever evolving field that can be used to answer a variety of questions ranging from personal reflections to concrete data investigations. Students will learn to use and analyze maps in addition to creating their own maps (using ARCGIS software) that illustrate data and alternative views of a current or potential local issue. In the second half of this course, students will explore the history of and dynamic changes occurring in the physical landscapes they experience in Steamboat Springs and the Utah desert.

Electoral Geography and Human Rights

- *Fulfills one of three 10th grade history credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Modern Cartography and Geology of the Mountain West*

In this class, students learn about how cartography plays a pivotal role in city, state, and federal elections. In addition, this class encourages students to develop the knowledge, skills, and values to fully exercise and protect the human rights of themselves and others.

Storytelling, Border Conflicts, and Cultural Diversity

- *Fulfills one of three 10th grade history credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Electoral Geography and Human Rights*

In this class, students will research a topic related to one of the five themes of geography. As part of their research, they will interview an expert in the field and write an article modeled after those found in National Geographic Magazine. Students will also explore border conflicts around the world and end the class with a celebration of the diverse cultures that exist on our shared planet!

US History

11th Grade History

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

Indigenous History

- *Fulfills one of three 11th grade history credit requirements*
- *First class in sequence*

Indigenous History will explore the culture, stories and conflict of native voices in the United States. From colonial encounters to contemporary challenges, students will look closely at the relationship between indigenous tribes and the US government.

The American West

- *Fulfills one of three 11th grade history credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Indigenous History*

This class delves into the multifaceted history of the American West, examining its complex tapestry of how manifest destiny impacted economic and political expansion. We will also explore American environmental history and how it shapes land protection today. Finally, we will study World War II: the atomic bomb and Japanese internment.

Music and Revolution

- *Fulfills one of three 11th grade history credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: The American West*

Music & Revolution offers a dynamic exploration of how music has served as a catalyst for social change and shaped the landscape of U.S. history; we specifically will look at music from the black experience. Units include slavery anthems of the Civil War, blues and jazz era of Jim Crow, and 1990s hip hop. This course delves into the symbiotic relationship between music and social change.

Social Philosophy

11th or 12th Grade Social Studies

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

Intro to Social Philosophy

- *Fulfills one history credit for 11th or 12th graders (11th graders must also take 3 US History credits)*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class explores the foundational concepts and ethical frameworks shaping society in "Social Philosophy." Students will investigate theories of justice, freedom, and power dynamics while critically analyzing the role of institutions and cultural norms in shaping social structures.

Roots of Inequality

- *Fulfills one history credit for 11th or 12th graders (11th graders must also take 3 US History credits)*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class explores the deep-seated origins of inequality in human societies through an examination of historical, cultural, and environmental factors. Anchored in Jared Diamond's "Guns, Germs, and Steel," this class challenges historical notions about how Eurasian hegemony is due to any form of Eurasian intellectual, moral, or inherent genetic superiority. Instead, we'll seek to establish an evidence-based, historical perspective of what accounts for contemporary disparity.

Civil Disobedience

- *Fulfills one history credit for 11th or 12th graders (11th graders must also take 3 US History credits)*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class will explore the moral, ethical and political dimensions of civil disobedience. From the abolitionist movement to the modern fight against climate change, this course will examine the role dissent, protest, and sabotage plays in shaping social change.

Elective Social Studies Classes

Himalayan Studies

- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This course offers an exploration of the Himalayan region, which is a diverse and culturally rich area. We will study philosophical religion, complex politics and migration, and conflicts of today.

Civics

- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Civics is an inquiry based class during which students will explore how factors of structure, process, and policy influence each other at the local, state, and federal levels of government. Emphasis is on teaching students how to develop a critical understanding of diverse perspectives from the founding of the United States and the Constitution to political beliefs and behaviors that influence current public and economic policy.

Disability Justice

- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will be introduced to the history of Disability Rights in the United States, and the formation of the Disability Justice movement. We will explore what justice has meant and continues to mean for the Disability Community. In culmination, students will define what justice means to them through a creative project, and will consider how we can work together to collectively create more just and equitable schools, communities, and societies that are inclusive to all identities and experiences..

Female Anatomy and Women's Studies

- *Fulfills one of three 11th or 12th grade science or humanities credit requirements (11th graders must also take 3 US History credits)*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class explores the multifaceted intersection of female gender and health. We will learn about the complex anatomy and physiology of the female body: the menstrual cycle, birth control, pregnancy and birth, menopause, etc. We will also explore women's history and contemporary issues, diving deeper into the waves of feminism, the pay gap, reproductive rights, etc. This will be a safe space to explore a variety of conversations and topics.

Art History

- *Fulfills one history credit for 10th, 11th or 12th graders (10th graders must also take 3 Geography credits, and 11th graders must also take 3 US History credits)*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class provides an evolution of artistic movements from Classicism to Postmodernism, offering students a deep understanding of the major shifts, trends, and innovations in the world of art across centuries. Students will examine the cultural, social, political, and philosophical contexts that shaped each movement, as well as the key artists, artworks, techniques, and themes associated with them. Students will investigate how these movements challenged traditional notions of representation, perspective, and artistic expression, pushing the boundaries of form and content.

Sports and Society

- *Fulfills one humanities credit for 11th or 12th graders (11th graders must also take 3 US History credits)*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This elective explores the intricate connections between sports, society, and politics. Students will examine how sports reflect and influence cultural values, social dynamics, and policy – both historically and contemporarily. Themes may include the role of sports in national identity, the impact of sports on social movements, the political economy of professional sports, ethical dilemmas faced by athletes and sports organizations, and the intersection between sports and education.

Standardized Reading Test Prep

- *Single class, no prerequisite*
- *Non-credit class*

Our standardized reading test prep class is designed to help students master the reading/writing/English sections of the SAT/ACT with effective strategies, in-depth content review, and targeted practice.

Math

The math department exists to build quantitative reasoning skills, numerical critical thinking, and problem solving among students, both through the conceptualization of data and its real world applications.

Integrated 1

- *Sequential*
- *Fulfills a year-long math requirement*

Integrated 1 provides the foundations for the Steamboat Mountain School's math program and prepares students to enter Integrated 2. The Integrated 1 course dives deep into algebraic ideas while exposing students to content across other mathematical subject areas. The scope and sequence follows an integrated framework with content from algebra to geometry to statistics. The course challenges students to master algebraic skills and procedures and then apply those skills and procedures to geometric shapes, concepts and logic

Integrated 1 A

- *Fulfills one of three classes for a math course*
- *First class in sequence*

Includes:

- Introduction to number theory
- Expressions
- Equations in one variable
- Relations and functions
- Linear and nonlinear functions

Integrated 1 B

- *Fulfills one of three classes for a math course*
- *Prerequisite: Integrated 1 A*

Includes:

- Creating linear equations
- Linear inequalities
- Systems of linear equations and inequalities
- Exponential functions
- Statistics

Integrated 1 C

- *Fulfills one of three classes for a math course*
- *Prerequisite: Integrated 1 B*

Includes:

- Tools of geometry
- Angles and geometric figures
- Logical arguments and line relationships
- Transformations and symmetry
- Triangles and congruence

Integrated 2

- *Sequential*
- *Fulfills a year-long math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: successful completion of Integrated 1*

The Integrated 2 math course solidifies students' basic algebra skills learned in Integrated 1 and expands on these principles to develop new and more advanced algebra skills. This course also incorporates new geometry principles and shows students how to apply their algebraic knowledge to shapes and figures.

Integrated 2 A

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *First class in sequence*

Includes: Integrated 1 Algebra Review, relationships in Triangles (including medians, altitudes, and bisectors), and quadrilaterals (including special properties of parallelograms, rectangles, squares, trapezoids and rhombi)

Integrated 2 B

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Integrated 2 A*

Includes: Similar polygons, triangles, and proportionality, right triangles and the basics of trigonometry (including Pythagorean theorem, sine, cosine, tangent, and trigonometric identities), circles (including arcs, sectors and inscribed angles), area, surface area and volume

Integrated 2 C

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Integrated 2 B*

Includes: Linear equations, inequalities and systems of equations, exponents and radical expressions, algebraic manipulation of polynomials, and quadratics (including multiplication, factoring and the quadratic formula)

Integrated 3

- *Sequential*
- *Fulfills a year-long math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: successful completion of Integrated 2*

Integrated 3 builds upon and extends the mathematics learned in Integrated 1 and Integrated 2. The scope and sequence follows an integrated framework with content from algebra to geometry to statistics. Integrated 3 challenges students to master algebraic skills of increasing difficulty and then apply those skills using patterns, modeling and conjectures. The course emphasizes problem solving and applications in real-world situations, and students explore the connection between the concepts they are learning and the way those concepts model the world around them.

Integrated 3 A

- *Fulfills one of three classes for a math course*
- *First class in sequence*

Includes:

- Review integrated 1 and 2 algebra
- Quadratic functions

- Polynomials and polynomial functions
- Polynomial equations

Integrated 3 B

- *Fulfills one of three classes for a math course*
- *Prerequisite: Integrated 3 A*

Includes:

- Inverse and radical functions
- Exponential functions
- Logarithmic functions

Integrated 3 C

- *Fulfills one of three classes for a math course*
- *Prerequisite: Integrated 3 B*

Includes:

- Rational functions
- Inferential statistics
- Trigonometric functions

Precalculus

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

Precalculus A

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *First class in sequence*
- *Prerequisite: successful completion of Integrated 3 or approval of department*

Exploration of functions represented graphically, algebraically, numerically, and verbally. Each of these will be used to review the concept of functions and how they are applied. Journaling will be introduced and thorough journal entries will be written for each chapter.

Precalculus B

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Precalculus A*

Trigonometry, a full development of the topic so that students have a robust understanding of the trigonometric functions and their applications. Learning to think about transcendental functions is often a new and intriguing concept for students.

Precalculus C

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Precalculus B*

Advanced math topics will be explored, vectors, probability, conic sections, complex numbers, sequences and series are among the possibilities. All this will be done with an eye toward preparing for calculus along with applications.

Calculus 1

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

- *Sequential*
- *Fulfills a year-long math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: successful completion of Precalculus or approval of department*

This course introduces the fundamental topics of calculus. The Calculus 1 course emphasizes visualization and correlation of all related perspectives and concepts. Students are encouraged to recognize how all new material in calculus fits into material they have already learned in previous math courses. Students in the course look at "the big picture" of mathematics. Students are expected to become proficient users of the graphing calculator, which is used regularly throughout the course in order to help them visualize the concepts being covered in class.

Calculus 1 A

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *First class in sequence*

Includes:

- Concept of rate of change
- Limits
- Derivatives (physical meaning, geometrical meaning, definitions, properties)
- Indefinite integrals (physical meaning, geometrical meaning, definitions, properties)

Calculus 1 B

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Calculus 1 A*

Includes:

- Derivative rules and application to more complicated functions
- Evaluation of derivatives with regard to displacement, velocity and acceleration
- Parametric equations, implicit relations and related rates

Calculus 1 C

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Calculus 1 B*

Includes:

- Definite integrals (physical meaning, geometrical meaning, definitions, properties)
- Application of definite integrals with respect to area and volume
- The calculus of exponential and logarithmic functions

Calculus 2

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

- *Sequential*
- *Fulfills a year-long math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: successful completion of Calculus 1 or approval of department*

This course reinforces the fundamental topics of calculus and develops advanced calculus topics. The Calculus II course reinforces concepts learned in Calculus I and applies them to more complex problems. For example, basic integration is expanded to more difficult equations and the use of new techniques such as trigonometric substitution are employed. Students go more in depth into real life calculus problems such as minimizing building materials, calculating the center of mass for a complicated 3D shape, and the evaluation of motion through vector analysis. Finally the students' attention to detail and organization is developed through exploring power series. Students are

expected to be proficient users of the graphing calculator, which is used regularly throughout the course in order to help them visualize the concepts being covered in class.

Calculus 2 A

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *First class in sequence*

Includes:

- The calculus of exponential growth and decay, including application of logistic functions
- The calculus of plane and solid figures (including maximization and minimization of 2D and 3D shapes)
- Polar coordinates applied to arc length and sector areas

Calculus 2 B

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Calculus 2 A*

Includes:

- Integration by parts and reduction formulas
- Integration with trigonometric substitution and partial fractions
- The calculus of hyperbolic and inverse hyperbolic functions
- Improper integrals

Calculus 2 C

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a math requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Calculus 2 C*

Includes:

- The calculus of motion - averages, extremes, and vectors (including average value and minimal path problems, as well as evaluating velocity and acceleration using vectors)
- The calculus of variable-factor products (including work done by a variable force, mass of a variable density object, moments, centroids and center of pressure)
- The calculus of functions defined by power series (including geometric sequences, power series, Taylor and Maclaurin series, convergence, divergence, and Lagrange error bounds)

Elective Math Classes

Demystifying Digital Assets

- *Single class, no prerequisite*
- *Fulfills one of three year-long math requirements for 11th or 12th graders, or acts as a math elective*

Digital assets are the modern day's most confusing topics. Depending on who you ask, you will find polarizing answers on opposite ends of the spectrum: valuable or useless, legitimate or fake, innovative or theatrical, environmentally-beneficial or harmful, governmental or criminal, left-wing or right-wing. In this class, we will acknowledge our preconceived notions, explore digital assets from the ground up, and conclude well-equipped with an informed understanding.

Introduction to Engineering

- *Single class, no prerequisite*
- *Fulfills one of three year-long math requirements for 12th graders, or acts as a math elective*

Includes: Advanced trigonometry, introduction to physics, and engineering design principles (applied to bridge design project). Develops students' understanding of how forces are applied, real world

design principles like efficient material use and safety factors, and critical thinking with regard to external project factors such as community impact and environmental considerations, structural design principles and building (applied to designing and building small scale projects, includes design principles such as structural load evaluation, angles, efficient use of building materials, as well as improving construction skills and use of tools)

Statistics

- *Single class, no prerequisite*
- *Fulfills one of three year-long math requirements for 12th graders, or acts as a math elective*

Our world is filled with data. Everywhere we look data is being collected from us and presented to us to accomplish a variety of tasks. While it is an incredibly powerful tool, it is not straightforward or easy to use and understand. However, in your future education and lives, you will have to be able to understand and work with data in a variety of ways. The goal of this project is to build a knowledge base of how data is created, manipulated, and used for a variety of purposes in our world. We will learn how to read and understand different data sets and graphics, and then how we can make these on our own. We will discuss how and why data is reliable and credible, along with how we can find good data on the internet.

Personal Finance

- *Single class, no prerequisite*
- *Fulfills one of three year-long math requirements for 12th graders, or acts as a math elective*

Students learn how to enter and manipulate functions within google sheets, to apply mathematical equations to real life situations and utilize that information to make decisions. They will focus on interest, credit and loans (applied to car purchases, credit cards, and student loans), taxes and budgeting (applied to taxes and creating a holistic life budget for a potential future situation).

Standardized Math Test Prep

- *Single class, no prerequisite*
- *Non-credit class*

Our standardized math test prep class is designed to help students master the math section of the SAT with effective strategies, in-depth content review, and targeted practice. This course covers both the No Calculator and Calculator sections, focusing on key topics such as algebra, geometry, data analysis, and advanced math concepts.

Science

The science department exists to generate appreciation and curiosity for the natural world. Our students learn to observe, investigate, and reflect as a way to gain knowledge of the natural world.

Biology

9th Grade Science

Biology A

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a biology requirement*
- *First class in sequence*

From pond water to alpine soil, students practice scientific thinking by collecting real-world data and unraveling the mysteries of life's molecular building blocks. Along the way, they'll discover how proteins, lipids, and carbohydrates fuel everything from sprouting seeds to sprinting runners.

Biology B

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a biology requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Biology 1 A*

Cells divide, mutations arise, and students explore how these processes connect to cancer, inheritance, and cutting-edge genetic technology. Hands-on experiments—from bitter taste tests to cheese-making—bring DNA to life, while electrophoresis lets them visualize the science behind genetic analysis.

Biology C

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a biology requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Biology 1 B*

From antibiotic resistance to pika survival, students investigate how species adapt in a changing world and why evolution is always a driving force of life. Students will wrap up with a deep dive into human physiology—covering everything from first aid skills to the science of sex education.

Chemistry

10th Grade Science

Chemistry A

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a chemistry requirement*
- *First class in sequence*

In Chemistry A, we will begin with a general science review while exploring new content and developing key interdisciplinary scientific skills, including measurement techniques, significant figures, scientific notation, and mathematical operations related to these concepts. We will apply these skills in a hands-on lab using water displacement and density formulas to determine the volume of irregularly shaped objects and identify a mystery metal. With this foundation, we will dive into the world of atoms, subatomic particles, the history of atomic theory, the periodic table, and ionic bonding, along with nomenclature and mole calculations. To conclude the mod and see ions in action, we will conduct an exciting electrolysis lab.

Chemistry B

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a chemistry requirement*

- *Prerequisite: Chemistry A*

During Mod B, we will learn fundamental chemistry concepts such as balancing equations, identifying types of reactions, and reading and writing equations. Building on our understanding of nomenclature from Mod A, we will be able to decipher many aspects of basic formulas and apply this knowledge in a more complex context. We will also expand upon our foundational understanding of the mole and apply it in stoichiometry calculations. While mole-to-mole stoichiometry is the basic requirement for the class, many students choose to go beyond this to a level of personal challenge. Additionally, we will conduct engaging labs, including one on reactions in aqueous solutions and precipitate formation, using solubility rules to predict whether a precipitate will form.

Chemistry C

- *Fulfills one of three credits for a chemistry requirement*
- *Prerequisite: Chemistry B*

We will conclude our general chemistry studies with a deeper understanding of atomic structure, including electron configurations and modern atomic theory. We will explore wavelength, frequency, amplitude, electrons, and quantum theory, concepts that transformed industry and production in the 20th century but also played a role in modern warfare. Through a fun activity curated by the American Chemical Society, we will learn about the development of DayGlo paint, with an option to create safe glow sticks as a lab extension. While both glow sticks and DayGlo paint rely on photon excitation, they achieve their vibrant colors through different mechanisms. Additionally, we will study intermolecular forces, molecular structure, gas laws and formulas, and key topics from the remaining textbook chapters.

Anatomy and Physiology

11th or 12th Grade Science

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

Fundamentals of A+P

- *Fulfills one of three optional 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *First class in sequence*

In this class we will focus on eukaryotic cell structure and functions, homeostasis, the integumentary system, and the urinary system.

Kinesiology

- *Fulfills one of three optional 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class, preferred prerequisite: Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology and Homeostasis*

In this class we will focus on the anatomy and physiology of the musculoskeletal and nervous systems. This class will include a detailed mink dissection.

All the Goopy Guts

- *Fulfills one of three optional 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class, preferred prerequisite: Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology and Homeostasis*

In this class we will focus on the anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, lymphatic and reproductive systems.

Environmental Science

11th or 12th Grade Science

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

Ecological Systems

- *Fulfills one of three 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Will occur during the First mod in September*
- *First class in sequence*

In this class, students will learn how ecosystems function and the role individual species play in maintaining a dynamic balance. Students will practice data collection skills throughout our campus and Routt County that will enable them to successfully plan a project utilizing the principles of Permaculture or sustainable agriculture.

Circular Economies: Waste Management and Reduction

- *Fulfills one of three 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Ecological Systems*

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of environmental policy, sustainable resource management, and waste reduction practices. Students will engage with a range of topics including environmental policy frameworks, mining practices and their impacts, recycling methodologies, composting techniques, and modern approaches to waste disposal.

Designing for the Future

- *Fulfills one of three 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Prerequisite: Circular Economies: Waste Management and Reduction*

Dive into the science of air pollution, climate change, and the innovative solutions shaping our future! From analyzing smog to designing sustainable cities, this course explores cutting-edge renewable energy and real-world strategies for a cleaner planet. Students will experiment, innovate, and reimagine our world for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Physics

11th or 12th Grade Science

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

Mechanics: Newton–Projectiles to Satellites

- *Fulfills one of three 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Mechanics, a simple term to describe how things move. Two dimensions, three dimensions, in circles, small (wheels) and large (orbits) and how gravity fits into it all.

The Nature of Matter, Electricity, Magnetism, Sound, and Light

- *Fulfills one of three 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

There will be a quick review of matter and then on to exploring sound, electricity and magnetism, and finishing up with a study of light.

Atomic, Nuclear, Relativity, and Research

- *Fulfills one of three 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Topics in modern physics including nuclear physics and relativity. Find out what Einstein, his contemporaries, and those following in his footsteps today are doing.

Elective Science Classes

Elective classes do not fulfill the graduation requirements of the three-sequence courses. They are additional credits beyond the required courses.

Female Anatomy and Women's Studies

- *Fulfills one of three 11th or 12th grade science or humanities credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class explores the multifaceted intersection of female gender and health. We will learn about the complex anatomy and physiology of the female body: the menstrual cycle, birth control, pregnancy and birth, menopause, etc. We will also explore women's history and contemporary issues, diving deeper into the waves of feminism, the pay gap, reproductive rights, etc. This will be a safe space to explore a variety of conversations and topics.

Conservation Biology and Solutions to Pollution

- *Fulfills one of three 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Through a multidisciplinary approach, students will not only learn about the science behind conservation biology, but also explore innovative policy solutions to protect ecosystems in the local and global context. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to the preservation of our precious natural resources and biodiversity.

Wilderness First Aid

- *Fulfills one of three 10th, 11th, or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*
- *This class has an ADDITIONAL COST to the standard tuition*

Learn about the scope of wilderness medicine, patient care, common backcountry injuries and health problems, and environmental concerns. You will have the opportunity to earn a Wilderness First Aid certification through Desert Mountain Medicine as a part of this class.

Geology: How the Earth Works

- *Fulfills one of three 10th, 11th, or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

The Earth's landscape is unique and complex, from mountain ranges to rivers to deep-sea trenches. Embark on a journey to understand the dynamic processes that shape our planet! This class asks why the Earth looks the way it does and how its governing processes function. We will explore topics in Earth Sciences at an introductory level, including rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, geological time, and interactions between Earth's systems. Our work will be rooted in hands-on work, lab activities, and field trips. Subject to student interest, we may also study water and snow science to understand the movement of water on and beneath Earth's surface.

Astronomy

- *Fulfills one of three 10th, 11th, or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class*
- *Prerequisite: Integrated 2*

What is going on in the night sky? This introductory course applies basic math and physics to the exciting world of astronomy, exploring to infinity... and beyond! We will investigate why the stars and planets above our heads look and move the way they do. Through hands-on activities and nighttime observations as well as formulas and equations, students will delve into the mysteries of motion, gravity, and light in our solar system and galaxy. Topics covered will include star and planet formation, observational astronomy, and the Solar System. Students will have the opportunity to explore a topic of their choice for a final research project, opening the door to more exotic topics such as galaxies, pulsars, exoplanets, and more.

IT Explorations

- *Fulfills one of three 10th, 11th or 12th grade science credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Tech Team students engage in Information Technology through hands-on exploration, covering key areas such as hardware networking (portals, switches, and routers), PC/Mac troubleshooting, user-level technical support, and Agile project management. This fast-paced, adaptive course integrates real-world applications, allowing students to work with actual clients both on and off campus while exploring emerging technological developments and their broader impacts. Discussions may include how Facebook discontinuing third-party landing pages affects websites, e-commerce, and the stock market, how semiconductor or gold shortages influence global economies, or what implications innovations like Microsoft's use of DNA as a hard drive may have for the future.

Language

The Spanish department exists to foster confident, empathetic, and global learners who strive to engage genuinely with other people and the Spanish language.

Spanish 1

- *Sequential (A, B, C)*
- *Fulfills a year-long language requirement*

Spanish 1 is focused on mastering the basics of the Spanish language while simultaneously introducing students to an exploration of cultural comparisons to develop the beginnings of cultural competency. In Spanish 1, students will learn basic grammar and vocabulary that builds the foundation for communication in their second language. They will develop tools that they can utilize as they participate in basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The class employs the Acquisition-Driven Instruction model of language instruction, following the SOMOS 1 curriculum from The Comprehensible Classroom™. Students will also read a short novel designed for language learners. Specific grammar instruction will be introduced organically throughout the course, specifically the present and past tenses.

Spanish 2

- *Sequential (A, B, C)*
- *Fulfills a year-long language requirement*

In Spanish 2, students continue to build their speaking, writing, and listening skills in Spanish, with an emphasis on gaining confidence speaking through regular conversations. Spanish 2 builds on language communication skills developed in previous years by continuing our use of the SOMOS 1 Curriculum from The Comprehensible Classroom™ and starting SOMOS 2. Students will also read a short novel designed for language learners. Specific grammar instruction will be introduced organically throughout the course, specifically the present and past tenses.

Spanish 3

- *Sequential (A, B, C)*
- *Fulfills a year-long language requirement*

In Spanish 3, students continue to build their speaking, writing, and listening skills in Spanish, with an emphasis on gaining confidence speaking through regular conversations and the beginnings of analytical writing, all completely in Spanish. Spanish 3 builds on language communication skills developed in previous years by continuing our use of the SOMOS Curriculum from The Comprehensible Classroom™ and beginning the Huellas Curriculum. Students will also read a short novel designed for language learners. Specific grammar instruction will be introduced organically throughout the course.

Spanish 4

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

- *Sequential (A, B, C)*
- *Fulfills a year-long language requirement*

In Spanish 4, students continue to develop acquisition of language through the intermediate levels. Spanish 4 uses the Huellas Curriculum that is primarily comprehensible-input based; students are exposed to past, present and future tenses along with more complex structures. Spanish 4 will incorporate the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and provide opportunities for students to explore cross-curricular themes, interact with authentic materials that are accessible to them, and learn how they can make an impact in the world (in Spanish!).

Spanish 5

Honors option available with recommendation and approval from the department.

- *Fulfills one of three advanced language credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

La Literatura Hispánica

- *Fulfills one of three advanced language credit requirements*
- *No sequence, optional*

This class introduces students to literary analysis and critical writing through selected literary masterpieces by Hispanic writers from a variety of time periods. Students will learn about key literary movements such as magical realism, anti-establishment poetry, philosophical short stories and debate and articulate issues of justice and identity as they relate to the Spanish-speaking world.

El Cine Hispánico

- *Fulfills one of three advanced language credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class will explore feature films and TV episodes by, for, and/or about the Spanish-speaking world. Students will discuss and analyze these works, their socio-historical context, and their social, cultural, and political themes.

Sistemas alimentarias y agricultura en Latinoamérica

- *Fulfills one of three advanced language credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class will explore the unique historical and contemporary characteristics of food systems and agriculture in Latin America. We will examine small scale, indigenous, and industrial agricultural systems and their effects on the environment, climate change, and the economy. Students will engage in written analysis, discussions, and projects that deepen their understanding of food systems and their role in the cultures and livelihoods of Latin American peoples.

Pueblos indígenas, derechos, y resistencia en América Latina

- *Fulfills one of three advanced language credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This class introduces students to basic anthropological and cultural studies through examination of various indigenous groups in Latin America. Students will learn about key moments in history from pre-colonization to the present and analyze the impacts of various global systems (economy, travel, etc.) on the struggle of indigenous peoples to gain rights and autonomy. Students will analyze and discuss academic articles, documentary films, and first person testimonies, with an eye to their social, cultural, and political themes.

Art

The art department exists to stimulate student curiosity and playfulness, to provide global connections between historical, structural, and cultural perspectives, and to guide in the development of students' own artistic voices.

Studio Art

Intro to Drawing

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will develop drawing skills that focus on the use of mark-making, line, space, pattern, gesture, light and shade, focal point, and composition. Students will investigate how art can be used to communicate ideas, identity, emotion, and stories using graphite, charcoal, ink, and pastels. Major topics include portraiture, still life, animals, landscapes, culminating in a major project of the students' chosen genre.

Advanced Drawing

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will build off foundational drawing skills to investigate more advanced drawing techniques that align with investigations into identity, surrealism, hyperrealism, and other topics of personal interest. Students will understand the important contributions of master artists in a historical and cultural context.

Intro to Painting

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will develop painting skills that focus on composition, surface texture, layering techniques, and color theory, using watercolor and acrylic paint. Emphasis will be placed on investigating abstract expressionism, the landscape, interior spaces, and text as a powerful tool for conveying meaning.

Advanced Painting

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will build off foundational painting skills to investigate more advanced techniques that allow them to explore topics such as personal history, identity, beauty, death, appropriation, and aspects of the self through watercolor, acrylic, and oil paint. Students will understand the important contributions of master artists in a historical and cultural context.

Mixed Media Fine Art

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will create a variety of artwork using paper as the primary medium. Techniques will include printmaking, papier mache, fine art collage, paper quilling and construction, paper-making, etc. Students will learn about contemporary artists working on the cutting edge of the papercraft genre today.

Functional Ceramics and Clay Sculpture

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will learn how to use traditional and contemporary techniques using clay and glaze to investigate where aesthetics and function intersect in the art making process. Students will learn traditional hand-building and pottery wheel techniques.

Garment Making: Fabric, Fashion, and Wearable Art

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will have opportunities to engage in creative embroidery, hand stitching, machine sewing, fashion design, pattern making, and garment construction techniques to make functional, fashionable, and unique wearable objects and clothing.

Fiber Fine Art

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will investigate the process of making 2D and 3D textile-based fine art using fabric, thread, embroidering, quilting, weaving, etc. This class focuses on using textiles as a tool for artistic expression. Students will investigate contemporary textile artists exploring a variety of structural, subjective, postmodern, and cultural themes.

Assemblage Sculpture

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will make wire sculptures, assemblage sculptures, mobiles, wall-hangings, and nature installations to explore mass, time, and space. Major themes include impermanence, object value, context, and narrative.

Media Art

Fine Art Photography

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will engage in photography projects from a variety of fine art genres including landscapes, portraiture, still life, surrealism, etc., culminating in a major project each week that explores the development of their unique artistic voice.

Commercial Photography

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students will learn how to apply a commercial lens to the practice of photography, focusing on architectural photography, fashion photography, food photography, and photojournalism for a cause.

Yearbook

- *Fulfills a year-long art requirement*

- *Mods 3, 4, and/or 6*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Together, the yearbook team produces a 68-page yearbook to be released to students in the spring. Students learn the principles and fundamentals of visual arts, graphic design, and photography with the final goal being the creation of the school yearbook. Students learn how to use a professional body camera, and how to cover events as they happen. Students are introduced to Photoshop and the skills needed to enhance yearbook designs in our publishing system, Yearbook Avenue. The yearbook team develops roles for each member, assigns pages, topics, and subjects. Students investigate graphic design, DEI, journalistic writing, current events, photography, copyright issues, advertising, and publication ethics based on Steamboat Mountain School happenings.

Performing Arts

Dance

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

Students have the opportunity to enrich kinesthetic awareness by learning several genres of dance (ballet, jazz, hip-hop, modern, social and cultural dance). Basic fitness principles, the history of dance, dance terminology, choreography, and dance production will be major themes of the class.

Drama

- *Fulfills one of three art credit requirements*
- *Single class, no prerequisite*

This introductory class will investigate: theater vocabulary, roles in the theater, improvisation, pantomime, movement, acting (scene work and one act plays), theatre history (from ancient Greek to the present), the reading of plays, theater set/costume design and tech.

Independent Study

The Independent Study program at Steamboat Mountain School offers motivated students the opportunity to design and pursue a personalized academic or creative project under the guidance of a faculty mentor. This flexible, student-driven course allows participants to explore areas of deep interest beyond the standard curriculum, develop essential research and problem-solving skills, and demonstrate initiative in managing their own learning. Independent Study projects may involve in-depth research, hands-on experimentation, artistic creation, or a combination of approaches, culminating in a final presentation or product that showcases the student's growth and achievement. All Independent Study proposals must be approved by the Assistant Head of School to ensure academic rigor and alignment with the school's educational philosophy.

One Schoolhouse Partnership

SMS is a member of One Schoolhouse (OSH), a consortium of independent schools offering outstanding online courses to students around the world. One Schoolhouse provides small classes, strong teacher-student relationships, and a curriculum that is student-centered. The partnership with One Schoolhouse allows SMS students to have access to an expansive curriculum, gain experience with online learning, and additional opportunities to pursue learning in areas of interest.

Requirements and Policies

- One Schoolhouse offers 90+ fall semester and year long courses.
- Students enrolled in the GS program are only eligible for summer or fall semester courses
- Students enrolled in the competitive ski/ride program may enroll in year long courses.
- Non AP courses require 6-8 hours of time per week and AP classes require 8-10 hours of time each week. One Schoolhouse courses will not be scheduled. Students will need to complete OSH coursework during free periods, study halls, and/or on weekends and in evenings.
- One Schoolhouse courses are space limited and students may not get into a class that is full.
- One Schoolhouse courses are best suited for students who are motivated, can work well independently, and can manage their time effectively.
- Admittance to OSH courses will be determined by the Academic Dean and based upon the student's application, work habits, and feedback from current faculty.
- Students will submit a request to the Academic Dean during the SMS course registration process.

Tuition Policies

With SMS Approval - Tuition Covered

- Students who are taking a sequential course (likely in language or math) that is not offered at SMS. Note that this option is not available for GS students.
- Seniors who are unable to take a required course due to a scheduling conflict.
- In both cases the grade will be marked on the student's SMS transcript as an OSH course.

With SMS Approval - Tuition Not Covered

- Summer courses that are used to either lighten a student's academic load during the school year or to advance in a subject.
- A year long or semester course that is not offered at SMS.
- A year long or semester course that allows the student greater flexibility in their academic schedule.

For a list of OSH check out their website: <https://www.oneschoolhouse.org/>