



## 26-27 New St. Johns Virtual School Course Descriptions

### English

**\*AP English Literature and Composition:** This course provides high school students with college-level instruction in active, close reading and analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of carefully selected works of literary merit, students learn to consider how a work's style, figurative language, theme, and other literary elements contribute to its cultural significance. The approach to analyzing prose and poetry allows students to establish connections, make observations about textual details, and sharpen their understanding of these nuances through their own writing. This course will effectively prepare students for the AP Exam and learning beyond the exam by enabling them to read, analyze, and write about complex texts.

**\*AP English Language and Composition:** This course provides high school students with college-level instruction in analyzing and writing various texts. The course covers topics in language and rhetoric as well as expository and persuasive writing. Students become skilled readers of prose written in various periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. The study of texts from both the reader and writer perspectives develops an understanding of the function, effect, and purpose behind the choices writers make, leading students to improve their own composition skills. This course will effectively prepare students for the AP Exam and learning beyond the exam by enabling them to read, analyze, and write about complex texts.

### Math

**Algebra 1A:** Algebra 1-A is a full-year course designed for high school students who need additional support and practice opportunities to master algebraic concepts. The course counts as one math credit toward Florida high school graduation. An additional year of Algebra 1-B or Algebra 1 is required to meet Florida's Algebra 1 graduation requirement.

The NCAA, Bright Futures Scholarships, and the State University System of Florida (four-year universities) award 0.5 credit for successfully completing Algebra 1-A. The course counts as a full credit toward Florida high school graduation requirements.

In Algebra 1-A, you will focus on the Algebra 1 benchmarks related to linear functions. The lessons are designed to help you develop fundamental algebraic skills for problem-solving in the real world. Instruction will be focused to ensure mastery in these four areas:

- extending understanding of functions to linear functions and using them to model and analyze real-world relationships
- solving linear equations and inequalities in one variable and systems of linear equations and inequalities in two variables
- building linear functions, identifying their key features, and representing them in various ways
- representing and interpreting categorical and numerical data with one and two variables

**\*AP Pre-Calculus:** Advanced Placement Precalculus centers on functions modeling dynamic behaviors. This research-based exploration of functions is designed to better prepare students for college-level calculus and provide a basis for other mathematics and science courses. In this course, students study the value of polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric and polar functions, and supplemental topics. As a result of examining functions from many perspectives, students develop a conceptual understanding not only of specific function types but also of functions in general. Furthermore, as AP Precalculus may be the last mathematics course of a student's secondary education, the course is structured to provide a comprehensive experience rather than exclusively focusing on preparation for future courses.

## **Science**

**\*AP Biology:** AP Biology will explore major concepts that connect different areas of biology, helping students thoroughly understand essential biological concepts through a structured curriculum and laboratory investigations. The course is designed around six key science practices: explaining concepts, using visual representations, formulating questions and methods, representing and describing data, conducting statistical tests and data analysis, and developing scientific arguments. Students will conduct laboratory investigations throughout the course, applying their knowledge and enhancing their scientific literacy. They will record and present evidence from their investigations, fostering a deeper understanding of the material. By the end of the course, students will be well-prepared to think critically and scientifically about the world around them, making them informed and capable citizens. This comprehensive approach ensures that students are not only ready for the AP exam but also equipped with the skills necessary for future scientific endeavors.

**Forensic Science:** Take a new look at forensics through the lens of some of the world's most famous and intriguing crime cases. This course examines the latest forensic techniques and innovations used to solve crimes. It also focuses on basic scientific principles and laboratory processes used in the field, such as DNA testing, presumptive tests, and material analysis. Investigative experiences for students

include electrophoresis and evidence analysis techniques such as fingerprinting, blood typing, and fiber analysis. Students also study crime scene investigation (CSI) and evidence collection using mock crime scenes.

## **Social Studies**

**\*AP World History:** In AP World History: Modern, students will refine their analytical skills, specifically with respect to historical comparisons, causation, and continuity-and-change over time. They will hone these skills as they study world history from 1200 to the present—the past eight centuries of history. Students will explore this history through the driving themes of physical environment, human culture, systems of government, economic systems, social classes, and technological innovations.

**\*AP US History:** Within AP U.S. History, students will develop and use historical thinking skills (development and processes, sourcing and situation, claims and evidence in sources, contextualization, making connections, and argumentation) and reasoning processes (comparison, causation, and continuity and change) to examine the history of the United States from 1491 to the present. Students will learn through active participation as they analyze sources and collaborate to gain a conceptual understanding of U.S. history. The AP U.S. History course is structured around nine time periods outlined within the College Board Advanced Placement United States History Framework. Each period is divided into key concepts meant to contextualize history and show continuity and change over time.

**\*AP US Government & Politics:** Unlock the secrets of how your government really works and why it matters in your everyday life. You will delve into the core political concepts, ideas, institutions, and policies that shape the U.S. constitutional system and political culture. Explore the structure and impact of the Constitution, landmark Supreme Court cases, and other foundational documents that influence how government functions today. This course also offers opportunities for research and civic action, equipping you to be an informed and active participant in U.S. society.

**\*AP Human Geography:** AP Human Geography introduces high school students to college-level introductory human geography or cultural geography. The content is organized around the discipline's main subfields: economic geography, cultural geography, political geography, and urban geography. The approach is spatial and problem-oriented. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. Historical information serves to enrich analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, colonialism, and human–environment relationships on places, regions, cultural landscapes, and patterns of interaction. Students also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications.

The goal for the course is for students to become more geoliterate, more engaged in contemporary global issues, and more informed about multicultural viewpoints. Students will see geography as a discipline relevant to the world in which they live; as a source of ideas for identifying, clarifying, and solving problems at various scales; and as a key component of building global citizenship and environmental stewardship.

**\*AP Macroeconomics:** In this course, students establish the fundamentals of economics, with a survey of scarcity, opportunity cost, supply, demand, and market equilibrium. They then zoom out to the largest

scale of economic analysis, learning the indicators of whole countries' economic health, specifically gross domestic product, unemployment, and price level. With that foundation, the rest of the course looks at fiscal and monetary policies, their consequences, and the basics of international trade and the foreign exchange market. Besides being intentionally prepared for the AP Exam, students will gain a much deeper understanding of the world around them, the roles that government and banks play in an economy, and the economic outcomes generated by their policy decisions.

**\*AP Microeconomics:** In this course, students explore the power of marginal thinking and apply it to common decisions that individuals and business firms encounter each day. Students examine, interpret, analyze, and model key microeconomics concepts and processes, from the shifting supply and demand for familiar products to the model of the labor market and how wages are determined. This rich course provides students with all the material and practice needed for success on the AP Exam. Yet, this is just the beginning—in the long run, taking AP Microeconomics will develop the critical thinking and analytical skills that empower students for a lifetime.

## **Electives**

**Art History and Criticism 1 Honors:** Dig into and analyze significant works of art and architecture from prehistory through the 21st century to discover art history and criticism methodologies. This course explores art historical terminology, media, and techniques used by varied artists and cultures and examines how art is a vehicle to communicate cultural, political, and religious shifts and changes. You will develop your analysis skills by analyzing historical documents within the context of cultural heritage, critiquing and comparing works from around the world, and developing proficiency in writing and problem-solving.

This course provides honors-level elective credit and fulfills a performing/fine art requirement for high school graduation. Students will gain knowledge of global art, architecture, and the human experience throughout time, which includes cultural examination, religious investigation, and nudity.

**Applications of Artificial Intelligence Honors:** Building on the foundational knowledge acquired in Artificial Intelligence in the World, you'll embark on a thrilling journey through the world of artificial intelligence. From machine learning to robotics, you'll gain hands-on experience developing AI systems, delve into the complexities of natural language processing and computer vision, and consider the ethical and societal implications of this rapidly evolving technology. Get ready to be amazed and inspired by the limitless possibilities of AI as you immerse yourself in this cutting-edge field.

**Introduction to the Teaching Profession (CTE) (Academy Students Only):** Teaching is about inspiring and empowering students to realize their potential. If this sounds like something you'd like to do, this course is for you. We've designed this course to explore what it takes to be a teacher, not just in the classroom, but in many fields—education, healthcare or even corporate. You'll learn about the history, purposes, issues, ethics, laws and regulations, roles and qualifications of teaching. As you work through the course, you'll participate in a minimum of 20 hours of guided observations and field experience in different settings. This will help you identify what teaching career path interests and suits you best, as well as effective learning environments. You'll also build a working portfolio throughout your program, as you learn about leadership and skills offered by participating in CTS.

Introduction to the Teaching Profession is the first course in the Principles of Teaching program of study in the Education and Training career cluster.

**Digital Information Technology:** This innovative course provides you with the foundational skills needed for future careers in a variety of technological fields. You'll explore emerging technologies, digital design, Microsoft Office online applications, and much more! You'll assess your strengths and learn how they relate to potential career opportunities. This course provides elective credit, fulfills the character education and practical art requirement for high school graduation, and serves as a prerequisite to many exciting Career and Technical Education courses.

**Principles of Entrepreneurship:** Do you have a desire to follow your passion, control your schedule, and are willing to take risks and work hard? Do you have an innovative idea and want to start your own business but don't know where to start? Having the right tools and knowledge about business plans, marketing, financing, and small business management will help you achieve your entrepreneurial goals. In Principles of Entrepreneurship, students will identify the characteristics and traits of entrepreneurs and access personal strengths and weaknesses for entrepreneurial success. This course will outline the steps in starting a business, how the economy plays a role in small businesses, the basic marketing, selling, distributing, and financing principles, and workforce readiness skills needed to be a successful entrepreneur. Throughout the course, students will focus on learning about and practicing their entrepreneurial mindset, a set of skills and attitudes that are personally and professionally beneficial. This course provides elective credit and fulfills the Fine art or CTE requirement for high school graduation.

You can take the Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB v2) industry certification exam at the end of the course. The ESB certification validates you have foundation-level knowledge in entrepreneurship and small business management.

Principles of Entrepreneurship is the first course in the Entrepreneurship program of study in the Marketing, Sales & Service career cluster.

**Theatre, Film and Cinema:** Lights, camera, action!

In Theatre, Cinema, and Film Production, students explore the elements of theatre and cinematic techniques used by those who create performance productions. Students compare the elements in theatre and film that serve the story and articulate the theme. Students also reflect on the historical and cultural influences on productions and how those influences affect audiences. This course offers a detailed view of the creative, performance, and technical operations of theatre and film. Theatre, Cinema, and Film Production provides an elective credit and fulfills the performing/fine art requirement for high school graduation.

**Artificial Intelligence in the World:** Artificial Intelligence in the World is an introductory course that guides students through the concepts, tools, and building blocks of artificial intelligence. This course provides students with a broad overview of how AI is used in decision-making and problem-solving worldwide. Students will learn how ethics impacts AI and will also have the opportunity to explore the various parts of AI with hands-on activities through the use of chatbots and other exciting interactives.

**\*AP Psychology:** The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

\*Per College Board's Appropriate Grade Level Policy—Students enrolling in AP courses with FLVS must be entering **9th grade** to have AP designation affixed to their transcript at course completion. By signing up for an AP course with FLVS, you are agreeing to College Board's policy.