

SCHEDULING 2018-2019

Yes, It's Early.



WHY ARE WE DOING THIS SO SOON?

- In order to better determine the number of FTE's necessary for next year, the district is asking for course requests earlier.
- It is likely that the district may be experiencing cuts again next year so we want to make sure our information is as accurate as possible, as soon as possible.



HOW IS 9TH GRADE DIFFERENT?

- There is no minimum or maximum number of courses that a student may take at Central Academy.
- Students will be here at different times throughout the day, rather than only in the afternoons, as they are this year.
- There are further opportunities open to freshmen, such as world languages, electives, and limited Central Campus options.



HOW MANY CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE?

- The average number of courses a student takes at Central Academy is between 2 and 3.
- English is required for a student's 8th and 9th grade years so that subject will be a given. However, we have students who take anywhere from one class to 4 or 5.
- Play to your strengths. There is nothing to prove by trying to break a record for time spent at Central. Remember with each additional class comes additional homework.
- We do realize that whatever you sign up for now, may not be what you end up taking next August. It's early.
- Balance is important. It's *important* that you have time for FUN. Believe it or not, Harvard (or any college or university), isn't looking for a student who ONLY knows how to study.
- Finally, you know your child and what he/she is capable of better than we do.



WHAT IS REQUIRED TO RETURN FOR 9TH GRADE?

- As a rule of thumb, we look for A's and B's in subjects the student wants to take with us the following year. Since English is required, we would ultimately like to see a B or higher in English.
- That being said, teachers do have discretion to make exceptions for students who earn C's.
- This is not meant to be punishment, but rather we know that historically, if a student earns C's in 8th grade, they are likely to earn C's or lower in 9th grade when they no longer have the option of accepting the credit.
- IF a student returns to their comprehensive high school in 9th grade, they are more than welcome to return in 10th grade after completing a successful year!



ENGLISH

- Studies in World Literature

Ninth grade Studies in World Literature is a year-long course which provides a full credit of English. This course begins with a summer reading assignment and then delves into Joseph Campbell's concept of the Hero's Journey. This is the guiding vision for the course where students will explore both classical and modern texts to examine how a hero is a reflection of his or her culture.

Coelho's *The Alchemist* and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* anchor the course, with students exploring several additional genres of literature, including mythology, the epic, nonfiction, fiction, and drama. Students continue to build upon the academic foundation introduced in 8th grade—an etymological approach to vocabulary development and a writing-based focus on grammar and mechanics. Designed to meet the needs of the academically advanced student, this course challenges students to speak and write rhetorically, developing skills in independent reading, formal composition, speech communication, and critical thinking. At the conclusion of this course, students are accelerated one full year and ready for the Central Academy weighted course, Advanced American Literature.



MATHEMATICS

- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Radically Accelerated Geometry/Alg II (based on teacher recommendation in May)
- If student needs Algebra I, it will be taken at the comprehensive high school



SCIENCE

- Accelerated Biology
- Accelerated Chemistry

- Courses are taken at the same time, one block each semester.
- Each course provides an entire year of curriculum.
- Students *must* have completed Algebra I by the end of 8th grade to be eligible for the course.



SOCIAL STUDIES

- World History: People and Places

- **This course is a focused study of the 19th Century-Present using the AP Human Geography Curriculum and is for incoming 9th grade students. This course also fulfills the high school graduation requirement for World History. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the systematic study of historical patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. You will also learn about the methods and tools geographers and historians use in their science and practice. This course provides students with an opportunity to develop skills such as, but not limited to, interpreting primary sources, developing academic vocabulary related to topics and eras studied, making connections between history and geography, establishing a historical context for understanding modern societal issues, connecting historical developments and eras across the world, and extending their learning through additional resources and activities provided by instructor.**

- **The course includes the following AP Human Geography themes and topics:**

- · **The growth and spread of human populations: migration, population densities · The development and spread of culture: ethnic groups, cultural diffusion, religion, language, and identity**

- · **The effects of the environment on political organization: nation-states, sovereignty, boundaries, political institutions,**

- · **Agricultural vs. urban land use: suburbanization, blockbusting, ownership of land · Economic development in the modern world: development of corporations, capitalism, communism, economic opportunities**

- · **City and rural development: city planning, population concentrations**

- **The pedagogy for this course will include lectures as well as extensive discussions, projects, and other unique activities that combine historical and modern phenomena. For example, students will be assigned a country to research throughout the year and will apply content from the course to the development of their given country. Students will also study the historical development of the city of Des Moines and will be assigned a project on Urban Design/Redevelopment.**



PE

- PE must be taken for one semester each year of high school.
- The course can be taken at Central Campus OR the comprehensive high school.



ELECTIVES AT CENTRAL ACADEMY

Intro to Art History

- Contemporary communication in our modern world depends now, more than ever, on visual media and less on the written word & speech. Images can be extremely effective tools for conveying information and mood, and it is important for us to appreciate the power—for good and bad—of visual media. Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the techniques, history, and interpretation of the conventions of visual culture . Through lectures, readings, gallery visits and hands-on activities, students will develop an understanding of the functions of imagery in art, a basic vocabulary for describing visual art, a general understanding of the role art has played throughout Western and Non-Western history, and contemporary trends. Emphasis will also be given to the creative process.



AND ONE MORE...

- AP Computer Science Principles

The AP Computer Science Principles course is designed to be equivalent to a first-semester introductory college computing course. In this course, students will develop computational thinking skills vital for success across all disciplines, such as using computational tools to analyze and study data and working with large data sets to analyze, visualize, and draw conclusions from trends. The course engages students in the creative aspects of the field by allowing them to develop computational artifacts based on their interests. Students will also develop effective communication and collaboration skills by working individually and collaboratively to solve problems, and will discuss and write about the impacts these solutions could have on their community, society, and the world.



WORLD LANGUAGES

- Arabic
 - Chinese*
 - French (North, Hoover & Lincoln)
 - German*
 - Italian*
 - Japanese*
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- * Receive DMACC credit
 - If you have been taking a language in middle school and wish to continue, your teacher will likely make a recommendation as to which level to start with next year.



9TH GRADE COURSE SELECTION

9th grade course request form.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro DC

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CENTRAL academy
DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Central Academy
9th Grade Course Requests 2019-2020

Student Name: _____ Home School: _____
Last First

Student Phone Number: _____ Student E-Mail Address: _____

Pick 7 courses and 1 alternate. Put an X next to the ones you want and an "A" next to your alternate choice.
Write them on the spaces below.

| | |
|--|--|
| English: *Must take English to take other core courses | |
| Studies in World Literature* (LA 413a, LA414a) | English at home school |
| Math: | |
| Academy Geometry (MTH211a, MTH212a) Pre-Req: Algebra I | Other Academy Math Course: |
| Academy Algebra II (MTH311a, MTH312a) Pre-Req: Geo | Math at home school |
| Science: | |
| Accelerated Biology/Accelerated Chemistry-1 sem es Pre-Req: Algebra I (SC1357a/SC1358a) (SC1351a/SC1352a) | Science at home school |
| Social Studies: | |
| World History People & Places (SOC213, SOC214) | Social Studies at home school |
| Electives: | |
| Intro to Art History (ART106, ART106) | AP Principles of CompSci (TECS51, TECS52) Pre-Req: Algebra I |
| Other electives at home school | |
| PE: Students are required to schedule PE for one semester each school year. CPR certification is required for graduation. | |
| Central PE (PHY203) S1 S2 | PE at home school |
| World Languages: | |
| Arabic I (WL131, WL132) | German I (WL141, WL142) |
| Chinese I (WL131, WL132) | Italian I (WL151, WL152) |
| French I (WL103, WL104) | Japanese I (WL161, WL162) |
| World Language at home school | |
| List your requests: | |
| 1 English: | 5 PE: /Elective: |
| 2 Math: | 6 Elective: |
| 3 Science: | 7 Elective: |
| 4 Social Studies: | Alt. Elective: |



CENTRAL CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES

- <https://ca.dmschools.org/counseling/scheduling/>



QUESTIONS?

Contact:

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515-242-7770

Or

Jami Powers, scheduler

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515-242-8543

