

KCPS Summer School Course List

All courses can be taken as 1 credit, 8 week courses unless listed as a 4 week course. Four (4) week courses are ½ credit.

Language Arts

English I

In English I: Survey of Literature, students investigate the connections between literature, culture, and their own life experiences. Grade-level appropriate reading selections include novels, short stories, and poetry representing a broad cross-section of American subcultures and literary traditions. The course also builds fundamental writing and communication skills. Through frequent writing assignments and writing-focused lessons, students are introduced to the writing process and the basic principles of academic research.

English I Honors

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Note: To earn the Honors Credit, students must complete additional projects and assignments that test skill level in creative thinking.

English II

This course introduces students to major literary traditions from all corners of the globe. Reading selections include novels, short stories, epic poetry, drama, and mythology spanning the millennia of human history. As students explore various time periods and cultures through literature, they also build proficiency in writing, literary analysis, and critical thinking.

English II Honors

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English 3

This course provides students experience in analyzing American texts and writers of the historical literary periods including the Puritans, Westward Expansion, the Industrial Revolution, Transcendentalism, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and the Civil Rights Movement. Students will continue to improve strategies for writing timed essays for the SAT writing assessment and will use the process approach to research. Students will write a paper about American ideals consistent with the MLA style of documentation. In addition to online reading texts, students will study American novels and an American play.

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English 4

This course provides college-bound students a solid background in British Literature, from the early epic Beowulf to the science fiction of George Orwell. Students will develop the sophisticated skills of analyzing poetry and conducting close readings of difficult texts. Asynchronous discussions about difficult texts will help students develop literary analyses and comparison-contrasts of literary elements and devices.

English 4 Honors

What is the true meaning of British poetry, novels, plays, and essays? In this Honors course, explore the language, meter, and rhyme expressed in the Renaissance, Romantic, Victorian, Edwardian, and Modern literary styles and discover how primary writers were influenced by the intertwining of culture and politics. Students will read from Beowulf and works by Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dickens, and others.

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Social Studies

American History

In this course, students explore the history of America from prehistoric habitation to the contemporary United States and examine how the nation's status in the world defines American society. Students

examine the complex timeline of events, social and economic trends, wars and political issues that shaped the modern fabric of the United States, with the goal of defining what it means to be an American citizen.

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World History

Students take an interdisciplinary journey through history from the Stone Age through early civilizations to the present and even glimpse into the future with a discussion of economics, energy, trade, and the environment. Students examine the factors that have motivated human actions; examine the causes of significant events related to revolutions, wars, religion, scientific discovery, art, and literature; and examine how these elements shaped the modern world.

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American Government 4 Week

Students will study the American political and legal systems in-depth, beginning with an examination of the U.S. Constitution and the intentions of the Founding Fathers. Students analyze the pivotal roles of legislative bodies, executive officials, and the courts in governmental decision-making and the influence of political parties, public opinion, interest groups, and foreign governments.

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Economics 4 Week

Students will learn that satisfying society's diverse needs and wants is limited by time, money, energy, and resources. Students will also find out how economic systems manage these limitations by developing systems of exchange and balancing the use of scarce resources. Students examine the local and global consequences of economic decisions, the role of technology in economics, and the function of government in shaping economic policy.

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Mathematics

Consumer Math

Understanding financial management concepts is an important life skill. From credit to insurance to taxes, it is imperative that students understand the consequences of their choices. Wisely managing their money, students become citizens who are more responsible. A thorough understanding of financial concepts, with practical application through activities and projects, will enable students to leave this course with applicable, useful skills for life. This course surveys the basic personal financial needs of most individuals and emphasizes the basics of budgeting, saving, checking, investments, credit, the wise use of insurance, as well as paying and preparing income tax returns. After high school, students face a world filled with possibilities, and the more knowledge they acquire, the higher the probability that their financial futures will be secure. Students taking this course will learn to better prepare for their financial futures.

Pre-Algebra

This course builds upon the essential skills of arithmetic as they apply to algebra. Real numbers and linear equations, linear inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing and some elements of geometry are stressed.

Algebra I

The purpose of this course is to allow the student to gain mastery in working with and evaluating mathematical expressions, equations, graphs, and other topics in a year-long algebra course. Topics included are real numbers, simplifying real number expressions with and without variables, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving quadratic equations, graphing linear and quadratic equations, polynomials, factoring, linear patterns, linear systems of equality and inequality, simple matrices, sequences, and radicals. Assessments within the course include multiple-choice, short-answer, or extended response questions. Also included in this course are self-check quizzes, audio tutorials, and interactive games.

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Geometry

This is comprehensive course featuring geometric terms and processes, logic and problem solving. Includes topics such as parallel line and planes, congruent triangles, inequalities and quadrilaterals. Various forms of proof are studied. Emphasis is placed upon reasoning and problem solving skills gained through study of similarity, areas, volumes, circles, and coordinate geometry.

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Algebra II

Algebra II expands on the mathematical content of Algebra I and Geometry. While the topics in Algebra II are interesting and important in their own right, they also serve as a basis for the material presented in subsequent mathematics courses, e.g. trigonometry and calculus. Emphasis will be on functions and

algebraic solutions to various types of problems. Abstract thinking skills (including some proofs, and the notion of 'generality of a statement') will be introduced and cultivated.

By the end of this course, students will be conversant with a number of mathematical topics (see the Course Description for a list of these topics). Students will have enough computational skill with each topic that they will be able to correctly apply that skill whenever such skill is required in a subsequent mathematics course. Students will come away with an understanding and appreciation of where the topics arise in real world applications.

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Pre-Calculus

This course is designed to go through the major topics of Pre-Calculus and to prepare students to move on to Calculus. After completing this course students will understand polynomial functions, polar coordinates, complex numbers, conic sections, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, sequences and series.

Science

Biology

The nature of life is revealed through a study of matter, energy, chemical processes, genetics, DNA, and cells. Students will learn the scientific method and examine the traits and classifications of organisms from viruses and bacteria to plants and animals. Laboratory investigations enhance the understanding of living things.

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Chemistry

This course adheres closely to standards for the teaching of chemistry. It emphasizes the mathematical, theoretical and experimental basis of modern chemistry. Emphasis is placed on the use of theoretical and mathematical concepts to explain and predict chemical behavior. An overview of the significant learning objectives that are presented in this course include measurement, atomic structure, chemical bonding, conservation of matter, stoichiometry, gases, acids and bases, solutions, chemical thermodynamics, reaction rates, chemical equilibrium, organic nomenclature, biochemistry, and nuclear chemistry.

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Physics

The goal of physics is to describe the physical world using a small number of basic assumptions, concepts, and equations. In this course, emphasis is placed on relating physics to the everyday world. Students explore the concepts involved with motion in one- and two dimensions, forces, work and energy, momentum and collisions, circular motion and gravitation. They recognize the importance of the laws of thermodynamics. Students learn the characteristics of waves and describe the behavior of waves with emphasis on light and sound. They understand the relationship between electricity and magnetism. Finally, the students gain a simple understanding of atomic physics. Approximately 40% of the course involves virtual laboratory investigations. Some activities will require ordinary household items such as rulers, meter sticks, balls or marbles, string, paper and pencils.

Part 1 focuses on understanding motion. Students learn kinematic equations and apply them to various situations. They explore forces, work and energy and apply these concepts in the special case of circular motion. Heat and the laws of thermodynamics are covered. Part 2 focuses on waves, in particular sound and light. The course then moves to understanding electricity and magnetism and the relationship between the two. It concludes with a basic exploration of atomic physics.

Earth/Space Science

The focus of this course includes the nature of science from a scientist's perspective. Detailed information is included about the atmosphere, winds, fronts, and weather. The course also addresses the earth's water, including waves and what is in the water and the land, including volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks, and minerals. The next part of the course addresses the Earth's past, including fossils, the ice age, and glaciers. Completing this course is the study of the universe including the solar system, stars, and the way each functions.

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Physical Science

This course introduces students to the concepts of matter, energy, and forces, and their applications through exploratory investigations and activities. This course includes laboratory investigations that incorporate the use of measurement, problem solving, laboratory apparatus, safety procedures, and experimental procedures.

Marine Science

Marine Science is a class designed for students who have completed at least two years of science - one year of biology and one year of physical science. Marine Science is a blend of biology and physical science as it incorporates topics such as ecology, chemistry, geology, technology, zoology, meteorology, botany, oceanography, and marine biology. Throughout this course, students explore the classification, anatomy, and physiology of organisms in the marine environment, as well as the ecological function of these organisms as members of complex biological communities. As students delve deeper into course content, they will understand the origin of the oceans and the geological aspects of the marine environment and the ecology of various sea zones. Students will also analyze characteristics of marine ecosystems while understanding and appreciating the relationship between people and the oceans.

Environmental Science

In this course, students learn to explore the ecological interactions between living things and the environment. The systematic study of global realms - atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere - provides students with an understanding of natural processes. The course provides an overview of the nature of ecosystems, energy flow and interrelationships of biology, geology, and

chemical cycles; population studies; organization and dynamics of ecological communities; and environmental pollution.

Foreign Language

Spanish I

Spanish I has been carefully designed to meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards call for a method of teaching that focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Each unit embodies all of these standards in accordance with the theories described in this document. Unit activities blend different forms of communication and culture to ensure that the student meets all standards. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams. Learning activities in each unit are focused upon a specific theme.

Spanish II

Spanish II has been carefully designed to meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards call for a method of teaching that focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Each unit embodies all of these standards in accordance with the theories described in this document. Unit activities blend different forms of communication and culture to ensure that the student meets all standards. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams. Learning activities in each unit are focused upon a specific theme.

Electives

Art History

The primary goal of this course is for students to explore the role of the visual arts in the history of humankind and the development of culture. Students also describe how sensory qualities combine to give a work of art its particular expressive quality. Throughout the course, students describe and interpret how the qualities of art and its subject matter function together to give a work of art its own unique expression. This course begins with a discussion of the elements and principles of art, followed by an examination of disciplines, media, and processes. Students then continue to critique art, as they examine viewpoints of historians while expressing personal views on aesthetics. When the students are able to express their informed opinions of art, a chronology of art history will begin. Students will explore art from prehistoric times, to ancient Egypt and Greece while analyzing Classical and Hellenistic styles. This course includes, but is not limited to, the examination of pottery, architecture, and sculpture. The course concludes with a discussion on the issue of society's ownership of art.

Psychology

The purpose of this course is to investigate why human beings think and act the way they do. This is an introductory course and will broadly cover several areas. Students will be expected to expand and go further into the topics. Theories and current research will be presented for the student to critically evaluate and understand. Each unit will present the terminology, theories and research that are critical to the understanding of the topic. Assignments and assessments will be included as well as tutorials and interactive drills.

SAT Preparatory 4 Week

The SAT Prep courses prepare students to take the SAT or PSAT.

Online Journalism

In the first semester, students learn the guidelines of good journalism and the skills necessary for brainstorming, researching, reporting, and publishing three types of stories (news, features, and sports) in an online newspaper. In the second semester, students study the evolution of American journalism from yellow journalism to today's multimedia journalism and its effect on war, politics, and American lifestyles. In addition, students brainstorm, research, report, and publish two types of stories (reviews and opinions or op-eds). The last unit of the course provides opportunities and directions for editors to publish an online newspaper.

Health/Life Management Skills 4 Week

This course is a survey course in personal health. The course provides students with information that will enable them to live a productive and healthy life today and in the future. Emphasis will be on making healthy personal decisions and in retrieving the necessary information to make healthy choices.

Personal Fitness 4 Week

The purpose of this course is to develop awareness of and responsibility for personal health and fitness. Students will study all elements of physical fitness, as well as a variety of health-related topics. Students will gain an understanding of the proper ways to exercise and to diet. They will also learn how to assess their own fitness level.

Physical Education 4 Week

This course is designed to teach students a variety of physical skills. Students will perform specific skills and engage in written evaluations which will test their comprehension of lesson content. The course includes physical fitness, cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, and strength-training exercises. Team sports and individual sports are also covered.