Britton Deerfield Schools
High School Curriculum & Course Descriptions

Visual/Applied/Performing Arts

Fine Art (9-12)

This class will focus on developing creative and technical skills. Assignments will include a variety of processes and media and is intended as the basic art class that teaches the knowledge base for future art classes. Assignments will focus on developing a better understanding of space, form, value and color. The first semester is mostly drawing assignments to build skills; the second semester expands on those skills.

Advanced Fine Art (10-12) B or higher in Fine Art

Some students may choose to work in more depth on their artistic expression using traditional methods. This course will run parallel to the Fine Art & Design course, but advanced students will work in more depth on projects and will have self-direction opportunities. This course is ideal for those students that have taken all other courses and/or are pursuing careers in the visual art field.

Photography (10-12) Recommendation of Teacher

This class will combine traditional photographic processes with contemporary techniques. Students will learn the basics of photography using both Manual SLR cameras and Digital Cameras. Projects will include darkroom work and digital work using the latest industry standard Photoshop program. This focus of this class will be the use of photography as a fine art medium and a commercial medium. This class requires a lot of self-motivation, homework and a materials fee. Cameras will be provided by the school, although some personal cameras will be acceptable.

Sculpture (9-12)

Making sculpture requires thinking 3-dimensionally, from every angle, so that the viewer can move around the art for a different impression. Students will work from small scale to large scale, making art that is representational and abstract. A variety of media will be used, including clay, cardboard, wire, plaster, metal, found and recycled objects, fibers, possibly stone.

AP Art Portfolio (11-12) 1 prior art and Recommendation of Art Teacher

Advanced Placement Art Portfolio allows students to develop a portfolio for adjudication at the international level through the CollegeBoard. Students who choose this path have to develop a body of works that are related, show growth, and a mastery of artistic skills. The student develops their subject, constantly evaluates their progress, modifies their work and records their process. Today's AP portfolio requires 15 images/artworks that are digitally submitted in May. The submission requires written components to support their ideas and processes. Students pay $85 ($5 for Free and Reduced Lunch recipients) and their portfolio is scored on a 1-5 scale. 3-5 scores can be used at most colleges and universities for credit, regardless of the student's chosen major. Students may take multiple years of the Studio Class to advance to the AP portfolio level.

Studio Art (11-12) 1 prior art and Recommendation of Art Teacher

Students must be pre-approved by teacher for this class. Studio Art is an advanced art class for students who demonstrate an aptitude for art and a curiosity for art processes, media and subject matter. Students who take an art class may be asked to advance to the Studio class. The teacher directs learning in the beginning with the

students, who eventually start self-directing, and choosing their content and media. Regular critiques encourage students to evaluate their progress, assess the achievements and plan for the next steps.

Design (9-12)

Design is all around us every day, everywhere. This class will begin with a focus on learning the elements and principles of art and design through drawing, painting and sculptural assignments. Then students will begin to apply the design principles in real-world applications. They will study Architecture, Automotive design, Product and Package Design, Fashion & Accessory, Advertising, etc., and try their hand at them.

Band (9-12)

Students learn basic music skills such as music literacy (note reading, symbol identification, music vocabulary and terms), rhythm reading (how to count and identify beats), performance techniques (learning the specific requirements to play instrument), and how to prepare for a performance. These are the same skills learned at the elementary and middle school levels, but on a more advanced level. The High School Band plays an important role throughout the entire school year. Responsibilities include: marching at Varsity Football games, Hillsdale County Fair Parade, Fall Pops Concert, Holiday Concert, Basketball Pep Band, District Band Festival, Spring Concert, Holiday Concert, District Band Festival, Spring Concert, Memorial Day Parade, and graduation. It is generally assumed that band is a year-long commitment. Performances are given outside of class time.

Choir (9-12)

Choir is an ensemble (group) experience. Students will learn and practice proper vocal technique, music reading skills, music theory, and musical interpretation. An emphasis will be placed on performance in a variety of musical styles. Participants will be expected to perform 5 or 6 times a year at after-school performances and/or out of town festival presentations. Competitive statewide performance opportunities are also available to choir members. Grades are based on rehearsal procedures, concert attendance, and demonstrated knowledge of musical concepts.

Music Appreciation (9-12)

A non-performance based elective offered on an as needed basis within the district. This course focuses on aspects of music theory, music composition, musical style, aural listing skills, note recognition, note writing, harmonic analysis, music history, and music performance will be covered. Musical terminology as well as cultural literacy terms will be reviewed.

Drama (9-12)

This year-long course will explore the many facets of theatre art. Students will study and emulate several aspects of performance including: Movement, music exploration, dialogue delivery, public speaking, blocking, stage presence, and choreography. First semester will entail a performance in a play or musical and second semester will conclude with a dinner theatre performance. All performances are mandatory! No experience is necessary!

Foreign Language

Spanish 1

Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices that reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations, respond (appropriately) to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where language progression can be monitored. This course is aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Spanish 2

Through aligned curriculum, students will expand their skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing and cultural awareness. Students will develop a functional command of words and phrases that deal with immediate needs and common everyday situations or while traveling in limited situations. Students will demonstrate comprehension of simple questions and statements about family, residence, self, weather, time and interests. The content expansion includes the use of familiar words and phrases applicable with common commands, frequent instructions, and courtesy interchanges. Students will be able to recognize and properly use present and past tense grammar structures.

Social Studies

World History and Geography (9)

World History and Geography 9 is a required course for all ninth grade students. World History and Geography takes a global and comparative approach to studying the world and its past to develop greater understanding of the development of worldwide events, processes, and interactions among the world's people, cultures, societies, and environment.

U.S. History and Geography (10)

After a short review of previous classes, students will engage in a study of United States History from the Reconstruction Period to the modern age, Students will study the landscape, important people, social events, government, and the historical elements that have shaped our country. It will be expected that students will take an active part in critical thinking, speaking, writing, and researching skills.

Economics (11)

Understanding economics is becoming essential for citizens in our national and increasingly interconnected world economy. Students will understand how economies function and how to apply the concepts and principles of economics to their lives as individuals and as citizens. Understanding and applying these concepts and principles should help students make sense of daily events and enable them to analyze and develop reasoned thinking about economic challenges and public policies.

Civics (11)

The course is about government, and more particularly, about government in the United States. Throughout the year, students will consider the ways in which government is organized within the country, the ways in which it is controlled by the people, the many things government does, and the various ways in which government operates. Special emphasis is placed on current events. Students are expected throughout the year to research, discuss, debate, interview, survey, and complete position papers and projects.

Mathematics

Math Lab

This course is designed for students that need extra support in Algebra 1. Its purpose is to reinforce concepts and skills necessary to be successful at Math. The curriculum spans a wide range of topics; but, special emphasis is given to decimal, fraction, algebra, integer and percent operations. Since this is a second math class, in addition to a students "regular" math class, topics are timed in a way where they are covered before, or after, students practice them in the regular math classes to help them master the skills. Student's eligibility will be based on a combination of teacher recommendation and standardized test scores.

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 is designed to complete a full credit of Algebra 1 in a single school year. Algebra 1 will include a review of operations with rational and real numbers and a focus on linear relationships based on data. Investigations will include an emphasis on the algebraic manipulation of linear expressions, equations, and inequalities; on systems of linear equations; and representing linear equations, including graphing, transformations, and modeling. Algebra 1 will also include the exploration of operations applied to exponential expressions and polynomials. Problems solving skills play a major role in the course.

Geometry

Students will take an inductive, interactive approach to learning geometric concepts. Students will use construction techniques graphing models to reinforce concepts taught in class. Student will be expected to derive definitions through a combination of inductive reasoning and hands on activities. This course covers the required concepts of Euclidean geometry including definitions, postulates, and theorems. Areas of study include angles, parallel lines, congruent and similar triangles, polygons, circles and arc, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Special topics covered include coordinate and spatial geometry, introductory trigonometry, and constructions. In addition to including problems that serve to review algebra, the process of "proving" theorems in introduced.

Algebra 2

This course is designed to provide the required Algebra 2 credit over two semesters. Students will learn to use graphing handheld technology to aid their understanding of the material.

Pre-Calculus (11-12)

This two-semester course is intended for students who plan to continue their mathematics education in college by enrollment in engineering, sciences, or math education programs. Students will use graphing handheld technology to aid their understanding of the materials.

Statistics (11-12)

This is a one-semester course intended for advanced, upperclassmen as a senior elective math credit. Students will review the basics of statistics. Students will use handheld technology to assist their understanding and ability to work and interpret data and data distributions. This class is offered on an as needed basis.

Trigonometry (11-12)

This one-semester course is intended as a senior math credit. Students will review concepts taught in geometry and move on through more complex concepts. Students will use graphing handheld technology to aid their understanding of the materials. This class is offered on an as needed basis.

Senior Math (Grade 12)

Senior math is an Algebra 1 based course that covers personal finance topics. Throughout the year we will cover the relationship between economics and personal finances and how to create financial goals, learn money management strategies, cover insurance, banking, and investment options. There will be multiple projects that include budgeting, financing for a car, home improvement projects, and more. This course will cover a variety of real-life; financial experiences that you will face once you step out of your high school career.

Science

Earth Science

This two-semester class begins with a section the nature and practice of scientific inquiry. Then an overview of the four Earth Systems (geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere) and the movement of elements, compounds, and energy with/between these systems are examined. This is followed by a detailed understanding of each system mentioned above. Finally, we discuss the position of the Earth in the universe and its evolution over time. Topics of study will include: Scientific Reasoning and Communication Skills, Earth Systems, Solid Earth, Fluid Earth and the Earth in Space and Time.

Biology

This is a two-semester, laboratory course devoted to the study of the major themes and concepts that explain life processes. During the first semester, the focus is on microbiology and biochemistry. The major themes/standards include: cell biology, genetics, investigation, and experimentation. The content is primarily descriptive, but includes some concepts that require the application of basic mathematical skills. During the second semester, the focus is on macrobiology. The major themes/standards include: classification, invertebrate/vertebrate physiology, and ecology. The laboratory exercises consist of topics supplementing lectures/discussions and are designed to lead the student into independent and/or team thought. Animal dissection lab exercises will constitute a majority of second semester coursework.

Chemistry

This introductory course will study matter, the ways in which matter changes, and the ways in which energy is involved in these changes. Fundamental concepts of atomic theory, stoichiometry, chemical reactions, inorganic chemistry, acid-base chemistry, thermochemistry, and kinetics are covered as they relate to chemical knowledge. The emphasis is on problem solving in the lab-based course.

Physics

This is an advanced math-based class designed for students interested in the health and engineering fields. The course is designed for students to collect data during labs/experiments and reflect on how the physical principles allow for an understanding in other sciences and everyday experiences. The relationships can be represented by mathematical statements, graphs, and maps. Topics of study will include: Scientific Reasoning and Communication Skills, Motion of Objects, Forces and Motion, Forms of Energy, and Energy Transformations.

Anatomy and Physiology (11-12) C or Higher in Biology

This is an advanced class designed for students interested in a career in the health fields. The lecture topics are anatomical/medical terminology, histology of tissues, the skin, and body systems (skeletal, urinary, integumentary, digestive, cardiovascular, muscular, respiratory, reproductive, immune). The focus of the class is how STRUCTURE (the anatomy) relates to its FUNCTION (the physiology). The laboratory work will reflect the lecture material. The majority of the lab exercises will involve the dissection of a cat.

Principles of Biomedical Sciences

Students explore concepts of biology and medicine to determine factors that led to the death of a fictional person. While investigating the case, students examine autopsy reports, investigate medical history, and explore medical treatments that might have prolonged the person's life. The activities and projects introduce students to human physiology, basic biology, medicine and research processes while allowing them to design their own experiments to solve problems.

Astronomy

This course introduces you to the composition and structure of the universe. Astronomy is the scientific study of the contents of the entire Universe. This course will provide the student with a study of the universe and the conditions, properties, and motions of bodies in space. The content includes, but is not limited to, historical astronomy, astronomical instruments, the celestial sphere, the solar system, the earth as a system in space, the earth/moon system, the sun as a star, and stars. This course is offered on an as needed basis.

English

English 9

English 9 is a required course for all ninth grade students. We will read and write memoirs study memoir and poetry; we will research and write a multigenre paper. We will read, watch, discuss, and write about Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Grammar is integrated into other units, with the focus on improving student writing. Students are expected to read books of their choice both during class and at home.

English 10

English 10 is a required course for all tenth grade students. Semester one predominately focuses on the prominent writers of the 19th century. Also during this semester, students will review grammar, poetry and composition skills. During second semester, students will read novels by 20th century authors. This semester also concentrates on public speaking, punctuation, poetry and formal writing skills.

English 11

English 11 is a required course for all eleventh grade students. English 11 is designed to continue to build a solid foundation of knowledge, skills, and strategies that will be refined, applies and extends as students engage in more complex ideas, texts, and tasks. Students will add to the list of various genres of classic and contemporary narrative and information texts with a special focus on World Literature and ACT success.

English 12

English 12 is a required course for twelfth grade students. We will read and write literacy memoirs, college and scholarship essays, arguments, and short stories. Grammar is integrated into other units, with the focus on improving student writing. Students are expected to read books of their choice both during class and at home. Over the course of the year, students will compile a Senior Portfolio. While there are required elements, the contents of the portfolio will reflect the individual student's choices, interests, and growth over their high school career.

Speech (one semester)

This class is a practical course to offer the beginner speaker a number of opportunities to organize and prepare public speaking assignments. Students will be expected to speak and debate in front of an audience individually and as a team. Students will learn about the role of communication in our lives, the communication model, delivery styles, and the effectiveness of language, gestures, and organization techniques. Reading and writing assignments are required.

Creative Writing (one semester)

Creative Writing is designed for students to create original forms of descriptive writing, poetry, drama and fiction. Vocabulary development, creative writing techniques, and skills are explored. Computers and word processing are used for composition. Writings are presented orally and in written form.

21st Century Journalism & Yearbook

This course includes an overview of the field of journalism and mass communication. Students will learn to be consumers of media, to understand information gathering and dissemination of news bits, and will explore the role the media plays in the communications industry and in society. This course includes instruction in basic news writing, reporting, editing, discussion of legal and ethical issues, and production of our school newspaper. In addition, students will learn basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines, digital photography, desktop publishing, and using appropriate technology tools for media production. The school yearbook will be completed by student-led design.

Physical Education/Health

Health

This class is designed to help you understand the concepts of health and how to live a healthy lifestyle. It will give you the information you need to make good healthy choices during your lifetime. Evaluation will be based on class discussions, homework, tests, oral presentations, research projects and a cumulative exam at the end of the semester.

9th Grade Physical Education

The physical education program for high school students is designed to develop the skills and attitudes necessary to achieve and maintain lifelong health and fitness. Students will be encouraged to gain an active appreciation of the positive role of physical fitness in overall health and well-being and to develop socially useful participation skills. In keeping with this philosophy, the program seeks to provide for the equal participation of all students through a variety of experiences leading to the development of positive self-concept, creativity, and enthusiasm for participation. Performances will be assessed by a regime of written, fitness, skills assessments as well as participation and attitude.

Weight Training/Advanced Physical Education (9-12)

This course is designed to provide the students with the opportunity to develop strength, speed, and flexibility. Attempts will be made to develop an understanding of the major muscle group's development, proper lifting, running techniques, stretching exercises, plyometrics and safety. We will focus on weight training, running, agility, muscular strength and endurance and conditioning of the body. Students will be introduced to the proper lifting techniques in the bench press, incline press, squat, jammer and deadlift. Students will use the Bigger Faster Stronger weight training program according to their sport/coach. We will be weight training four days a week, giving one day for recovery and working on speed, agility and cardiovascular fitness.

Special Education

Resource Room

The Britton Deerfield Resource Room program fulfills state and federal special education laws by providing services to qualifying students. Individual Education Plans (IEP) are developed to meet each student's individual learning style and education needs. IEP team members include the student, parent/guardian, general education and special education teachers, support personnel, counselors and administrators.

Resource Room students with a current IEP may enroll in required and elective courses for high school credit with the special education department, but final classroom placements are determined by the IEP. Students may also get daily or frequent direct support for general education courses from the resource room teacher during the school day. They type and amount of Resource Room support is based on the student's individual educational needs as defined in the IEP.

Resource Room teachers are in contact with general education teachers regarding progress of each student in general education courses. Feedback is provided to student from the Resource Room staff, as well as through their general education teachers.

Upperclassmen in the Resource Room program are exposed to career information and opportunities, along with education/vocational avenues leading toward their career goals. Transitional links to outside agencies and institutions of higher learning are made during the student's junior and senior year.

Virtual (Online Learning)

Virtual

Virtual is a program of instruction designed to assist all students in meeting State Intermediate Standards for technology and on line learning. Certified teachers supervise this class where students will have the opportunity to choose which course they would like to take through Edgenuity. Students must complete each course with a passing score to count as credit. The following courses are Board approved:

English Language Arts

- ELA 9, 10, 11, & 12
- Introductions to Communications & Speech
- Expository Reading & Writing

Mathematics

- Algebra I & II
- Geometry
- Precalculus
- Trigonometry
- Statistics
- Concepts in Probability & Statistics

Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth & Space Science
- Physical Science
- Physics

Social Studies

- Government/Civics
- World History & Geography
- US History & Geography
- Economics
- Civics & Citizenship

National Test Preparation

- ACCUPLACER
- ACT WorkKeys
- ACT
- ASVAB
- GED
- PSAT
- SAT
- TSAC

World Languages

- Spanish I & II & III

High School

- Art History I
- Contemporary Health
- Foundations of Personal Wellness
- Introduction to Art
- Introduction to Computer Science
- Lifetime Fitness
- Personal Finance

AP Classes (students must pay for the final test, 5-point GPA only applied after course completion and passing test score)

- Biology
- Calculus AB
- English Language & Composition
- Spanish Language & Culture
- Statistics
- US Government & Politics
- Modern World History