

Gold Rush Charter School



2016-2017 High School Course Handbook

All Gold Rush High School diplomas are issued by the Charter School and not the District.

Gold Rush Charter School has a 15 hours of school work = 1 credit system and does issue partial credit for students who transfer in or out mid-semester or who do not finish a course within the semester. Gold Rush Charter School staff works with other schools to share transcripts and other information.

Assigned Grade Level

Assignment of grade level in high school is determined by credits NOT by age. In general, 15 hours of academic work = 1 credit. Below is a sample of grade level based on a 190 credit diploma. Students who transfer in from another high school will be placed in grade level earned but must complete all previously failed academic requirements in order to graduate.

Freshman 0-50 Credits

Sophomore 50-100 Credits

Junior 100-150 Credits

Seniors 150 +

A student may earn a Bronze, Silver or Gold diploma based on units earned, but the units must meet the California State requirements for graduation. The required units are as follows:

ENGLISH.....40

Eight consecutive semesters of English

SOCIAL STUDIES.....30

Two semesters of World History; two semesters of U.S. History; one semester of U.S. Government; one semester of Economics.

MATHEMATICS.....20

Four semesters selected from mathematics course offerings required of all students. All students must complete one year of Algebra or Math I.

SCIENCE.....20

Four semesters of science required: one year Biology or Life Science, one year Earth/Physical Science.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.....20

Students must be enrolled in P.E. for each of the first four semesters of high school. Four semesters must be passed.

FINE ARTS/FOREIGN LANGUAGE.....10

Students must pass one year of a foreign language, art, music, film or drama. Students may substitute one year of vocational education courses for graduation requirements.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL.....25

One semester of Life Skills Health and one semester of Careers during the freshman year, one semester of Technology any year and two semesters of Senior Seminar during the senior year.

OTHER COURSES/ELECTIVES.....25

As indicated by major course of study and student's life plan.

TOTAL REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.....190

Students transferring into the District from another high school shall be awarded credits toward graduation based on courses completed elsewhere without penalty resulting from variation of local requirements.

Students earning a comprehensive diploma must successfully complete a senior project.

Course Descriptions

English

English 9th: This course is designed to allow students to become analytical, reflective readers who will answer purposeful, profound questions about life and the human condition. Students will learn through such modalities as Socratic seminars, literature journals, class discussions, reading of novels, short stories, poetry, nonfiction, and plays as well as essay writing. Students will become critics of literature and will learn how to write meaningful theses and organize their writing and critical ideas effectively.

Prerequisites: 8th Grade Level Language Arts Course

Target Grade Level: 9

English 10th - This class is designed to train students to analyze and appreciate literature and to communicate effectively through the written and spoken word. Students will continue training and expanding upon skills acquired in English 9th. We will evaluate the effectiveness and usefulness of literary devices, and students will improve in their ability to comprehend what they read. Students will learn how to structure an essay, as well as how to write persuasively, and how to self-edit. In addition, they will learn how to present their ideas and analysis to a group through effective public speaking.

Prerequisites: English 9th

Target Grade Level: 10

English 11th - Students of this course will study mostly American Literature while preparing for the full spectrum of language skills necessary for college and career success. Students will engage in constant informal and formal writing in order to become critics of literature and professionally effective in both written and verbal communication. Writing pieces will include stylistic analysis, synthesis, persuasion and research. Students will examine in-depth the literary devices and techniques utilized in fiction and the rhetorical strategies used in non-fiction.

Prerequisites: English 10th

Target Grade Level: 11

English 12th - This course continues to prepare students for the literacy demands of college and the world of work. The primary focus will be nonfiction and fiction from writers all over the globe. Students will examine contemporary essays, newspaper and magazine articles, editorials, reports, work related documents and two full-length works (a novel and a nonfiction piece). They will train to think critically about such texts, being able to understand rhetorical devices and recognize fallacies within works.

Prerequisites: English 11th

Target Grade Level: 12

***All Textbooks used will be California ELA Standards and Common Core Aligned**

Math

Basic Math – Basic Math is designed upon an individual’s specific academic needs. An assessment is delivered which guides instruction. Students will have completed Basic Math when they have mastered the following skills:

- Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division
- Fractions
- Decimals
- Percents
- Proportions
- All other key standards required through the 8th grade

Math 1 or Math1A/1B - This course is the first of two required Common Core Math Subjects. Math 1 covers mostly linear Algebraic Concepts, some Probability and Statistics, and some Geometry. Listed below are the topics covered in the course.

Topics Included:

- Expressions, Equations, and Functions
- Linear Equations
- Linear Functions
- Equations of Linear Functions
- Linear Inequalities
- Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Exponents and Exponential Functions
- Radical Functions, Rational Functions, and Equations
- Statistics and Probability
- Tools of Geometry
- Parallel and Perpendicular Lines
- Congruent Triangles
- Quadrilaterals
- Similarity, Transformations, and Symmetry
- Circles

Math 2 or Math 2A/2B – Math 2 is the second required math class to meet the California State graduation requirements. Math 2 continues to introduce Algebraic concepts, building on concepts taught in Math 1. In addition, Probability and Statistics, as well as Geometry, are explored in greater depth. Listed below are the topics covered in the course.

Math 2 Topics Include:

- Quadratic Expressions and Equations
- Quadratic Functions and Equations
- Quadratic Functions and Relations
- Exponential and Logarithmic Functions and Relations
- Reasoning and Proof
- Congruent Triangles
- Relationships in Triangles
- Quadrilaterals
- Proportions and Similarity
- Right Triangles and Trigonometry
- Circles
- Extending Surface Area and Volume
- Probability and Measurement

Math 3- Math 3 continues to develop algebraic mastery, building on concepts learned in Math 1 and Math 2. In addition, more is developed in the areas of Geometry, Probability and Statistics, and Trigonometry. Listed below are the topics covered in the course.

Math 3 Topics Include:

- Equations and Inequalities
- Linear Relations and Functions
- Systems of Equations and Inequalities
- Polynomials and Polynomial Functions
- Inverses and Radical Functions and Relations
- Exponential and Logarithmic Functions and Relations
- Rational Functions and Relations
- Conic Sections
- Sequences and Series
- Statistics and Probability
- Trigonometric Functions
- Trigonometric Identities and Equations
- Proportions and Similarity
- Transformations and Symmetry
- Extending Surface Area and Volume

Social Studies

World History - Students will study the major turning points that shaped the modern world. Our studies will take us from the ancient Greeks to modern day revolutions. This includes the rise of democratic ideas to help us understand the historic roots of current world issues, especially as they relate to international relations. The goal is to engage historical issues, events, and ideas to better understand the world today. Two semesters are required.

Prerequisites: None

Target Grade Level: 10

United States History - Students will gain a general knowledge of United States History from 1492-Present. Students will improve their ability to think critically and express themselves in written and verbal form. Students will complete paragraphs summarizing what they learned after each class period. There will be quizzes on geography and historical periods. Students will present a report on a U.S. State during the first semester and on a significant person or event during the second semester. Two semesters are required.

Prerequisites: None

Target Grade Level: 11

Economics/Civics This is a one semester required course for seniors designed to cover the basic concepts of economic principles: 1) to teach students a set of analytical skills enabling them to make objective judgments about daily issues, 2) to help students gain a better understanding of the world around them, 3) to make students better aware of how they affect the economy and how it affects them, and 4) to make students better able to fulfill their responsibilities as citizens in a free-enterprise economy. One semester is required.

Prerequisites: None

Target Grade Level: 12

Government - Government is a one semester required course for seniors covering various types of government and a study of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of (principally) the United States government, and to a lesser extent, state and local government. There will also be a review of colonial history and the history of the early United States leading up to the ratification of the Constitution. This document will be analyzed in detail. One semester is required.

Prerequisites: None

Target Grade Level: 12

Science

Earth Science - Earth science is a course designed to meet the physical science requirement for graduation. Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the basic characteristics, history and processes of planet earth. They will realize that we interact with aspects of the earth system every day, understand the environment and natural hazards within the context of earth science and understand the interconnection between various earth processes and topics.

Prerequisites: None

Target Grade Level: 9

Biology - This course is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts of biology. A balance of information covering the six major units of biology will include an introduction to biology, ecology, cells, genetics, evolution and human biology. Students will discover the intricacies of living organisms and develop a desire to continue learning about living organisms. This course is considered a laboratory Life Science for college admissions.

Prerequisites: None UC/CSU: Yes

Target Grade Level: 10

Integrated Science - Integrated Science focuses on topics including chemistry, physics, life science, earth science and space science. The course is structured to enable students to master the appropriate science content standards and stimulate curiosity about the natural world. Laboratory experiences are integrated into the course to enhance student comprehension of the topics covered. These laboratory experiences are designed to facilitate the development of skills in planning, predicting, recording data, data analysis, evaluation, and application; and lead to inquiry and problem solving.

Prerequisites: Earth Science, Biology

Target Grade Level: 11

Senior Science - This two-semester course is designed to explore and discover the natural history, resources, and beauty that comprise our home in The Mother Lode, and Tuolumne County, in particular. We live within a network of ecosystems and biomes that have sustained human populations for thousands of years. The discovery of rich gold reserves began a dramatic transformation of the area that continues to this day. Field trips, guest speakers, field work, discussion of local issues, and in class 'hands-on' activities make up a large part of this class. Students explore the disciplines of Forestry, Fire Ecology, Botany, Geology, and Wildlife Biology to learn how to unlock the mysteries that lie within the landscape. A field trip to Yosemite National Park is a capstone of the course. Completion of this course will be particularly helpful for those who continue their education in the areas of fire science, forestry, watershed management, and other natural resource fields.

Prerequisites; Earth Science, Biology

Target Grade Level: 12

Non Departmental Required Classes

Life Skills Health - This course emphasizes the importance of knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to personal health and wellness. It is designed to expose students to a broad range of issues and information relating to the physical, social and emotional aspects of personal health and well-being. One semester is required.

Prerequisites: None

Target Grade Level: 9

Life Skills Career Development - This is a required course. Students investigate career options, complete job applications and resumes and experience a mock job interview.

Prerequisites: None

Target Grade Level: 9

Senior Project / Senior Seminar – (On-Campus Students) The goal of Senior Seminar is to help students transition smoothly from high school to college or a career following graduation. This course is designed to provide students with the tools necessary for completing a successful senior project and research essay, identifying a path for life after high school, and applying for colleges, trade schools or jobs that will help them achieve their future goals. During the year, students will learn more about college and career opportunities, as well as receive information relevant to seniors about school activities.

The Volunteer Service Project gives seniors an opportunity to be of service to the larger community. Students come away from the experience with the knowledge of community service opportunities and with skills learned from their volunteer time.

The volunteer program requires fifty hours of verified volunteer work per school year. This breaks down to five hours each learning period. All seniors must complete all fifty hours in order to graduate.

Prerequisite: None

Target Grade level: 12

Technology

This course designed to improve keyboarding skill and technique. Students practice daily to improve keyboarding speed and accuracy, and work at their own pace on documents including: letter formats, reports, memorandums, tables, footnotes and references, newspaper columns and flyers. Students will also work in the following areas: 3d printing, 3d design software,

robotics/drone, beginning animation, HTML 5/coding, beginning graphic arts and the use of Google products.

Prerequisites: None

Target Grade level 9-12