

BALBOA ACADEMY

High School Course Catalog

School Year 2024-2025



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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Balboa Academy offers dual diplomas, US COGNIA Diploma and Panama's Ministry of Education "Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras". Four years (eight semesters) of High School attendance and 28 credits are required to graduate from Balboa Academy. One-half credit is given for the successful completion of each semester of a course. Students enrolled in year-long courses are expected to complete both semesters of the course. Exceptions may be granted for students we feel are misplaced in a particular course. In these cases, a teacher and/or counselor may recommend that the course be dropped.

Minimum Requirements

- English (4 credits, 1 credit per year)
- Math (4 credits, 1 credit per year)
- Science (4 credits, 1 credit per year) Panama's Ministry of Education requires students to take Chemistry and Physics for the "Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras"
- Social Studies (4 credits, 1 credit per year) Panama's Ministry of Education requires students to take Civics, Panama History, Latin American Studies and Philosophy for the "Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras"
- Spanish (4 credits, 1 credit per year)
- Modern Languages (1 credit) Panama's Ministry of Education requires students to take 1 year of Modern Languages for the "Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras"
- Fine and Performing Arts (1 credit)
- Practical and Technical Arts (1 credit)
- Physical Education (1/2 credits) and Health (1/2 credit)
- Electives (4 credits)

AP Courses and Examinations

Advanced Placement examinations (AP exams) are exams offered by College Board and are taken each May by students. The tests are the culmination of year-long Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP exams (with few exceptions) have a multiple-choice section and a free-response section. AP gives students the opportunity to prepare themselves at a college-level while still in high school.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are rigorous, externally assessed courses, with greater expectations for homework and test preparation. Because AP exams represent the culmination of AP courses, and are thus an integral part of the program, students who enroll in an AP course are required to take the corresponding AP exam. There is an additional fee for each exam.





English



In the English program, students learn to become critical readers and expressive writers. They learn to read literature for analysis and appreciation, acquiring sensitivity to the nuances and craftsmanship inherent in the text of any good work. In addition, students learn to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity, developing awareness of themselves as writers and of the techniques employed by the writers they read. Four credits of English are required for graduation.

Department Courses

	9	10	11	12
850/EN300 English 9	●			
061/EN301 PRE AP English 1	●			
853/EN302 English 10		●		
062/EN303 PRE AP English 2		●		
854/EN304 English 11			●	
325/EN400 AP English Language and Comp.			●	●
313/EN400 AP English Literature and Comp.			●	●
333/EN305 College English Writing and Comp.				●

850/EN300 English 9

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous English course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Students in English 9 will learn to see communication as a tool to find and achieve success in all careers. We will work together to improve reading, writing, and grammar skills to meet the expectations of high school. It is imperative for all students to gain an understanding of how to research well and report information. In this way, students will appreciate the connections that are made through reading, writing, and speaking. English 9 students will read texts from around the world and different genres, from Native American Literature to the Middle East to Ancient Mythology to Shakespeare. They also receive tools of Media Literacy and Research to best prepare themselves for real-world application. Ultimately, students, through a variety of assessment methods, will learn to develop skills necessary for success in Advanced Placement English courses and exams. It is important to note that Balboa

Academy upholds the College Board's open equity promise to High School students. However, placement in an AP course depends on the effort, scores, and assessment level determined during the first two years of English in high school.

061/EN301 PRE AP English 1

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous English course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Pre AP English 1 is the advanced study of literature and writing including language structure. The course initiates preparation for the College Board Advanced Placement English Exams at the high school level; therefore, the literature study is classical in nature, meeting standards set by the College Board. This course focuses on reading, writing, and language skills that are relevant to students' current work and essential for students' future to future high school and college coursework. Texts take center stage, preparing students for close, critical reading and analytical writing. The course trains readers to observe small details in a text to arrive at a deeper understanding of the whole. It also trains writers to create complex sentences—building this foundational skill in route to sophisticated, longer-form analyses. The Pre-AP English areas of focus are vertically aligned to the practices embedded in high school and college English courses, including AP. This gives students multiple opportunities to prioritize and strengthen key literacy skills throughout their course of study. Students read closely and analyze a range of complex literary and informational texts. They will evaluate textual evidence and incorporate it effectively in writing and speaking. Finally, students will understand how writers and speakers use specific words and sentences to move the thoughts, emotions, and actions of readers and listeners.

853/EN302 English 10

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous English course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Students in English 10 will continue their journey in reading literature from around the world. They will read texts from the Afghanistan Islamic Revolution to African Colonization to contemporary American Fiction and Poetry. The emphasis in Public Speaking will increase in this year's curriculum to help build student confidence for more advanced presentations at the upper-classman level. Research skills will be built upon in their use of a variety of citation methods, formats, and search engines to augment their ability to write across the curriculum. Ultimately, students, through a variety of assessment methods, will learn to develop skills necessary for success in



Advanced Placement English courses and exams. It is important to note that Balboa Academy upholds the College Board's open equity promise to High School students. However, placement in an AP course depends on the effort, scores, and assessment level determined during the first two years of English in high school.

062/EN303 PRE AP English 2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous English course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Pre-AP English 2 builds on the foundations of Pre-AP English 1. Pre-AP English 2 is based on focused content and targeted assessment that narrows down the wide range of reading comprehension and writing. PRE AP English 2 builds on the foundation of English 1, with an emphasis on the recursive moves that matter in preparing students for the challenges of college-level reading, writing, and discussion. While English 1 introduces the fundamental routines of close observation, critical analysis, and appreciation of author's craft, English 2 requires students to apply those same practices to a new host of nonfiction and literary texts. As readers, students develop a vigilant awareness of how the poet, playwright, novelist, and writer of nonfiction alike can masterfully manipulate language to serve their unique purposes. As writers, students compose more nuanced analytical essays without losing sight of the importance of well-crafted sentences and a sense of cohesion." (Taken from the Pre-AP English 2 College Board website).

854/EN304 English 11

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous English course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

English 11 students examine and analyze themes and literary elements through the eyes of various characters from the strict lands of Puritan New England to the deep South of Florida written during the Harlem Renaissance. Students explore themes of immigration, cultural variation and diversity through novels and rhetoric. Interwoven throughout all units, students will conduct advanced analysis and explore themes and topics through multiple draft essays, small and large group class discussions, student-led debates, and various writing activities. Students will refine writing abilities and improve both oral and written communication skills in preparation for senior-level English courses and beyond. English 11 also focuses on the refinement of grammatical skills to prepare for the SAT/ACT or other placement examinations for university. Students in English 11 are welcome to join AP English Literature or AP English Language in their senior year if they demonstrate an interest in the subject area.

325/EN400 AP English Language and Composition

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous English course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text— from a range of disciplines and historical periods. An AP English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course guides students in becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers of diverse texts and becoming flexible, reflective writers of texts addressed to diverse audiences for diverse purposes. At Balboa Academy, students are offered AP Language in the 11th grade as an alternative to English 11 or in the 12th grade as an alternative for College Writing. The AP English Language and Composition course is aligned to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum; thus, students should have a strong interest in the subject matter and a desire to work at the expectations of a college-level student. College Board indicates students should be able to read and comprehend college-level texts and write grammatically correct, complete sentences. Entry to the course depends on the effort and commitment of the student in their 10th grade English course and on teacher recommendation. This is also a recommended prerequisite for AP Literature and Composition.

313/EN401 AP English Literature and Composition

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous English course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing



English



assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works. In the AP English Literature and Composition course, students devote themselves to the study of literary works written in—or translated into—English. At Balboa Academy, students are offered AP Literature in the 12th grade as an alternative to College Writing. The AP English Literature and Composition course is aligned to an introductory college-level literature and writing curriculum; thus, students should have a strong interest in the subject matter and a desire to work at the expectations of a college-level student. College Board indicates students should be able to read and comprehend college-level texts and write grammatically correct, complete sentences. Entry to the course depends on the effort and commitment of the student in their 11th grade English course and on teacher recommendation. It is recommended that students take AP Language before entering the AP Literature classroom.

333/EN304 College English Writing and Composition

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous English course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is designed to prepare students for college-level writing courses and the rigors of applications. Students will develop resumes, cover letters, mock job interviews, interview skills as well as their writing, including narrative college essays at the start of the year. They will work to improve various essay types including argumentative and research writing, along with persuasive speeches. Interwoven throughout all units are skills to analyze and explore themes and topics through reading American classics and conduct small and large group class discussions, student-led debates, and various writing activities. They will apply knowledge of reading to real-world situations through pertinent in and out of class assignments. Ultimately, students will refine writing abilities and improve both oral and written communication.

Math



The High School mathematics curriculum provides a sequential study of the fundamental courses of mathematics, from Algebra I through the BC level of Calculus AP. Advancement from one level to another will be determined by a combination of grades in the previous course, test results and teacher recommendations. Honors courses are offered to those capable of a more rigorous study of mathematics. Four credits of Math are required for graduation.

Department Courses

	9	10	11	12
203/MA300 Algebra 1	●			
207/MA303 Geometry	●	●		
255/MA315 PRE AP Geometry with Statistics	●	●		
204/MA305 Algebra II	●	●	●	
222/MA306 Algebra II Honors	●	●	●	
217/MA307 Pre-Calculus		●	●	●
223/MA402 AP Precalculus		●	●	●
205/MA309 Calculus		●	●	●
225/MA400 AP Calculus AB		●	●	●
214/MA310 Statistics			●	●
238/MA403 AP Statistics			●	●
229/MA401 AP Calculus BC			●	●

203/MA300 Algebra I

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior Math class

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course features an in-depth study of the structure of the real number system. Key topics to be covered are the solution of linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, graphs of linear equations, and operations on rational expressions. Problem solving is stressed throughout the year, with a special focus on the mathematical modeling of real-world situations. Certain topics will involve the use of a graphing calculator. This course introduces algebraic thought such as solving equations, operations with polynomials, graphing linear equations, factoring and practical problem solving.

207/MA303 Geometry

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course introduces deductive and inductive reasoning through the exploration of geometrical concepts. Geometry is one of the best tools used to develop the ability to observe, think, and reason. The course develops gradually from the basic concepts of geometry, passing through constructions of geometric figures using instruments, measuring, and constructing solids to advanced terminology such as transformation of figures and isometric. Some basic trigonometric concepts are also introduced. After a unit on symbolic logic, the postulates and theorems of plane and solid geometry are used to illustrate the deductive method in mathematics.

255/MA315 PRE AP Geometry with Statistics

Prerequisite: B in Algebra 1 and Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Pre-AP Geometry with Statistics provides students with a conceptual bridge between algebra and geometry that deepens their understanding of mathematics. The course includes a unit of statistics and probability to support students' understanding of concepts essential to quantitative literacy.

Throughout the course, students solve problems across the domains of algebra, geometry, and statistics. The Pre-AP mathematics areas of focus are vertically aligned to the mathematical practices that are fundamental to the discipline of mathematics in high school, AP courses, and beyond.

204/MA305 Algebra 2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1 and Geometry

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

In this course, a functional approach is emphasized stressing graphs, properties, and applications of the linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Additional topics include systems of equations, radicals, and solving radical equations, and conic sections. This course increases student's abilities to grasp more advanced algebra concepts, such as complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, analytical geometry, sequences and series, statistics and probability, matrices and determinants, quadratic equations. Basic trigonometry is also introduced.

222/MA306 Algebra 2 Honors

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in Algebra 1 and/or Geometry

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course offers a functional approach is emphasized stressing graphs, properties, and applications of the linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Topics include systems of equations, radicals, and solving radical equations, and conic sections are covered in more depth than the Algebra 2 course. This course increases student's abilities to grasp advanced algebra concepts, such as complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, analytical geometry, sequences and series, statistics and probability, matrices and determinants, quadratic equations. More advanced trigonometry is also introduced.

217/MA307 Precalculus

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 2

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course explores algebraic topics in further depth with emphasis on skills required for calculus. By the end of this course, students are able to select and apply algebraic methods to analyze characteristics of functions, including polynomial, piecewise, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric; understand and use the unit circle; write and solve trigonometric and parametric equations; graph trigonometric functions and their inverses; find terms in arithmetic and geometric sequences; determine sums of series; and develop an understanding of limits. A brief introduction to calculus is also included. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required.

223/MA402 AP Precalculus Honors

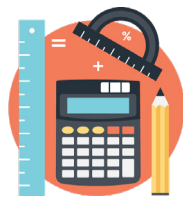
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in Algebra 2

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

AP Precalculus prepares students for other college-level mathematics and science courses. Through regular practice, students build deep mastery of modeling and functions, and they examine scenarios through multiple representations. The course framework delineates content and skills common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required.

Math



205/MA309 Calculus

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Calculus

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is designed for students with aptitude and background in mathematics. This course covers topics in: fundamental mathematics (sequences and series, counting and proof, trigonometry and complex numbers), probability, functions, calculus (differentiations, integration), matrices and vectors and optional topics such as binary operations, graphs and trees, and analysis of approximation. This course is designed for those students who wish to take calculus, but are not prepared to commit the time required for an AP course. The development of the topics follows a less rigorous, more intuitive approach, aided by graphing calculator technology. Topics include limits, continuity, differentiability, techniques of differentiation and integration, and the fundamental theorem of calculus. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required.

225/MA400 AP Calculus AB

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in Pre-Calculus

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This year-long course allows students to participate in a college freshman-level math course within the high school. Students enrolling in this course should anticipate the need for substantial independent work. Major topics of study in this full-year course include a review of precalculus, the use of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and mathematical modeling of differential equations; and the application of these concepts. The course uses a multi-representative approach to calculus, with concepts and problems expressed numerically, graphically, and verbally, and used definition and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions. This course prepares students to take the AP Exam in May for the opportunity to earn college credits.

214/MA310 Statistics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns and statistical inference. The mini-tab statistical analysis program is used and a TI-89 graphing calculator is required.

238/MA403 AP Statistics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Reasoning based on probability and statistics gives modern society the ability to cope with uncertainty. It has astonishing power to improve decision-making accuracy and test new ideas. It's a key analytical tool used in education, the social sciences, and business administration and is often a required college subject for majors in those areas. Statistics is frequently used for data analysis in the sciences and forms the mathematical basis for quality control in manufacturing. AP Statistics is an introductory college-level statistics course that introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions.

229/MA401 AP Calculus BC

Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Calculus AB

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is a continuation of AP Calculus AB and focuses on parametric and polar curves, logistic differential equations, series convergence tests, Taylor and Maclaurin series, and series approximations and error bounds. Students will solve real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and use definition and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions. This course prepares students to take the AP Exam in May for the opportunity to earn college credits.



Science



The Sciences are offered to develop scientifically literate and concerned individuals. Students are prepared for professional work in science and related fields by receiving a broad background in science. All courses are laboratory oriented. Students may take two science courses per year with one counting as an elective. Four credits in science are required for graduation.

Department Courses

	9	10	11	12
003/SC300 Biology	●			
075/SC309 PRE AP Biology	●			
002/SC302 Chemistry		●		
076/SC310 PRE AP Chemistry		●		
001/SC305 Physics		●	●	
035/SC306 Advanced Physics		●	●	●
011/SC307 Environmental Science			●	●
015/SC308 Marine Biology			●	●
020/SC401 AP Chemistry			●	●
027/SC403 AP Physics			●	●
021/SC404 AP Environmental Science			●	●
019/SC400 AP Biology			●	●

003/SC300 Biology

1 credit

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior Science class

DESCRIPTION

This course emphasizes structural and functional characteristics of the cell and organ systems of living organisms using selected organisms from the plant and animal kingdoms. The students evaluate basic principles that rule the inheritance of traits and the concept of evolution. The students will develop skills for safely and efficiently handling laboratory equipment used in the biological field.

075/SC309 PRE AP Biology

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in previous Science Course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

In Pre-AP Biology, students engage in real-world data analysis and problem solving that sparks critical thinking about our living world. As students engage in grade-level content, they utilize the kind of scientific reasoning skills needed to analyze the natural world—and to succeed in future science and social science courses in high school and college. Students will look at four big ideas; The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life, Growth and reproduction in biological systems are dependent upon the cycling of matter and the transformation of energy, Biological systems, occurring at various scales, respond and adapt to stimuli in order to maintain dynamic homeostasis, and Genetic mechanisms are essential to maintaining biological systems.

002/SC302 Chemistry

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior Science class

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course focuses on the major concepts of chemistry by looking at contemporary chemical science and societal issues. Frequent, inquiry-based laboratories and student-centered activities will give students a balanced view of chemistry and help them see how it will serve them in the world in which they live. This course provides the student with the basic knowledge of chemistry and prepares them for further studies in science. The topics emphasized in this course are nomenclature, chemical equations, the concept of mole, and stoichiometry, and concentrations. Other topics addressed through the year are states of matter, atomic theory, equilibrium and acids and bases.

Science



076/SC310 PRE AP Chemistry

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in previous Science Course and Math Course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

In Pre-AP Chemistry, students develop a deep conceptual understanding of matter and energy at the molecular level as they learn to explain their macroscopic observations using particulate-level reasoning. As students engage in grade-level content, they utilize scientific reasoning skills needed to analyze the natural world—and to succeed in future science and social science courses in high school and college. Students will address the following big ideas; Structure and Properties: All matter is composed of particles that are in constant motion and interact with one another. This movement and interaction is responsible for the observable properties of matter. Observed properties can be used to infer the number and types of particles in a sample of matter. Energy: Energy is transferred in all physical and chemical processes. During these processes, energy is either redistributed within the system or between systems. Transformations: At its heart, chemistry is about rearrangements of matter. These rearrangements, or transformations, involve the breaking and forming of intermolecular forces or chemical bonds. Macroscopic observations can be used to quantify and describe these rearrangements at the atomic scale.

001/SC305 Physics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior Science class

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course focuses on the essential concepts of mechanics, properties of matter, waves, conservation laws, electricity and magnetism, and modern topics in physics are covered. Students establish strong working definitions through an integration of these concepts using lab activities and observations of demonstrations. This course provides the student with the general physics knowledge needed to pursue college education if the student is considering a career in which a strong background in physics is not necessary. The topics emphasized in this course are general concepts about handling experimental data (basic statistics, errors, and graphical analysis),

elementary vector analysis, kinematics, dynamics, electricity, and magnetism. Other topics that may be addressed during the year are geometric optics and introductory modern physics.

035/SC306 Advanced Physics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Physics, Math, and Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course examines Newtonian mechanics, fluid mechanics and thermal physics, (fluid mechanics, temperature and heat, kinetic theory, and thermodynamics), electricity and magnetism (electrostatics, conductors, capacitors, dielectrics, electric circuits, magneto statics, electromagnetism), waves and optics (wave motion (including sound), physical optics, geometric optics) and atomic and nuclear physics (atomic physics and quantum effects, nuclear physics).

011/SC307 Environmental Science

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course intends to provide students with a coherent, essentially scientific, perspective on the environment. The course includes two segments: the subject core and options. The core examines the fundamental structure, functioning, and composition of the environment. Students must study one of the first three options. These options include methodologies appropriate for the practical investigation and modelling of ecosystems. Each student must then study two of the remaining three options that look at specific environmental issues that have both local and global significance. All students will be involved with practical laboratory work and a project.

015/SC308 Marine Biology

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Marine Biology is designed to introduce students to a world as immense, enchanting, and mysterious as the one above ground – the ocean world. The marine environment will be explored as it relates to biology, geology, chemistry, and physics.



Through laboratory activities, marine organisms will be explored relative to their functions, their different habitats, and effects of organism interactions. The topics studied will include: environmental issues, marine resources, and current research.

020/SC401 AP Chemistry

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry Honors with B average and Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. For some students, this course enables them to undertake, in their first year, second-year work in the chemistry sequence at their institution or to register in courses in other fields where general chemistry is a prerequisite. For other students, the AP Chemistry course fulfills the laboratory science requirement and frees time for other courses. This course is structured around six big ideas articulated in the AP Chemistry curriculum framework provided by the College Board. A special emphasis will be placed on the seven science practices, which capture important aspects of the work that scientists engage in, with learning objectives that combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills.

027/SC403 AP Physics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Advanced Physics with B average, or Physics with a minimum grade of B and teacher recommendation. Concurrent enrollment in Calculus is recommended

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course provides an introduction to the main principles of physics and emphasizes developing problem-solving abilities. It is a foundation in physics for students in the life sciences, pre-medicine, and some applied sciences. The use of mathematics including calculus, algorithms, and computers as tools to help interpret and explain physical phenomena will be emphasized throughout the course.

021/SC404 AP Environmental Science

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry with B averages and Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

AP Environmental Science is a college-level introductory science course. This interdisciplinary course provides students with scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies to identify and analyze natural and man-made environmental problems, evaluate risks associated with these problems and examine alternatives for resolving, mitigating, or preventing these problems. Students will link science to ideas in other fields such as economics and social justice. In this course, students will learn vital environmental lessons and work on campus doing research and fieldwork conducted by environmental scientists and engineers. This course is challenging due to the depth of learning involved from multiple disciplines; students will be required to leave the classroom and work in the field.

019/SC400 AP Biology

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry, and teacher recommendation.

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This year-long laboratory-based course allows students to participate in a college freshman-level science class within the high school. Students enrolling in this course should anticipate the need for substantial independent work. Students in AP Biology are expected to challenge conventional thinking, analyze data, discuss ideas, and express thoughts in writing. In the lab portion of the course, students will conduct sophisticated experiments using advanced scientific tools and technology.

Social Sciences



This curriculum provides a comprehensive chronological and thematic study of history. Emphasis is placed on reading and writing and is directed towards the analysis of both primary and secondary sources. The purpose of these exercises is the understanding of historical events, historiography and historical methodology. Throughout this curriculum the students gain a greater appreciation of peoples and values of the past as well as the present and an appreciation for the study of history as a discipline. Four credits of Social Studies are required for graduation.

Department Courses

	9	10	11	12
104/SS301 US History	●			
136/SS410 AP Human Geography	●	●	●	●
106/SS302 Modern World History & Geography		●		
118/SS411 AP World History		●	●	●
472/FP400 AP Art History		●	●	●
124/SS305 Philosophy			●	●
974/SS306 Latin American Studies			●	●
131/SS304 Civics			●	●
132/SS303 Panama History			●	●
113/SS412 AP United States History			●	●
130/SS307 Introduction to Anthropology			●	●
992/SS308 American Music History			●	●
138/SS414 AP Comparative Government			●	●
138/SS413 AP United States Government			●	●
130/SS415 AP Psychology			●	●

104/SS301 US HISTORY

Prerequisite: Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior Social Studies class

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course continues the study of United States and Panamanian history begun in the 8th grade. Topics may include events such as Reconstruction, the Industrial Revolution, and the Independence of Panama, the building of the Canal, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and current events.

136/SS410 AP Human Geography

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous Social Studies course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

AP Human Geography introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socio-economic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012). The course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography.

106/SS302 Modern World History and Geography

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 9th grade social studies

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course continues the study of World History from the Renaissance to the present era. Students explore the history and cultural development of Western, Eastern, African, and American societies including: the Scientific Revolution, European Nationalism, Imperialism, Industrial Revolution, World War I, the Russian Revolution, the rise of Communism, World War II, the Cold War and its aftermath, and war in the Middle East. Contemporary social, economic, and political issues in the developing world will also be examined.



118/SS411 AP World History

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous Social Studies course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

AP World History: Modern is an introductory college-level modern world history course. Students cultivate their understanding of world history from c. 1200 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

472/FP400 AP Art History

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course engages students at the same level as an introductory college art history survey. Such a course involves critical thinking and develops an understanding and knowledge of diverse historical and cultural contexts of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other media. In the course, students examine and critically analyze major forms of artistic expression from the past and the present from a variety of cultures. While visual analysis is a fundamental tool of the art historian, art history emphasizes understanding how and why works of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art.

124/SS305 Philosophy

This course is required for the Panamanian Diploma

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

This course examines trends in Philosophy beginning with the Ancient Greek tradition to the Modern Era. Students will examine philosophical questions about mind, knowledge, persons, and freedom. Students will be introduced to some of the work that philosophers have done toward addressing these questions.

974/SS306 Latin American Studies

This course is required for the Panamanian Diploma

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

The course involves critical thinking and should develop in students an understanding and knowledge of diverse historical and intellectual trends in the Latin American context. Students will examine major trends and events from the past and the present from which they should develop an understanding of the changes and continuities in the history of the Latin American region.

131/SS304 Civics

This course is required for the Panamanian Diploma

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

Explores rights and responsibilities associated with being an active citizen in a democratic society. Students will explore issues of civic importance such as healthy schools, community planning, environmental responsibility, and the influence of social media, while developing their understanding of the role of civic engagement and of political processes in the local, national, and/or global community. Students will apply the concepts of political thinking and the political inquiry process to investigate, and express informed opinions about, a range of political issues and developments that are both of significance in today's world and of personal interest to them.

132/SS303 Panama History

This course is required for the Panamanian Diploma

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

Students will analyze the origins of the Isthmus as well as the Pre-Hispanic, Hispanic and Republican eras, the causes and the consequences of the main events that led to the Independence from Spain and the separation from Colombia.



Social Sciences



113/SS412 AP United States History

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous Social Studies course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

AP U.S. History is an introductory college-level U.S. history course. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. history from c. 1491 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

128/SS307 Introduction to Anthropology

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous Social Studies course

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

Students acquire an understanding of the differences and similarities, both biological and cultural, in human populations. Students recognize the characteristics that define their culture and gain an appreciation for the culture of others. The content includes, but not be limited to, the following: human biological and cultural origins -adaptation to the physical environment -diversity of human behavior – an evolution of social and cultural institutions -patterns of language development -family and kinship relationships -effects of change on such cultural institutions as the arts, education, religion and law.

Students will also cover topics such as physical and cultural anthropology, linguistics, archaeology, and other specialized sub-fields.

992/SS308 American Music History

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous Social Studies course

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

This course teaches students how to identify music from different time periods through learning about musicians, musical genres and trends based on American culture. The course explores the history of music, from the surviving examples of rudimentary musical forms through to contemporary pieces. Students will cover early musical forms, classical music, American jazz, modern traditions, including gospel, folk, soul, blues, Latin rhythms, rock and roll, and hip hop. The course explores the relationship between music and social movements and reveals how the emergent global society and the prominence of the Internet are making musical forms more accessible worldwide.

138/SS414 AP Comparative Government

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous Social Studies course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

AP Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students compare the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues by examining how different governments solve similar problems. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. This course is offered every other year alternating with AP US Government.





114/SS413 AP US Government

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous Social Studies course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis. You'll read, analyze, and discuss the U.S. Constitution and other documents as well as complete a research or applied civics project. This course is offered every other year alternating with AP Comparative Government.

130/SS415 AP Psychology

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in the previous Social Studies course

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Another goal of the course is to encourage critical thinking and good writing. Writing should be clear and concise, and demonstrate knowledge of psychological concepts using appropriate terminology.

Spanish

Four credits of a second language are required for graduation from Balboa Academy.

Department Courses

	9	10	11	12
608/LA300 Spanish 9	●			
652/LA301 Spanish 9 Honors	●			
609/LA302 Spanish 10		●		
624/LA303 Spanish 10 Honors		●		
610/LA304 Spanish 11			●	
618/LA305 Spanish 11 Honors			●	
620/LA306 Spanish 12				●
632/LA400 AP Spanish Literature and Culture				●
603/LA307 Spanish Beginners I	●	●	●	●
604/LA308 Spanish Beginners II	●	●	●	●
605/LA309 Spanish Intermediate III	●	●	●	●
607/LA310 Spanish Advanced IV	●	●	●	●
653/LA311 Spanish V	●	●	●	●
636/LA402 AP Spanish Language and Culture			●	●

608/LA300 Spanish 9

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior Spanish class

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is designed to study the origin and evolution of Spanish literature through its most important authors and literary works. The analysis of short stories, novels, poems, and plays will be used to develop grammatical, vocabulary and spelling skills.

Spanish



652./LA301 Spanish 9 Honors

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in previous Spanish course.

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

In Spanish 9 Honors, students will read, comprehend, analyze, and present different literary works. They will develop abilities for oral debate and discussions and will be able to create and perform their own works, by designing and editing media, performing arts or writing their own scripts. The course will focus on further developing the student's writing and oral skills, in order to adequately prepare them for the rigors of college.

609/LA302 Spanish 10

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior Spanish class

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course studies the origin and evolution of Panamanian literature through its most important authors and literary works. The specific contents of the works studied will be used to foster the development of grammatical, vocabulary and spelling skills and as a springboard to the development of learning, thinking, and life skills. Both Latin-American and Panamanian literature will be studied

624/LA303 Spanish 10 Honors

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in Spanish 9 or Spanish 9 Honors

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

In this course, students will write different types of texts: argumentative, informative, descriptive, advertising, journalistic, simple essays, using the grammatical, semantic and orthographic rules and foundations of Spanish. They will understand the messages contained in the different types of texts through the implementation of various comprehension techniques and strategies for the

collection, analysis and interpretation of information. They will demonstrate skill in the comprehension and elaboration of continuous and discontinuous texts and will analyze Panamanian literature in its different stages through the most representative stories, poetry and novels.

610/LA304 Spanish 11

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior Spanish class

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course focuses on developing communication skills. Students are expected to write different types of texts (descriptive, advertising, journalistic, instructive, simple essays, letters, and memos) using the grammatical, semantic and orthographic rules and foundations of Spanish. Students will be able to read, understand and analyze fictional texts (stories, novels, poems, dramas) of Spanish and Latin American literature and non-fictional texts such as essays, opinion articles, and interviews. Students will express their ideas orally through different types of free or directed presentations (talks, text comments, musical creations, etc.).

618/LA305 Spanish 11 Honors

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in Spanish 10 or Spanish 10 Honors

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course focuses on enabling the student to face the challenges of AP Spanish Literature and Culture. The student is expected to read, understand, and analyze text from the Middle Ages to Realism, in addition to the representative texts of these literary movements that are not included in the AP. Students will develop the necessary skills to analyze text, through multiple-choice exams, and in writing essays for thematic analysis.

620/LA306 Spanish 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior Spanish class

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course focuses on developing communication skills. The student is expected to write different types of texts: argumentative, expository, monographs, and reports using grammatical rules, semantic, and orthographic foundations of Spanish.



Students will be able to read, understand, and analyze fictional texts (stories, novels, poems, dramas) from universal literature and non-fictional texts such as essays, opinion articles, and monographs. Students will express their ideas orally through different types of free or directed presentations (talks, text comments, musical creations, etc.). The course will focus on further developing the student's writing and oral communications skills, as well as exam writing skills, in order to adequately prepare them for the rigors of college and university.

632/LA400 AP Spanish Literature and Culture

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in Spanish 11

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is designed to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college course in literature written in Spanish. The course introduces students to the formal study of a representative body of texts from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and U.S. Hispanic literature. The overarching aims of the course are to provide students with ongoing and varied opportunities to further develop their proficiencies across the full range of language skills — with special attention to critical reading and analytical writing — and to encourage them to reflect on the many voices and cultures included in a rich and diverse body of literature written in Spanish.

603/LA307 Spanish Beginners I

This course is only offered to Non-native speakers

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Beginning Spanish I is designed to provide the novice student with an introduction to the basic patterns of the Spanish language and culture. The course focuses on language acquisition and development by increasing the student's knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and oral communications skills. Writing skills are used mainly to assist in the memorization of basic verb conjugations and simple sentence structures

604/LA308 Spanish Beginners II

This course is only offered to Non-native speakers

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Beginning Spanish II is designed to provide the novice student with an introduction to the basic patterns of the Spanish language and culture. The course focuses on language acquisition and development by increasing the student's knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and oral communications skills. Writing skills are used mainly to assist in the memorization of basic verb conjugations and simple sentence structures.

605/LA309 Spanish Intermediate III

This course is only offered to Non-native speakers

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is recommended for students with at least one year of prior Spanish language study. Intermediate Spanish is designed to continue the development of the Spanish language with the opportunity to apply previous knowledge of language comprehension, both in oral and written activities. The course focuses on further development of language acquisition by strengthening the student's grammar, vocabulary, writing and oral communication skills. Cultural activities are integrated into the lessons to provide students with an understanding of the Spanish-speaking peoples and countries.

607/LA310 Spanish Advanced IV

This course is recommended for Non-native speakers

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Spanish Advanced IV will provide students with the opportunity to communicate correctly and effectively in a range of situations and contexts, as well as to encourage the comprehension of the language and culture of Hispanic countries. This course will develop the student's skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a wide range of literary and non-literary texts, tapes, movies and programs. A primary goal of this course is to develop the student's ability to comprehend and clearly express ideas in Spanish. Social, cultural and academic objectives are presented in a balanced manner. There is increased emphasis on written competency

Spanish



653/LA311 Spanish V

This course is recommended for Non-native speakers

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course will emphasize communication and listening skills. Reading will consist of articles of varying topics and lengths and will stress comprehension. Writing skills will be enhanced to include personal narratives with emphasis on improved grammar. Students will add to their already extensive vocabulary bank with an emphasis on words necessary for improved communication skills.

636/LA402 AP Spanish Language and Composition

This course is recommended for Non-native speakers

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is directed towards non-native Spanish speakers capable of completing a course taught at the level of a third-year college subject. The objective is to master sophisticated language structures, acquire a wide-ranging vocabulary, and dominate all verb tenses needed to express ideas with fluency in both oral and written Spanish. This objective is tested at the end of the course via the obligatory College Board AP Spanish Language and Composition examination. The student will be prepared to continue with a higher level course of analysis of Spanish works of literature and will be capable of professional level communication.

Modern Lang...



Panama's Ministry of Education requires students earning a "Diploma de Ciencias y Letras" to take one year of a third language.

Department Courses

	9	10	11	12
640/LA312 French Beginners I		●		
641/LA313 French Beginners II			●	●

640/LA312 French Beginners I

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is designed to introduce students to the French language and culture. It develops basic vocabulary acquisition and syntax, both in oral and written activities. It introduces the student to the varied cultures of the Francophone countries as well as the Metropolitan regions of France. Additionally, it focuses on the correct pronunciation of French phonemes in order to acquire an authentic accent and to understand spoken French with the expectation that the students will be able to express basic needs and thoughts as needed to travel in a Francophone country.

641/LA313 French Beginners II

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and semester grades of at least a B in French I

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

French II expands learning by making comparisons between students' own lives and the lives of adolescents from francophone countries. There is an emphasis on fashion, pastimes, and family life. Students will be introduced to the past tense, music, games, and multi-media as well as using current technology resources regularly to enhance instruction. Students are also immersed in French culture through hands-on activities.



Fine & Performing Arts



The Fine and Performing Arts curriculum gives students the opportunity to develop a working knowledge of basic elements, techniques, principles, and theories of each discipline offered. It is designed to provide the student a vehicle for self-expression, self-reliance, and a better understanding of self and the world. One credit of Fine and Performing Arts is required for graduation.

Department Courses	9	10	11	12
405/FP300 Studio Art	●	●	●	●
435/FP303 Graphic Design I	●	●	●	●
474/FP304 Graphic Design II		●	●	●
063/FP301 Pre AP Visual Arts	●	●	●	●
462/FP401 AP 2D Art and Design			●	●
462/FP402 AP Drawing			●	●
472/FP400 AP Art History		●	●	●
431/FP302 Drawing and Painting	●	●	●	●
868/FP306 High School Drama	●	●	●	●
400/FP309 High School Music	●	●	●	●

405/FP300 Studio Art

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is an advanced art course designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop their aesthetic, imaginative, and creative faculties. This class enables students to discover, develop and enjoy means of creative visual expressionism in the studio. The course will encourage the pursuit of quality through training, individual experimentation, and persistent endeavors. The student will exemplify and encourage a lively inquiring and informed attitude towards art and design in all forms, both in history and today. Students will be expected to demonstrate an inquiring attitude towards a variety of visual phenomena, expressed in persistent research and regular studio work.

Fine & Performing Arts



435/FP303 Graphic Design I

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

A beginning high school studio computer art course that deals with problem solving approaches as they relate to commercial art and design. Students will gain experience in techniques such as layout, illustration, trademark design, typography, and advertising concepts using Apple computers and the following programs: Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, I-movie and Flash.

436/FP304 Graphic Design II

Prerequisite: Graphic Design I

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

The aim of this course is to provide an elective for students who want to take Advanced Placement Studio Art, 2-Dimensional Design, with an emphasis on Graphic Design. It is also for students who are seriously considering a career in Commercial Art or Graphic Design. Students will choose their area of concentration. Examples of these areas: Graphic Design, Illustration, Animation and Cartoons, Desktop Publishing, Web Page Design, Advanced Design in Photoshop and Illustrator

063/FP301 Pre AP Visual Arts

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

The Pre-AP Arts areas of focus are vertically aligned to the practices embedded in high school and college arts courses, including AP. This gives students multiple opportunities to prioritize and strengthen these disciplinary skills throughout their course of study. Students observe, investigate, and discuss a limited number of anchor works, which are works of art central to the themes and content of a particular module, and relate these examples to their own creative work. Students engage in structured conversations with peers to share ideas and critique final works. Students generate and consider a range of options for both the technical and expres-

sive content of their work and make purposeful decisions about which options to incorporate in the work. Finally, they will communicate and clarify ideas in writing throughout the creative process.

XXX/FP401 AP Studio Art - 2D Art and Design

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and successful completion of Pre AP Visual Arts, Studio Art or Graphic Design.

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop their aesthetic, imaginative, and creative faculties. The program will enable students to discover, develop and enjoy means of creative visual expressionism in the studio. The course will encourage the pursuit of quality through training, individual experimentation, and persistent endeavors. The student will develop the skills in a two-dimensional medium such as graphic design, photography, collage, printmaking, and others as they learn the principles of 2-D design. They will create artwork that reflects their own ideas and skills and what they have learned. Students taking this class will submit an AP Art portfolio in May.

478/FP402 AP Studio Art - Drawing

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and successful completion of Pre AP Visual Arts, Studio Art or Graphic Design.

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

The student will develop their skills in drawing as they explore different media and approaches. They'll create artwork that reflects their own ideas and skills and what they've learned. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop their aesthetic, imaginative, and creative faculties. The program will enable students to discover, develop and enjoy means of creative visual expressionism in the studio. Students taking this class will submit an AP Art portfolio in May.



472/FP400 AP Art History

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course engages students at the same level as an introductory college art history survey. Such a course involves critical thinking and develops an understanding and knowledge of diverse historical and cultural contexts of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other media. In the course, students examine and critically analyze major forms of artistic expression from the past and the present from a variety of cultures. While visual analysis is a fundamental tool of the art historian, art history emphasizes understanding how and why works of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art.

431/FP302 Drawing and Painting

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop their aesthetic, imaginative, and creative faculties. The student will develop their skills in drawing and painting as they explore different media and approaches. Emphasis is placed on experiences with design principles, drawing techniques, and painting skills leading to the development of abilities that are necessary for advanced art courses.

868/FP306 High School Drama

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This course introduces and provides experience in all aspects of theatre arts. Students study basic principles of acting including character analysis, textual interpretation, voice, movement, collaboration, improvisation, and critical analysis of performance. Students will practice techniques to overcome stage-fright and develop self-confidence.

400/FP308 High School Music

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Students will learn foundational music theory covering rhythm, harmony, dynamics, tempo, and sight-reading musical scores. The hands-on class primarily focuses on instrumental instruction and ensemble arrangements. With an inventory of well-maintained instruments provided by the school, students receive expert guidance learning notes, scales, and techniques to advance their musical abilities. The engaging year-round curriculum culminates in several live concerts where students proudly showcase newly acquired abilities performing a diverse repertoire of songs.

Practical & Technical Arts



Students will learn skills to expand their knowledge in basic technology and its application in academics and the workforce. Through the use of integrated projects, Microsoft Office, Google applications, and various design programs, we will focus on building student essential technology skills. Students who desire improvement in basic software application skills will benefit from these course. One credit of Computer Science is required for graduation.

Department Courses

	9	10	11	12
530/PT315 Robotics	●	●	●	●
525/PT404 AP Computer Science Principles		●	●	●
528/PT305 Arduino Robotics		●	●	●
986/PT304 Microsoft Office			●	●

530/PT315 Introduction to Robotics

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Robotics is a lab-based course that uses a hands-on approach to introduce the basic concepts of robotics, focusing on the construction and programming of autonomous mobile robots. Course information will be tied to lab experiments; students will work in groups to build and test increasingly more complex mobile robots, culminating in an end-of-semester robot contest.

We will be using VEX Robotic Design System as our platform. Students will be divided into groups and complete a variety of robot construction and programming activities within the confines of these groups.

525/PT402 AP Computer Science Principles

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English and Algebra 1

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

AP Computer Science Principles introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. In this course, students will learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They will incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students will also explain how computing innovations and computing systems, including the Internet, work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

It is recommended that students in the AP Computer Science Principles course have successfully completed a first-year high school algebra course with a strong foundation of basic linear functions, composition of functions, and problem-solving strategies that require multiple approaches and collaborative efforts. In addition, students should be able to use a Cartesian (x, y) coordinate system to represent points on a plane. It is important that students and their advisers understand that any significant computer science course builds upon a foundation of mathematical reasoning that should be acquired before attempting such a course. Prior computer science experience is not required to take this course.

528/PT305 Arduino Robotics

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

This class is an in-depth exploration of building and programming robots using the Arduino Robotics Kit. Students learn mechanical design, 3D Design, construction, programming and teamwork skills. Students work in pairs and small teams, sharing a robotics kit and computer.



986/PT304 Microsoft Office

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

Introduces the basic features of Microsoft Office, Windows basics, and file management. Develops familiarity with Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Internet basics. Upon completion of the course, students will earn a Microsoft Certification. Students may be required to pay an additional fee.

1 credit



Electives

The electives offered at Balboa Academy give students a chance to branch out into their areas of academic interest beyond the coursework required for graduation. These offerings vary from year to year and adapt to meet the changing interests of our student body.

Department Courses

	9	10	11	12
475/PT400 AP Capstone - Seminar			●	●
476/PT401 AP Capstone - Research				●
719/PE300 Physical Education	●			
716/PE301 Health	●			
718/PE302 Sports & Fitness		●	●	●
868/FP306 Drama	●	●	●	●
658/PT300 Public Speaking		●	●	●
807/PT301 Debate		●	●	●
252/PT312 Personal Finance		●	●	●
993/PT302 Introduction to Economics			●	●
994/PT303 Entrepreneurship			●	●

475/PT400 AP Capstone - Seminar

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

College Board describes AP Seminar as “a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research based written essays, and design and deliver

Electives



oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision.”

Students will develop and practice the skills in research, collaboration, and communication that they will need in any academic discipline. They will investigate topics in a variety of subject areas, write research-based essays, and design and give presentations both individually and as part of a team.

476/PT401 AP Capstone - Research

Prerequisite: Successfully complete AP Capstone - Seminar and Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Build on what students learned in AP Seminar to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, they will design, plan, and conduct a year-long research-based investigation to address a research question. AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000–5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

719/PE300 Physical Education

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

The foundation of the course and the primary objective is improved fitness and the opportunity to exercise for each student during each class session. Students will learn basic sports concepts and skills relating to the curriculum as coaches promote a lifelong appreciation of fitness, recreation and sport. Instructors will selectively use the following modified activities to achieve these goals: Soccer, Basketball, Flag Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Softball, Volleyball, Badminton, Floor Hockey, and Handball just to name a few.

716/PE301 Health

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

Health class is designed to provide information needed to make important decisions about health, wellness, and individual lifestyle. Topics related to health such as personal health and wellness, social and emotional health, safety, nutrition and physical activity, alcohol/tobacco/other drugs, HIV and STD prevention, and sexuality education will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on the student's acquiring knowledge and assuming responsibility for one's own health.

718/PE302 Sports & Fitness

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

This course offers students the opportunity to participate individually and collaboratively in a variety of traditional sports such as basketball, soccer, softball, badminton, table tennis, pickle ball, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, hockey, bowling, etc., in which they will apply sport specific skills and strategies, improving their awareness of the importance of physical activity and being fit.



658/PT300 Public Speaking

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

Introduction to Public Speaking is a course designed to teach students basic public speaking skills. The course helps students develop an understanding of the basic principles of oral communication, with a focus on improving skills in researching, writing, and organizing effective presentations that are appropriate to particular audiences. Students will develop, improve, and gain confidence in basic delivery skills. Students will also learn to critically evaluate speeches and develop an awareness of, and appreciation for, the responsibilities of ethical communication.

807/PT301 Debate

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

Debate is a valuable activity for students of all skill levels. Debate teaches useful skills for other academic pursuits and life more generally. Most obviously, debaters build confidence speaking in public and expressing their ideas eloquently. That comfort speaking in front of others is useful in so many areas of life, from interviews to school presentations to discussions in college seminars.

252/PT312 Personal Finance

Prerequisite:

DESCRIPTION

1 credit

Whether called financial literacy, financial planning, financial capability, or financial intelligence, educating yourself about money, budgeting, credit, saving, debt, and investing allows you to make informed choices that support your current and future financial stability. Students who explore financial literacy will gain knowledge in the following areas: Money Management and Budgeting, Understanding Interest and Competitive Rates, Investing and Money Markets, Home Ownership and Real Estate, Life Planning and Insurance, College Planning and Financial Aid, Tax Planning and Withholding, and Retirement Benefits and Social Security.

993/PT302 Introduction to Economics

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

This course will give the students a greater understanding of economics ranging from the viewpoint of the individual consumer or small business owner to the global economy. The course will study the law of supply and demand, forms of business, labor unions, government finances and influence on the economy, money and prices, inflation and deflation cycles. The course relates history and politics to the study of economics. Students will be able to develop an economic way of thinking, understand different economic systems used throughout the world, understand the nature of, changes in, and elasticity of supply and demand, identify the benefits and limitations of the price system and how prices are managed and determined. They will also be able to explain how markets are competitive, and how they are regulated, identify and differentiate the types of business organizations that exist, understand the role of labor unions, their history, and how they affect the economy, and demonstrate knowledge regarding capital and its sources.

994/PT303 Entrepreneurship

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

DESCRIPTION

.5 credit

How do you turn an idea into a business? Entrepreneurship focuses on recognizing a business opportunity, starting a business, operating and maintaining a business. Students will be exposed to the development of critical thinking, problem solving, and innovation in this course as they will either be the business owner or individuals working in a competitive job market in the future. Integration of accounting, finance, marketing, business management, legal and economic environments will be developed throughout projects in this course. Working to develop a business plan that includes structuring the organization, financing the organization, and managing information, operations, marketing, and human resources will be a focus in the course.



My 4 Year Plan



Balboa Academy is a college preparatory school and which qualifies them to enter U.S. and foreign universities. All students graduate with High School Diploma recognized by COGNIA as well as a "Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras" from Panama's Ministry of Education. All academic courses taught in English.

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English (4.0)				
Math (4.0)				
Science (4.0)				
Social Studies (4.0)				
Spanish (4.0)				
Modern Languages (1.0)				
Fine Arts (1.0)				
Computer Science & Robotics (1.0)				
Electives (5.0)				
TOTAL Credits (28.0)				

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