CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2017–2018

9-12

GAC 3836.5
Dear Secondary School Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. The Clark County School District is committed to working in partnership with families to create an exciting and engaging learning environment which provides the best educational experience possible for all students. The Curriculum Overview provides a sample of the content that your child should master by the end of each school year. Additionally, it includes activities for families to engage in at home. While this document is not inclusive of all content material required to graduate, it does serve as a resource that can be used when supporting your child throughout the school year.

The Nevada Academic Content Standards provide the framework for instruction within Clark County School District. The standards establish clear guidelines for each content area and are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our students need for success in college and a career.

Nevada’s standards, which promote critical thinking, reasoning, and application of knowledge, are expected to drastically reduce the need for remedial classes. For additional information, please visit www.doe.nv.gov/Families/.

Infinite Campus is an information system that you can use to effectively monitor your child’s academic progress on a daily basis. You can access the Campus Parent Portal at https://campus.ccsd.net/campus/portal/clark.jsp. In addition, communication with your child’s teacher, in person, via telephone, or through e-mail, will provide you with insight on how you can best support your child’s learning at home. Your child’s counselor is another resource for academic planning to ensure your child is on track for college and/or a career. The District’s web site at www.ccsd.net/parents is also a valuable resource. It includes various documents available to you to assist your child in his or her academic career.

We know that students are more likely to succeed in school when their families are engaged in their day-to-day educational activities. We encourage you to stay involved in your child’s education. Access the school web site, read school newsletters, participate in school events, follow your child’s school on social media, monitor your child’s academic progress, and provide encouragement.

Thank you for working with us to ensure your child graduates ready for success in college and/or a career.

Sincerely,

Pat Skorkowsky
Superintendent of Schools

“Every student in every classroom, without exceptions, without excuses”
LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

This document presents learning expectations for students based on the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Also included are learning expectations in the areas of health, library, music, physical education, world language, and fine arts education. The learning expectations presented in this document can help you know how your child is doing in high school.

Tips and activities are provided to help your student learn at home. Contact your teen's teacher to learn more and discuss how you can help your student meet these learning expectations.

NEVADA PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION PROGRAM (NPEP)—HIGH SCHOOL

The class of 2016 was the last class of students required to pass the Nevada High School Proficiency Exam (NHSPE), which contained sections for reading, mathematics, science, and writing. The End of Course (EOC) exams are taking the place of the NHSPE. Each EOC exam measures how well a student understands the subject areas tested. Students take the EOCs at the conclusion of the course, regardless of when that course is taken during a student's school career. Also, to be eligible for graduation, all students must take Nevada's College and Career Readiness assessment in their junior year. For additional information on Nevada state assessments, refer to www.doe.nv.gov.

INFINITE CAMPUS

The District's student information system is Infinite Campus. This system provides real time information about student achievement and so much more. From the Campus Portal, parents/guardians and students can access a student's personal Academic Plan that updates in real time with information on grades, homework assignments, and coursework. Parents/guardians can view the plans from a calendar view that captures every child within the household who is enrolled in a Clark County school.

COMPUTER ACCESS

If you do not have a home computer, then please remember computers may be available at your teen's school and at public libraries.

RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTION

The Clark County School District (CCSD) embraces Response to Instruction (RTI). The RTI Framework uses three levels or tiers of support for all students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. Throughout the tiers of support, all students are provided access to grade-level curriculum and behavioral supports.

- Tier I supports all students. Emphasis is placed on the delivery of high-quality, standards-based instruction that is differentiated to meet the needs of students.
- Tier II supports students who are not responding adequately to Tier I instruction.
- Tier III supports students who demonstrate ongoing lack of sufficient progress or growth.

Within the RTI Framework, CCSD has established structures that secondary schools use to provide additional classes that are paired with core courses if additional support is needed.

21ST CENTURY COURSE OF STUDY CORE CURRICULUM

All CCSD students are expected to meet the requirements of the 21st Century Course of Study.

Students must be prepared for the following post-secondary opportunities:

- University/Four-Year College
- Trade/Technical School
- Community/Two-Year College
- Workforce

### 21st CENTURY COURSE OF STUDY CORE CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS OF STUDY</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
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<td>ENGLISH</td>
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<td>MATHEMATICS (Including Algebra II or higher)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATURAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCIAL STUDIES AND HISTORY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
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For specific information on graduation requirements and descriptions of the various types of diplomas, refer to CCSD Regulation 5127 at ccsd.net/district/policies-regulations/pdf/5127_R.pdf.
ADVANCED PLACEMENT
As a District initiative, increased participation and performance in Advanced Placement (AP) courses is a priority. AP courses help students acquire the skills and habits they will need to be successful in college. There is an increased focus on writing skills, problem-solving abilities, time-management skills, discipline, and study habits.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY
Listed below is some information to keep in mind as your teen moves through high school.

1. Be informed of the graduation requirements including courses, credits, and End of Course exams. Encourage your student to work hard and hold him/her accountable for attending classes, actively participating in learning, and making good grades.

2. Get to know your teen’s teachers. During the first month of school, meet all your student’s teachers, learn their names, and learn what courses they teach. Make every effort to attend the school’s open house sessions. Let the teacher know the best way to communicate with you (e.g., phone, e-mail, text, etc.).

3. Schedule a meeting with the school counselor for you and your student to discuss an educational plan to make sure your student is on the right track to graduate and prepared for post-secondary opportunities. Ensure the counselor knows the best way to communicate with you (e.g., phone, e-mail, text, etc.).

4. Help your student organize information about college admissions, scholarship applications, and other post-secondary opportunities.

5. Additionally, career information including occupations and employment, education and training, and self-assessments are resources available to students as they consider events after high school. For more information, refer to Career One Stop at www.careeronestop.org.

COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING PROGRAM OVERVIEW
As part of the educational team, school counselors play an integral role in the academic, career, and social development of all students. School counselors implement strategies and activities that support and maximize each student’s ability to learn and help prepare students to make informed choices regarding post-secondary options and future career goals. Additionally, the school counseling program provides the foundation for social and emotional growth as students progress through school and into adulthood. Below are several planning documents available from the Guidance and Counseling webpage at ccsd.net/departments/guidance-counseling.

DOCUMENT LIBRARY
The Moving On To High School Transitional Planning Guide provides information to parents regarding opportunities for students entering high school.

The Moving On To College and Career Transitional Planning Guide for High School Students provides information to parents and students preparing for graduation, in regards to planning for post-secondary options and identifying and securing finances to pursue post-secondary education and training.

Refer to ccsd.net/departments/guidance-counseling to access these documents.

TIPS FOR PARENTS
The Parents Still Make The Difference! monthly newsletter provides information on topics such as encouraging reading, discipline, test success, and building self-esteem.

Support Your Child’s Education provides a suggested list of activities to support the academic development of your child.

Refer to ccsd.net/departments/guidance-counseling to access these documents.

SAY NO TO BULLYING
Per Clark County School District (CCSD) Policy 5137 – Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, the CCSD “Say No to Bullying” website was developed to facilitate accessibility for individuals to report incidents of bullying. Once an incident is submitted via this website, an email is generated to the school’s administration notifying them of the report. Reports may be submitted anonymously. A “Say No to Bullying” hyperlink was provided for all CCSD schools to facilitate the reporting process.

The CCSD “Say No to Bullying” website is not monitored during weekends, holidays, or after school hours.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

As part of the 21st Century Course of Study Expectations, students are expected to complete four units of English. Curricula and instruction are aligned to NVACS for English Language Arts. Below is the English Language Arts course sequence for ninth through twelfth grade.

ENGLISH 9*
This ninth-grade course (Foundations in Composition and the Elements of Text) is designed to assist students in mastering the language, structure, and rhetoric of text; completing complex writing assignments; reading and analyzing a range of literary and informational material; delivering extensive oral presentations; and participating in a variety of conversations and collaborations with peers.

ENGLISH 10*
This tenth-grade course (Composition and Themes in Global Text) focuses on types of composition. Through the study of themes found universally in global text, instruction emphasizes not only critical analysis of text, but also writers' historical, philosophical, cultural, and ethical perspectives.

ENGLISH 11*
This eleventh-grade course (Composition and Themes in American Text) requires expository, analytical, and argumentative writing assignments. The course is also structured around multicultural themes and perspectives to encourage students to think conceptually about America’s past, present, and future, as well as the ethnic and cultural diversity of the American experience.

ENGLISH 12*
This twelfth-grade course (Post-Secondary Composition and Universal Themes in Text) focuses on refining the literacy skills required for post-secondary success. The writing focus in this course includes analysis, synthesis, and argumentation related to workplace and real-world situations.

*Regular and Honors courses are available.

Eleventh- and Twelfth-Grade students have the opportunity to participate in Language and Composition Advanced Placement Courses and/or Literature and Composition Advanced Placement Courses.

To learn more about the Nevada Academic Content Standards for English Language Arts, refer to www.doe.nv.gov/Standards_Instructional_Support/Nevada_Academic_Standards/ELA.

SUPPORTING YOUR TEEN’S LEARNING AT HOME

At home, you and your teen can:

- Encourage your teen to read all assigned material and engage your teen in conversation about these materials.
- Create a quiet, comfortable space in which your teen can read. Consider reading one or more of the assigned books along with your teen.
- Have your teen present opinions to you. Ask questions and be a good listener.
- Ask your teen about current writing assignments and encourage your teen to talk about ideas before beginning to write.
- Encourage your teen to write often and, whenever possible, share your own writing as an example.
- Encourage your teen to write notes that are grammatically correct.

For additional online support, refer to www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/.

FOR STUDENT WRITING SAMPLES, REFER TO http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_C.pdf.
MATHEMATICS

As part of the 21st Century Course of Study Expectations, students are expected to complete four units of mathematics. Mathematics instruction is based on the NVACS for Mathematics. Below is the mathematics course sequence for ninth through twelfth grade.

ALGEBRA I
This course provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills for further studies in mathematics. It is intended to increase mathematical fluency in problem solving, reasoning, modeling, and effective communication in the study of numbers, algebra, functions, and statistics. This course is based on the NVACS and is intended to prepare students for the Math I End of Course exam.

GEOMETRY*
This one-year course provides students with a rigorous study of transformational geometry. It incorporates problem solving, reasoning, modeling, and effective communication in the study of transformational geometry, trigonometry, measurement, and probability. This course is based on the NVACS and is intended to prepare students for the Math II End of Course exam.

ALGEBRA II*
This primary goal of this course is to develop competence in using variables and functions to model numerical patterns and quantitative relations. Emphasis is on the study of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Also, sequences and series, modeling, and statistics are incorporated in this course. Connections to other areas of mathematics and applications to other disciplines are also integrated into this course.

FOURTH YEAR MATHEMATICS
The fourth year of mathematics could include courses such as Topics of Modern Mathematics, College Preparatory Mathematics, Precalculus (H), Advanced Placement Statistics, or Advanced Placement Calculus.

*Regular and Honors courses are available.

To learn more about the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Mathematics, refer to www.doc.nv.gov/Standards_Instructional_Support/Nevada_Academic_Standards/Mathematics.

SUPPORTING YOUR TEEN’S LEARNING AT HOME

At home, you and your teen can:

- Write ten good hints for taking a mathematics test. Discuss the answers. Work problems backward, review notes beforehand, study vocabulary, check on and discuss the course homework, etc.
- Identify ways in which algebra and geometry are used in everyday life. Algebra is very useful to describe fees involving memberships or contracts that include a flat fee plus additional costs for extra services. Applications of geometry can be found in such areas as the construction trades, in packing and shipping situations, and in logical arguments found in the field of law.
- Find a newspaper article that provides the results of a statistical study and discuss the results.
- Look up car pricing in the newspaper. Work with your teen to determine the actual cost of the car including the monthly payment, insurance, gasoline, and maintenance.
- Begin working on a project for the Nevada K–12 Statistics Poster Competition.

For additional online support, refer to ww2.amstat.org/chapters/Nevada.
SCIENCE

The NVACS for Science identify eight practices of science and engineering and seven crosscutting concepts that are essential for every student to use. Their purpose is to help students deepen their understanding of science content and develop a coherent, scientifically based view of the world.

Science and Engineering Practices
1. Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data
5. Using mathematics and computational thinking
6. Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Crosscutting Concepts
1. Pattern
2. Cause and Effect: Mechanism and Explanation
3. Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
4. Systems and System Models
6. Structure and Function
7. Stability and Change

As part of the 21st Century Course of Study Expectations, students are expected to complete three units of science, one of which must be Biology or Biology Honors. Science instruction is based on the NVACS for Science. Below are the science courses offered in high school.

BIOLOGY*
There are five life science topics in Biology: Structure and Function, Inheritance and Variation of Traits, Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, and Natural Selection and Evolution. This course is designed as a survey of the biological sciences.

GEOSCIENCE*
There are five topics in Geoscience: Space Systems, Dynamic Earth Through Time, Earth’s Dynamic Surface, Changing Climate, and Human Sustainability. This course is designed as a survey of geological sciences.

CHEMISTRY*
There are five broad topics in Chemistry: Atoms, Bonding, Chemical Reactions and Calculations, Differences in Energy, and Equilibrium.

PHYSICS*
There are five broad topics in Physics: Energy as a system, Energy and Forces, Energy and Field Forces, Energy in Motion, and Energy Applications.

*Regular and Honors courses are available.

Advanced Placement Opportunities are available for many science courses. To learn more about the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Science, refer to www.doe.nv.gov/Standards_Instructional_Support/Nevada_Academic_Standards/Science.

SUPPORTING YOUR TEEN’S LEARNING AT HOME

At home, you and your teen can:
- Discuss news headlines or magazine articles related to science.
- Visit local science sites including Red Rock Canyon, the Wetlands Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Mount Charleston, or the Springs Preserve.
- Encourage your teen to challenge negative stereotypes about scientists, and help them understand that anyone can have a career in science.
- Check out NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day at apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html.
- Ask questions to link material learned in science class to real-world scenarios: Why is Las Vegas a desert? How has human activity affected the environment? How are traits inherited? How do environments change? What impact do humans have on the environment? Why does your voice sound differently when you are under water in the pool? How will converting light bulbs in your home affect your electric bill?
SOCIAL STUDIES

As part of the 21st Century Course of Study Expectations, students are expected to complete three units of Social Studies. Social studies instruction is based on the NVACS for Social Studies. Below is the social studies course sequence for ninth through twelfth grade.

WORLD HISTORY*

This tenth-grade course examines societal development from the Renaissance to the present with an emphasis on emerging ideologies, expansion of empires, growth of nations, and an increase of global interdependence. Students develop an understanding of current world issues and relate them to their historical, geographical, political, economic, and cultural contexts.

GEOGRAPHY*

This course examines societal development from the Renaissance to the present with an emphasis on exploring earth's human and physical systems in both global and regional contexts. Students develop an understanding of current world issues and relate them to geographical, historical, political, economic, and cultural contexts. Depending on school resources, this course may replace World History in tenth grade.

U.S. HISTORY*

This eleventh-grade course is a study of American history with an emphasis on the Modern World from 1900 to the present day. Students explore and evaluate the consequences of significant historical events. This course provides an examination of historical themes to analyze how new events continue to shape our nation and society today.

U.S. GOVERNMENT*

This twelfth-grade course is a study of the United States federal, state, local, and tribal governments and evaluates the impact of political foundations, structures, processes, and institutions. Students apply constitutional principles to assess the growth and development of the United States government and political system.

*Regular and Honors courses are available.

Advance Placement opportunities are available for many Social Studies courses.

For information on the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies, refer to www.doc.nv.gov/Standards_Instructional_Support/Nevada_Academic_Standards/SocialStudies.

SUPPORTING YOUR TEEN’S LEARNING AT HOME

At home, you and your teen can:

- Read primary source documents, such as the following:
  - George Washington’s Farewell Address – refer to avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp),
  - Dr. King’s Letter from Birmingham Jail – refer to www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html, or
  - Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in America – refer to xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/toc_indx.html.
- Discuss family history related to important historical events, such as World War II or the Civil Rights Movement.
- Discuss the importance of participating in society through voting, civic discourse, and joining organizations.
- Write or call legislators to demonstrate ways to become involved in society.
- Participate in a family/group service project, such as volunteering for a political campaign or working for a non-profit organization.
- Discuss current news events and connect them to a historical perspective.
- When learning about financial literacy, discuss effective methods of saving and spending.
- Use maps when traveling. Allow your teen to guide the trip by using a map.
- Analyze your culture and connect it to World and U.S. History (e.g., how parents talk about what they were doing on the day Kennedy was shot).

LEARNING BEYOND THE CORE

Each high school has a library with resources to support learning in the classroom. The library promotes lifelong learning through:

INFORMATION LITERACY

Students access information to solve an information problem or question using a variety of digital and print resources. They judge the accuracy, relevance, and completeness of sources and information in relation to a range of topics. They develop a plan to use a variety of sources and can explain the kinds of information found in each, distinguishing between fact, point of view, and opinion.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Students explore a range of sources to find information of personal interest or well-being and apply the information to real-life purposes. They read various genres of literature including mythology, short stories, drama, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. They evaluate the information-seeking process at each stage as it occurs and make adjustments, as necessary, to improve the process and the product. They revise, improve, and update their own work.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Students organize information into formats for presentation, whether working individually or in groups. They help to organize and integrate the contributions of all the members of a group into an information product. Students use ethical behavior in regard to information and information technologies, plagiarism, citation of sources, and intellectual freedom.

Other areas of learning beyond the core areas of reading and writing, mathematics, science, and social studies include:

HEALTH

Students examine the intricate relationships between the structural and physiological functions required for the mental, physical, social, and emotional wellness. They learn lifelong skills including communication, decision-making, and goal setting to enhance overall health and well-being. Students examine the following health education topics: decision-making, wellness, nutrition and physical activity, body systems, substance use and abuse, communicable and non-communicable diseases, violence prevention, safety, and consumer health. Students receive instruction on the human reproductive systems, related communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual responsibility within established guidelines. The course fulfills the one-half credit of health required for high school graduation.

Note: A signed parent/guardian permission slip for the Sex Education unit of instruction is required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will focus on developing a health and skill-enhancing level of physical fitness. They will execute motor skills, movement patterns, and safety while participating in a variety of physical activities. Health and skill-enhancing fitness concepts will be explored through personal goal setting and self-evaluation. Students will be moderately to vigorously physically active for fifty percent of the instructional time. Two physical education credits are required for high school graduation.
WORLD LANGUAGE

The goals of the secondary world language program are to develop students’ communicative skills in the target language and to lead students to intermediate and/or advanced-level proficiency. The focus is communication in the target language incorporating an understanding of the target cultures, connecting with other disciplines, comparing native language to the target language, and participating in multicultural communities. It is recommended that at least ninety percent of the instructional time in class be conducted in the target language.

Based on student requests and teacher availability, courses may be offered in the following languages:

- American Sign Language
- Arabic
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Filipino (Tagalog)
- French
- German
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin
- Russian
- Spanish
- Spanish Literacy

Note: Many out of state colleges and universities require a minimum of two to three years of study in the same language to fulfill entrance requirements.

FINE ARTS EDUCATION

For students who elect to participate in fine arts courses, high school sites provide a variety of opportunities to develop individual and group skills to create, perform, and respond in the disciplines of music, dance, theatre, and the visual arts. Standards-based, sequential instruction in the arts is offered to all students, at most school sites, as part of a balanced education in order to meet student interests, develop skills, and provide career opportunities.

Programs of study may include:

- **Dance:** Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced
- **Music:** Band, Orchestra, Choir, Guitar, Mariachi, Music Theory, Music Appreciation, and Jazz Band
- **Theatre:** Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Technical
- **Visual Arts:** Art I, Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Photography, AP Studio Art, AP Art History, Commercial Design, Design Crafts, Fibers, Printmaking, and Humanities

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in over 60 career pathways. Students taking each CTE course also learn employability skills needed to be career and college ready. The District offers over 280 courses grouped into three-year Programs of Study. Many Programs of Study lead to industry certification and post-secondary credit opportunities. Programs of study include: Automotive Technology, Aviation, Biomedical, Business Management, Computer Science, Information Technology Networking, Construction, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Database Design, Dental Assisting, Diesel Equipment, Early Childhood, Electronics, Emergency Medical Technician, Fashion, Fire Science, Cabinetmaking, Graphic Design, Horticulture, Hospitality and Tourism, Interior Design, Landscape Design, Law Enforcement, Manufacturing, Marketing, Mechanical Technology, Medical Assisting, Nursing, Pre-engineering, Sports Marketing, Video Production, Web Design and Development, and Welding.
ONLINE DATABASES

The following online databases are funded by the State of Nevada and the Instructional Design and Professional Learning Division of the Clark County School District. Note: See your school librarian for guidance and access codes.

ABC-CLIO is a publisher of educational and reference products. These databases focus on history and social studies resources for the scholar, student, teacher, and librarian in universities and secondary schools. Refer to databases. abc-clio.com.

CultureGrams fosters understanding and appreciation of the world’s countries and people by creating and publishing excellent content. CultureGrams is a widely used cultural reference and curriculum product. Refer to online. culturegrams.com.

EBSCO provides a wealth of access to newspaper, magazines, and professional periodicals, as well as, a wealth of other online resources. There are also professional resources for educators. Refer to search.ebscohost.com.

LearningExpress Library provides a comprehensive collection of academic and career-related resources including math, reading, and writing tutorials, test preparation materials, and information on in-demand careers. Refer to www.learningexpresslibrary3.com.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context is a cross-curricular research tool covering today’s social issues, providing differing views on each side of several issues, to help students think critically to draw their own conclusions. Refer to http://galesites.com/menu/index.php?loc=nvk12.

TeachingBooks.net is a collection of resources designed to generate enthusiasm for books and reading by bringing authors, illustrators, and engaging resources about books for children and teens to every school, library, and home. Refer to www.teachingbooks.net/home.

World Book Online includes Early World of Learning, World Book Kids, World Book Student, World Book Advanced, and Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazagos. These databases provide a wealth of information and tools for all grade levels and curriculums. Refer to worldbookonline.com.