

2020-21 Course Catalog

The complete 2020-21 course catalog is available at www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

All classes are year long and earn 10 units (5 units per semester) unless otherwise noted.

Required Courses

English 1

UC/CSU approved

English 1 focuses on the study of reading, writing, language, and speaking and listening as outlined in the California Common Core State Standards. There is an emphasis on critical thinking, increasingly complex texts, informational text and nonfiction, integrating technology, and academic vocabulary.

World History, Culture & Geography

UC/CSU approved

This course begins with a snapshot examination of global government systems in 1750. The course then covers a period of more than 250 years and highlights the intensification of a truly global history as people, products, knowledge, and ideas increasingly spread around the world. It examines dynamic forces such as democracy, nationalism, and economic competition and how these forces impacted the modern world. The course also considers the themes of war and conflict resolution, inclusiveness of governance, the concept of justice, and the growing importance of individual rights and liberties. The course ends with the continued evolution of a global society as shaped by globalization, terrorism, and technology.

Throughout the course, students develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to enhance their understanding of the content. Students engage with history as an investigative discipline, one that is continually reshaped based on inquiry, primary and secondary source research, and multiple new perspectives. Students will gain an appreciation of history and become more informed citizens in their community, country, and the world.

The Living Earth (Formerly Biology)

UC/CSU approved

The Living Earth course, based on the Next Generation Science Standards, explores relationships between the living and nonliving components of Earth's systems. By using science and engineering practices, cross-cutting disciplinary concepts, and evidence from experiments, research, and observations, students will learn how to formulate questions, evaluate claims, and develop models to make interpretations and investigate the natural world. Topics will include: Ecosystems Interactions and Energy, History of Earth's Atmosphere: Photosynthesis and Respiration, Evidence of Evolution, Inheritance of traits, Structure, Function, and Growth (from cells to organisms) and Ecosystem Stability and the Response to Climate Change. The Living Earth course is replacing the Biology course and is required for graduation.

PE 9

The ninth grade Physical Education course encompasses areas of physical education and is based on the California PE Model Standards. Students will focus on the development of proficient movement skills in each area of physical education; expanding their capabilities for independent learning; and examining practices that allow for sound decision making to enhance successful participation in movement activities.

Mathematics:

Algebra A

Algebra A reviews, formalizes, and extends the mathematics that students learned in Common Core math 6 through 8. This course includes content standards from the conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, and Statistics and Probability. Through the application of the Standards for Mathematical Practice, students will increasingly engage with the subject matter and grow in mathematical maturity and expertise.

Algebra 1

UC/CSU approved

Algebra 1 formalizes and extends the mathematics that students learned in Common Core math 6 – 8. This course includes content standards from the conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, and Statistics and Probability. Through the application of the Standards for Mathematical Practice, students will increasingly engage with the subject matter and grow in mathematical maturity and expertise.

Geometry

UC/CSU approved

The fundamental purpose of the California State Standards Geometry course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. This course includes content standards from the conceptual categories of Congruence, Similarity, Right Triangles and Trigonometry, Circles, Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations, Geometric Measurement and Dimension, Conditional Probability, Rules of Probability and Using Probability and Statistics. Through the application of the Standards for Mathematical Practice, students will increasingly engage with the subject matter and grow in mathematical maturity and expertise.

Geometry Advanced

UC/CSU approved

The fundamental purpose of the California State Standards Geometry Advanced course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. This is an accelerated, fast paced mathematics course which includes content standards from the conceptual categories of Congruence, Similarity, Right Triangles and Trigonometry, Circles, Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations, Geometric Measurement and Dimension, Conditional Probability, Rules of Probability and Using Probability and Statistics. Through the application of the Standards for Mathematical Practice, students will increasingly engage with the subject matter and grow in mathematical maturity and expertise.

Elective Courses

English Electives

Public Speaking 1

UC/CSU approved

Introduction to Public Speaking, terminology, basic skills and techniques for presentation of both fiction and non-fiction. Considerable writing and use of modern library computer research required. A unit in mass media, film, and cinematography is included.

Journalism 1

UC/CSU approved

Journalism students will expand their English/Language Arts and visual arts skills through creating and publishing the school newspaper. Students are required to write monthly assignments for the newspaper and other class projects. They practice varied forms of journalistic writing including news, features, and sports stories, as well as reviews and editorials. Students learn laws and ethical standards related to journalism. In the process of writing their stories, laying out newspaper pages, and designing advertising, students learn to use specialized software for word processing, page layout, and graphic design. This course is designed for students who are interested in refining their writing skills as well as exploring careers in journalism.

Literacy

Literacy course is designed to provide support and develop academic literacy skills focused on transferring skills across disciplines. The class will provide students with a small classroom environment where they can receive individual attention and build confidence. The class will focus on teaching students effective learning strategies. By learning about and using a variety of research-based strategies, students will learn how they best learn.

World Languages

French 1

UC/CSU approved

This introductory course in foreign language provides students who have no prior training in the language an opportunity to develop basic listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills. In addition to functional language skills, students are provided an introduction to the culture of countries whose language they are studying.

French 2

UC/CSU approved

This second-year language course enables students to develop intermediate proficiency in the language skills of listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Students also develop an increasing awareness of the idiomatic aspects of language, and continue to study the culture of countries using the language.

Japanese 1

UC/CSU approved

This introductory course in foreign language provides students, who have no prior training in the language, an opportunity to develop basic listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills. In addition to functional language skills, students are provided an introduction to the culture of countries whose language they are studying.

Mandarin 1

UC/CSU approved

Mandarin 1 will introduce students to the language of Mandarin (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and the Chinese culture, and give a basis for continued studies. By the end of the course, students will learn how to have short conversations in Mandarin; have a basic understanding of the components of Chinese characters; broaden their understanding of the Chinese culture; and introduce them in the use of a dictionary.

Mandarin 2

UC/CSU approved

Mandarin 2 will broaden students' ability in the language of Mandarin (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and the understanding of the Chinese culture. It will enable them to read longer paragraphs and carry on extended conversations. By the end of the course, students will learn how to have extended conversations in Mandarin; further expand their knowledge of Chinese characters; and further expand their understanding of the Chinese culture.

Spanish 1

UC/CSU approved

This first-year Spanish language course enables students to develop novice proficiency in the four overarching goals of listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Students also develop an increasing awareness of the idiomatic aspects of language, and student the culture of countries using the language.

Spanish 2

UC/CSU approved

This second-year language course enables students to develop intermediate proficiency in the four overarching goals of listening, speaking, writing, and reading in Spanish. Students also develop an increasing awareness of the idiomatic aspects of the language, continue practicing the present tense, learn past tenses, and continue studying the culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

Visual and Performing Arts

Art 1

UC/CSU approved

Art 1 is a skills-based course in which students develop artistic perception, learn art history/cultural context and develop aesthetic valuing skills through drawing, painting and printmaking. Students create original artworks, using new and traditional media and techniques, as well as keeping a sketchbook/journal, doing outside gallery visits and reviews, and oral and written critiques of student, historical and contemporary artists. Students also are required to maintain portfolios of all their projects/assignments.

3D ART 1

UC/CSU approved

Students are introduced and given opportunities to create art forms in a wide variety of three-dimensional art media including wood, metal, plaster, clay, fibers and mixed media while learning safety procedures and technical skills necessary for working with these materials. Students practice translating two-dimensional design into a three-dimensional artwork. Students will explore various artists within the three dimensional realm.

Digital Design 1

UC/CSU approved

Co-enrollment with DVC (earn college credit through DVC). Digital Design 1 students study traditional art and design principles while using new media (computers, digital cameras, scanners, etc.) to produce their own original design projects. In this hands-on studio class, students learn to use the computer as a tool to draw illustrations, manipulate graphics, and create a broad range of design projects.

Drama 1

UC/CSU approved

Drama 1 offers the new and continuing theatre student the opportunity to gain experience in dramatic arts through acting, technical theatre, and an exploration of theatre within an historical and cultural context. The student will develop skills in creative self-expression using a variety of methods. The student also will evaluate the informal and formal works of their own and others through both discussion and writing. The course provides an opportunity to develop competence in problemsolving, communication skills, self-confidence, and self-discipline contributing to life-long learning and career skills.

Stagecraft

UC/CSU approved

This year of study is devoted to developing a firm foundation in technical theatre. We will be studying all technical aspects of the production process. Units of study will include dramaturgy, design, set construction, props, lighting, sound, costume and make-up, and theater management. Students must pass an OSHA theater safety test in the first weeks of the course before operating equipment. Because of the nature of technical theatre this class requires 35 hours, minimum, after-school work per semester.

Choral Performance 1 (Chorale)

UC/CSU approved

Choral Performance 1 is a beginning to intermediate choral group which performs many times throughout the year. Music of many styles, from renaissance through contemporary will be performed. In addition, basic training in music reading, vocal and breathing techniques, and music appreciation will be included. As an introductory choir, no previous experience is required.

Concert Band

UC/CSU approved

Audition required

Concert Band is open to all students. There will be continued development of instrumental techniques and ensemble skills through the study of outstanding repertoire for Concert Band. The preparation process is the important component of the program, in that the performance of each student in the instrumental class is critically important to, and affects the performance of, every other student in the class.

Jazz Ensemble

UC/CSU approved

Audition required

Jazz Ensemble is a selective and specialized course designed to offer the qualified instrumentalist the opportunity to study and perform a variety of jazz styles. Emphasis is on learning improvisation as well as advanced music reading. This group is involved in several performances throughout the community. The preparation process is the important component of the program, in that the performance of each student in the instrumental class is critically important to, and affects the performance of, every other student in the class.

Orchestra

UC/CSU approved

Orchestra offers the opportunity for string players to study and perform music of many styles and musical periods, develop techniques, and participate in a variety of group and ensemble experiences. The preparation process is the important component of the program, in that the performance of each student in the instrumental class is critically important to, and affects the performance of, every other student in the class.

Career/Technical Education

Foods 1

UC/CSU approved

Foods 1 is the first course in a comprehensive standards-based culinary arts sequence. The class will enable students to understand basic nutrition, food preparation techniques, care and use of equipment, consumer education, entertaining, kitchen safety and sanitation.

Wood Technology

Wood Technology provides students with the knowledge to safely operate and maintain both hand and power tools as well as woodworking machines. Throughout the year, students will complete several projects while learning the identification and use of tools, woods, and basic joinery and finishing techniques. Emphasis is placed on safety, responsibility, and cooperation.

Science

Principles of Biomedical Science

UC/CSU approved

Principles of Biomedical Science course provides students with an introduction to biomedical science through exciting hands-on projects and problems. Students investigate concepts of biology and medicine as they explore health conditions including heart disease, diabetes, sickle-cell disease, hypercholesterolemia, and infectious diseases. Students will practice problem solving with structured activities and programs to openended projects and problems that require them to develop planning, documentation, communication and other professional skills. The course is designed to provide an overview of all the courses in the biomedical science program and lay the scientific foundation for subsequence courses.

English Language Development

The English Language Development (ELD) program is for students who are not proficient in English. The ELD program helps students master English so they can be successful in their academic courses. There are three areas of instruction: Reading, Grammar and Writing, and Conversation and Vocabulary. Students take placement tests to see which level they need, and they take quarterly benchmark tests to assure they are ready for the next level. ELD Reading focuses on word analysis and vocabulary, reading comprehension and analysis strategies, and reading fluency. ELD Grammar and Writing teaches the conventions of English: syntax, verb tenses, sentence structure, and composition. ELD Conversation and Vocabulary focuses on students' speaking and listening skills, as well as developing their knowledge of content area and academic vocabulary.