

# TECHBOSTON

## ACADEMY *Course Catalog*

2019-2020 **GRADES 10 - 12**

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**Notes on Availability:** “Available to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students” means 10<sup>th</sup> grade students can register for this course to fulfill a credit.

“Available to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students” means 11<sup>th</sup> grade students can register for this course to fulfill a credit. “Available to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students” means 12<sup>th</sup> grade students can register for this course to fulfill a credit. “With instructor permission” means the teacher must provide individual permission to each student wishing to take this course. Enrollment is not guaranteed. “With current teacher recommendation” means your current teacher must give permission for each student wishing to take this course. Enrollment is not guaranteed.

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## **DIGITAL ARTS, LANGUAGES, & ELECTIVES**

**10<sup>th</sup> Design & Communication** Elect to be a designer, a filmmaker, an animator, and an artist! In this class you will build upon your beginning knowledge of the Adobe Creative Suite and hands-on activities as you further your creative endeavors. Begin to explore the world of Stop Motion Videos, Animated Gifs, and fine art mediums. Artistic freedom is encouraged as you expand your knowledge of art and design. Taught by Ms. Rieffenaugh or Ms. Smith. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

**11<sup>th</sup> Design & Communication Elect** to flex your creative muscles and further your previous knowledge of the Adobe Creative Suite. In this course you will focus on photography, graphic design, and video production. You will have creative freedom as you explore more complex projects built by your original photos and sketches. You will create for real clients who need your design expertise. Students will use not just Photoshop, but also Adobe Illustrator (for graphic design) and Adobe After Effects (for animation). Taught by Ms. Rieffenaugh or Ms. Smith. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

**CTE Pathway (Advanced Design & Communication) Elect** to be a designer, a filmmaker, an animator, and an artist! In this class you will build upon your beginning knowledge of the Adobe Creative Suite and hands-on activities as you further your creative endeavors. Begin to explore the world of Stop Motion Videos, Animated Gifs, and fine art mediums. Artistic freedom is encouraged as you expand your knowledge of art and design. In this specialized pathway, you will become a more advanced designer through a three-year training in Visual Design, learning industry- standard competencies. As a senior, you will earn an Adobe certification. Taught by Ms. Rieffenaugh or Ms. Smith. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**12<sup>th</sup> Mixed Media Elect** to be creative and expand your skill set! In this class, you will not only discover and investigate different artists and artistic styles with in art history, but you will also experiment with a variety of different mediums (the Adobe Creative Suite, video, photography, acrylic painting, both pastels and oil pastels). As you dive into each unit, you will be trained in proper methods and materials. Through experimentation and practice you will discover the designer and artist within you. You will be challenged. As an elective class, you will find you really want to do the assignments! Taught by Ms. Rieffenaugh or Ms. Smith. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

**Spanish** Students will develop necessary skills for basic communication in Spanish language listening comprehension, oral communication, reading, and writing. Students will develop cultural sensitivity and respect for other cultures and their people. Topics covered include: Spanish speaking countries and their cultural characteristics/customs; greetings and introductions; time, dates, calendar; clothing; describing yourself and others; colors, numbers, and clothing; school; food and restaurant transactions; music; holidays; family and home; ecotourism; weather; and summer and winter activities. Taught by Ms. Kissel. *Available to: All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who do not speak fluent Spanish.*

**French** Students will develop necessary skills for basic communication in French language listening comprehension, oral communication, reading, and writing. Students will develop cultural sensitivity and respect for other cultures and their people. Taught by M. Jean. *Available to: All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>*

*Grade Students who do not speak fluent French.*

**Francophone Culture & Conversation** This course strengthens written and spoken French language skills and deepens student understanding of French and Francophone cultures. The course will be conducted in French and students are expected to speak in French always. Students will develop all five language skills: speaking, writing, listening comprehension, reading and cultural awareness. There will be a strong emphasis on improving fluency and accuracy of both oral and written expression. Taught by M. Jean. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who have previously taken French or are fluent in French.*

**Latin American Studies** In this course students will learn about various topics related to Spanish-speaking Latin American countries including: Important historical figures/events; Holidays, Festivals, Special Occasions; Natural attractions and Ecotourism; Local food; Art and Music; Historical Sites; and Cultural characteristics and customs. Authentic materials such as videos, TV programs, newspaper articles, music, film and other online resources will be utilized as educational tools. Students will have the opportunity to develop cultural sensitivity. This course is taught in English. Taught by Ms. Kissel. \*If taking this course for participation on the Puerto Rico trip, you must also enroll in Mr. Bethel's History of the Caribbean and Latin America. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Introduction to Public Speaking** This course will help students develop the skills needed to deliver an effective speech or presentation. Students will learn how to improve their delivery when speaking in public by using voice, movement and body language effectively; overcoming nerves and developing confidence; engaging the audience; and applying best practices for notes and visual aids. Students will have an opportunity to practice these skills in a variety of real-world situations. Taught by Mrs. Clark. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

## ENGLIS

## H

**College English Language Arts 10** In this course, you will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. You will be asked to think critically and analytical about author's craft and universal themes. This course is designed to prepare you for high- level reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Technology will be utilized both in and out of the classroom in multiple ways. Taught by Ms. Motta. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**College English Language Arts 10 - Honors** In this course, you will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. You will be asked to think critically and analytical about author's craft and universal themes. This course is designed to prepare you for high- level reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Technology will be utilized both in and out of the classroom in multiple ways. Taught by Ms. Motta. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Current Teacher Recommendation.*

**English 11: Coming of Age** This course will identify and analyze the bildungsroman, a literary genre that focuses on the development of a protagonist as they change over time. Students will keep journals to highlight their own travails as they seek answers and relate their experiences. Suggested readings include: Go Tell It On The Mountain, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, and The Brief

Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao. Taught by Ms. Provenzano. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**English 11: What Will Your Verse Be?** Every person has a story and a different way of telling it. Through reading of various pieces of American Literature, including novels, plays and multiple short stories, students will use an existential lens to analyze text as well as explore their own stories. Using multiple forms of expression, students will develop the essential criterion in determining meaning, truth, and value in themselves. Taught by Mr. Driscoll. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**English 11: Empathy, Bias, & Books** This course explores the idea of empathy by engaging in the critical study of American Literature, including novels, plays and multiple short stories by authors such as, Zora Neale Hurston, Ernest Hemingway and James Baldwin. Focused on social justice and the impact of bias, students will apply and analyze various literary elements and how these elements contribute to meaning in a text. Through formal and personal narrative essays, students will consider moral questions. Taught by Mr. Driscoll. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Co-Designed English Class: Creating a More Equitable School** This course is available to students who would like to co-create the classroom experience. The course will focus on non-fiction texts, research models, and processes of investigation. All aspects of the class will be designed by the collective. This course is appropriate post-AP English but is open for all students. Students in this course may be eligible for Honors credit. Facilitated by Ms. Andrews. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Instructor Permission Only.*

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**English 12: Vision & ReVision** In this course, students will read and analyze literature that critiques systems of oppression by authors such as Claudia Rankine, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Ahmed Saadawi. Students will learn frameworks for understanding oppression as well as practicing rhetorical strategies for addressing societal inequity. Students will think about “revision” as a way to imagine a new world. Taught by Ms. Andrews. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**English 12: Literature as Art** In this course, students will read, analyze, and draw from literature as they examine the artistic dimensions of the written and spoken word. Students will develop a portfolio of poetry and visual works over the course of the year. Students interested in creative arts will be supported in this class to develop a clear artistic practice. Taught by Ms. Andrews. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**English 12: The Art of Happiness** This course will help us understand what science tells us about happiness and the myths and misconceptions about what truly makes us happy. This course will require participation in a range of activities designed by the founder of positive psychology, Martin Seligman's, theoretical model of happiness. In addition, we will study self-discovery, our search for meaning, coping skills, self-regulation, mental agility, learned optimism, resilience, and our ability to bounce back from adversity. Taught by Ms. Provenzano. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**English 12 Honors: The Art of Happiness** This course will help us understand what science tells us about happiness and the myths and misconceptions about what truly makes us happy. This course will require participation in a range of activities designed by the founder of positive psychology, Martin Seligman's, theoretical model of happiness. In addition, we will study self-discovery, our search for meaning, coping skills, self-regulation, mental agility, learned optimism, resilience, and our ability to bounce back from adversity. This course is taught at a rigorous, college-level pace. Taught by Ms. Provenzano. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Instructor Permission Only.*

**AP English Language & Composition** Language and Composition is, at its core, an intense, college-level exploration and analysis of effective language and rhetoric. As defined by the Greek philosopher Aristotle, rhetoric is "the faculty of observing in any given case the available means of persuasion." In other words, the study of rhetoric is the study of effective communication—how writers and speakers skillfully use language to construct meaning, persuade, and move others to action. Students will become adept at analyzing the rhetorical choices that precede effective communication and will work tirelessly to replicate these choices in your own writing. This course is not a literature course and differs drastically from English Language Arts courses that you have previously taken. The overarching intention of this course is to deepen your ability to comprehend and analyze language in all forms, and to emerge from this course as a profoundly sophisticated thinker, writer and communicator. Taught by Ms. Motta. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Instructor Permission Only.*

# Y

**US History II** In U.S History II, risk-taking, academic-rigor, and respect are the classroom norms. This innovative curriculum is real, relevant and relatable. In this course, students will begin to learn how the United States went from a young, isolationist country to the superpower it has become today. In every unit, students will be making modern day connections by participating in relevancy week, where they explore current day issues. Students will think critically about America's past in order to ultimately determine whether or not the American Dream is attainable to all people. Taught by Ms. Hughes and Ms. Henderson. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**US History II Honors** This course is similar in content to the one described above but operates at an Honors level at an accelerated pace. Taught by Ms. Hughes. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Current Teacher Recommendation.*

**World History II** This course examines the history of the modern world, starting with the French Revolution and the English Industrial Revolution. Students learn political reform, the rise of Nationalism, and imperialism. Students will be able to explain the causes and consequences of the great military and economic events of the past century. Students will study political, ethnic, and religious conflicts. Taught by Mr. Bethel and Ms. Grace. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**World History II Honors** This course examines the history of the modern world, starting with the French Revolution and the English Industrial Revolution. Students learn political reform, the rise of Nationalism, and imperialism. Students will be able to explain the causes and consequences of the great military and economic events of the past century. Students will study political, ethnic, and religious conflicts. This accelerated version of the course is taught by Ms. Grace. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**AP US History Government & Politics** This course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the US through intensive study of the formal and informal structures of government and the processes of the American political system. Students will develop a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system. This is a college-level political science course. Taught by Dr. Pontrbriand. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Instructor Permission Only.*

**African American Studies** This course will provide an overview to introduce students to the study of the African American experience. Upon completion of the course, the students will have acquired appreciation of the culture, diversity, and contributions of African American culture. Students will also develop knowledge of important people, events, and ideas that have played a role in shaping the history and culture of African Americans. Taught by Ms. Grace. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Civics in Action** This is a practical history class! What is civics? The words 'government' and 'voting' may come to mind. Readings, exercises, and research in this course aim to develop both an urgency and context for civic engagement. You will use a design thinking method to develop a prototype response to a community issue, test it out, get feedback, redesign, and present to community partners. Taught by Dr. Pontrbriand. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**History of the Caribbean & Latin America** This class is on the history of the Caribbean and Latin America from Pre-European colonialism to the present day. Students study the native populations; the impact of Christopher Columbus and Europeans; the impact of slavery; subsequent slave rebellions and revolutions; independence movements, and the rise of Communism and dictatorships. This class expands to a case study of each country's history. Taught by Mr. Bethel. \*If taking this course for participation on the Puerto Rico trip, you must also enroll in Ms. Kissel's Latin American Studies. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Introduction to Sociology** Sociology is the study of groups of people. Everything we do is either directly or indirectly influenced by the society in which we live. You will research and discuss contemporary controversies around inequality, social change, gender, religion, globalization, education, health, crime, media, race, and power. Students will develop critical thinking, gain exposure, and perform different types of sociological research. Taught by Ms. Henderson. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

## MATHEMATIC

### S

**Geometry / Math II** This course is a combination of traditional Geometry and the new curriculum that will be covered on the 10th Grade Math MCAS. Students will be studying Functions, Quadratics, Polynomials, Circles, Triangles, Trigonometry, and the Real Number Systems. Throughout the year, students will be using online systems like IXL.com, GeoGebra, Desmos, etc., in conjunction with multiple real-world based projects, to critically analyze relationships and patterns that arise throughout the math curriculum. This course will also help students prepare for the 10th Grade Math MCAS in the spring, through review, challenges, and after school bootcamps. Taught by Ms. Hough and Mr. Ward.  
*Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Geometry Honors / Math II Honors** This course is a combination of traditional Geometry and the new curriculum that will be covered on the 10th Grade Math MCAS. Students will be studying Functions, Quadratics, Polynomials, Circles, Triangles, Trigonometry, and the Real Number Systems. As an honors course, students will be using critical thinking and a variety of proofs, to verify properties and theorems, along with addressing the topics of Complex Numbers, Matrices and Conics, preparing students for potentially joining the AP Calculus track. This course will also help students prepare for the 10th Grade Math MCAS in the spring. Taught by Ms. Hough. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Coding Algebra II** This course combines Computer Science and Algebra 2. You will learn coding skills in Python, a common programming language. You will explore the properties and algebra of functions, including polynomial, exponential, and trigonometric functions. You will apply math and coding to fields such as sports, money, and music. This course meets the graduation requirement for Algebra 2 or equivalent. Taught by Ms. Guggenheimer. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Algebra II** This course is designed to build on algebraic and geometric concepts. It develops advanced algebra skills such as systems of equations, advanced polynomials, imaginary and complex numbers, quadratics, and concepts and includes the study of trigonometric functions. It also introduces limits and their properties. The content of this course is important for students' success on both the ACT and SAT college exams. Taught by Mr. Desai or Ms. Guggenheimer. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who have taken Algebra I & Math II.*

**Algebra II / Pre-Calculus** This is an accelerated course that covers the typical Algebra II concepts and incorporates pre-calculus content needed for students wishing to take Calculus as seniors. Taught by Mr. Desai. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who have taken Algebra I & Geometry (Math II).*

**Probability & Statistics** Probability allows us to answer questions like 'what are the chances...', while Statistics provides us the tools to make determinations from data and analyze what factors might be occurring that could adjust our data. This course will cover Conditional Probability, the rules of Probability, Interpreting Categorical and Quantitative Data, and using Inferences, Justification, and probability, to draw conclusions and make decisions. Throughout this course, students will create

visual representations that assist in analysis, take a series of tests for understanding, and complete 2 major projects focusing on Income Inequality and the impacts of Immigration in the U.S. Taught by Ms. Hough. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Personal Finance & Financial Literacy** This course will inform students how individual choices directly influence occupational goals and future earnings potential. Real world topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Students will design budgets, gain knowledge in finance, debt, and credit management, and evaluate and understand insurance and taxes. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions leading to financial independence. Taught by Mr. McCarthy. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Calculus Honors** This course will cover Limits, Differentiation, Related Rates, Integration, and real-world applications of each. This will prepare students for their first year in a college level calculus course. Students will complete problem sets, hands-on projects, short demonstrations, quizzes, and tests. This course will develop students' mathematical concepts, improve logical thinking, and help to promote success. This course is needed for students who wish to continue their education beyond high school in those fields that require a solid background in mathematics. Taught by Ms. Hough. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who have passed Algebra II/Pre-Calculus with Instructor Permission Only.*

**AP Calculus AB** This course is equivalent to a first semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. Prospective calculus students should take courses in which they study algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analytic geometry, and elementary functions. In particular, before studying calculus, students must be familiar with the properties of functions, the composition of functions, the algebra of functions, and the graphs of functions. Students must also understand the language of functions (domain and range, odd and even, periodic, symmetry, zeroes, intercepts, and descriptors such as increasing and decreasing). Students should also know how the sine and cosine functions are derived from the unit circle and know the values. Taught by Mr. Desai. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Instructor Permission Only.*

# SCIENC E

**General Biology** This course covers the diverse topics that explore life, and the ecosystems on Earth that support life. Through labs, discussions and current news articles, students will explore how our bodies work, how DNA and genetics tell our story and drive our evolution. From the tiniest cells to the greatest geologic features, life is a wonder that we will fully explore. Students will gain skills in asking and answering questions about life through lab inquiries as well as reading. Taught by Ms. Turin and Mr. Louis. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Chemistry I** In this course students learn about the properties of matter and how these properties help to organize elements on the periodic table. Students will develop a better understanding of the structure of the atom and explore chemical reactions to have a better grasp on the nature of chemical changes. Laboratory experiments compliment the topics and concepts being learned and enhance the class discussion. Taught by Mr. Dugan and Ms. Mannion. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Chemistry I Honors** In this course students learn about the properties of matter and how these properties help to organize elements on the periodic table. Students will develop a better understanding of the structure of the atom and explore chemical reactions to have a better grasp on the nature of chemical changes. Laboratory experiments compliment the topics and concepts being learned and enhance the class discussion. This course should be taken by students interested in enrolling in AP Chemistry. Taught by Mr. Dugan. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Current Teacher Recommendation.*

**Introduction to Computer Science** This course introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and explores the impact computing and technology have on our society. With a real-world focus on creative problem solving and project-based learning, this course gives students the opportunity to explore several key concepts of computing and app development. Taught by Mr. Citrin. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Biotechnology Honors** The biotechnology curriculum provides students with fundamental knowledge and laboratory skills. Students will relate the concepts they learn to real uses in the world. Students will be informed about various opportunities in the biotechnology industry and will be prepared for further college study. It is essential that students recognize both the advantages and disadvantages of the technology and can communicate these points to their community. Taught by Mr. Louis. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Instructor Permission Only.*

**Environmental Science** Students will investigate the basic principles of environmental science including ecosystems, climate change, food webs, natural disasters, and the interaction of animals and people. Students will use scientific skills to investigate environmental content including research, analysis of real-life data, and experiments. Taught by Ms. Mannion. *Available to: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.*

**Bioethics** Science has changed our world and changed humanity. In this course we address important issues regarding how biological advances affect us as individuals and as a society. Through labs, panel discussions and debates, students explore the complex questions that arise from genetic engineering, genetic modification of food, the issues of health and environmental equity. Students develop critical thinking, research and debate skills as they seek to answer the deep questions that arise from these advances. Current news articles and other source readings will be our “textbook.” Taught by Ms. Turin. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with general biology background (preferred).*

**AP Chemistry** This course is for students who have a strong interest in the study of science and should be considered a college class with college-level expectations for attendance, behavior, participation, and group work. This course requires a high level of competence in mathematics – especially algebra – and a solid understanding of a first-year chemistry course. Laboratory experiments will complement the work and enhance class discussions. Taught by Mr. Dugan. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who have taken Chemistry I or AP Biology, complete the summer assignment, and have Instructor Permission.*

**AP Biology** The very essence of modern biology is based on evolutionary processes; in this course

students gain an appreciation for science as a process, not a collection of unrelated facts. The course emphasizes how scientists use their reading and observation skills to ask questions that can lead to new investigations. Taking other scientists' experiments to help formulate new hypotheses can lead to additional evidence on myriad topics. In addition, students' critical thinking skills are used to apply biological knowledge to environmental and social concerns. Taught by Mr. Louis. *Available to: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who have taken Biology, with Instructor Permission Only.*

**AP Computer Science** This course introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and explores the impact computing and technology have on our society. With a real-world focus on creative problem solving and project-based learning, this course gives students the opportunity to explore key concepts of computing while using their own ideas and creativity to develop innovative solutions to increasingly complex challenges. This is a college-level course and students must take the AP exam. Taught by Mr. Citrin. *Available to: 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with Instructor Permission Only.*

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## Required General Education Coursework & Credits:

✓ 4 English Credits ✓

4 Math Credits ✓ 4

Science Credits ✓ 4  
Technology Credits ✓  
3 History Credits  
✓ 2 Foreign Language Credits  
(same  
language) ✓ 1 Physical

Education & Health  
Credit ✓ Community Service  
Commitment ✓ Pass Math,  
English, Science MCAS

*Note: credits are only earned when a class is passed successfully with a grade of D or higher.*

## **Honors & AP:**

- Upon recommendation of teachers, a student will be placed into Honors classes, which include an accelerated pace and additional work. Honors classes are weighted higher in a final GPA.
- AP Students are admitted into AP courses based on grades, test scores, and teacher recommendations. AP students must sit for the AP exam(s) in the spring. A score of 3 or higher on the AP exam gives students credit at many colleges and universities. AP classes are weighted one grade higher for final GPAs.

## **GPA [Grade Point Average]:**

Grade point average, or GPA, is the average of the grades earned in high school. This is the number reported to colleges as a record of academic performance, based on a 4.0 scale.

