

# Breck School 2009-10 Curriculum Guide

Condensed version.side one



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Breck is an Episcopal, coeducational, college-preparatory day school enrolling students of diverse backgrounds in preschool through grade twelve.

**For admissions information, contact:  
Warner (Jim) James, Director of Admissions  
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preschool

kindergarten

one

two

three

four

five

preschool

kindergarten

one

two

three

four

five

English/Language Arts	Mathematics	Social Studies/History	Modern Language	Science	Performing Arts	Visual Arts	Religion	Physical Education/Health	Computer	Library/Media	Life Skills	Community Service
Participate in activities designed to refine skills of listening, speaking, seeing and hearing; be involved in creative expression activities through art and literature; introduce letter and sound association; provide language enrichment activities for emerging readers and writers.	Use Montessori materials and other hands-on manipulatives to develop patterns; compare, sort and classify objects; problem solve; count 1-10 or beyond and associate quantities 1-10; begin to identify geometric solids and shapes.	Development of Self and Interpersonal Skills: Introduce and expand ideas about school and social environment, family structures, communities, cultural backgrounds and living cooperatively; implement the C.A.R.E. curriculum.	Not offered.	Minnesota Through the Seasons: Study harvest, seasonal changes, planting, animals and the natural world of Minnesota; introduce science skills and tools to develop an awareness for the natural world.	Work toward beat competence; explore iconic notation; explore vocal qualities (whisper, speak, sing, call); use singing games and movement to reinforce skills and concepts; perform at the Christmas program and Closing Exercises.	Begin to explore design elements, including shapes, line and color; draw and paint, sculpt with clay and a variety of materials that are integrated with the classroom themes of seasons and Minnesota plants and animals.	Alternate weekly classroom instruction and attend Chapel, both of which reinforce the same content and skills; focus on different Bible stories, religious practices and virtues; focus on important themes repeated in three-year cycles; explore religious seasons and holidays to learn about new and different faith traditions.	Developmental Movement: Develop perceptual and fundamental motor skills by participating in cooperative, manipulative and rhythmic movement activities; discuss personal care and healthy food choices.	Begin to learn the proper use and care of computers; begin to use the mouse; begin to use graphic software to create artwork that has connections with the classroom curriculum; begin to use pull-down menu options to operate applications and manipulate objects.	Begin to learn library procedures and care of materials; share a variety of literature; begin use of the Super3 information problem-solving process; study the books of Denise Fleming and David Shannon; explore the poetry of Karla Kuskin.	Discovering Self and Others: Become aware of feelings for others; increase social connectedness; respect differences and individuality; increase self-sufficiency; try new things; complete tasks; become conscious of safety; introduce core character values (responsibility, respect, friendship, honesty, etc.) through the C.A.R.E. curriculum.	Participate in division-wide food drives and Advent collections; develop an understanding of the needs of the larger community.
Begin more formal work in reading and writing through a multisensory program of looking, listening and doing; learn phonetic sounds and phonemic awareness through the use of literature, personal writing and skill-building activities; begin D'Nealian printing.	Use manipulatives to compare and classify objects; work with numbers 1-120; begin to develop the concepts of more and less, shape identification, patterning, problem-solving, estimation, coin identification, measuring and graphing; parts of a whole; simple addition and subtraction. Communication skills are emphasized. Curriculum is Math Expressions.	Students and Their Place in Their Community: Extend understanding and knowledge of self and others while appreciating the diversity of students in our classroom community; develop social responsibility by learning how to contribute positively to a community; implement the C.A.R.E. curriculum.	Begin Spanish (even years) or Chinese (odd years) using the Natural Approach (language in the real-life situations in the language classroom); begin to develop listening skills; begin to learn the sound system through authentic songs in the target language; begin to experience what it is like to be immersed in another language and culture.	Changing and Growing: Learn about the human body and other living things as they relate and respond to the environment; participate in Biobuddies study.	Develop beat competence; develop skills in matching pitch in a limited range; play classroom instruments; use movement to reinforce skills and concepts; perform at nursing homes, Christmas program and Closing Exercises.	Continue to explore elements of design, adding texture and space, develop drawing and painting, printmaking and sculpting techniques; visit Minneapolis Institute of Arts.	As above.	Developmental Movement: Develop perceptual and fundamental motor skills by participating in cooperative, manipulative and rhythmic movement activities; discuss healthy habits.	Understand and practice proper use and care of computers; effectively use the mouse; use graphic software to create artwork that has connections with the classroom curriculum; use basic pull-down menu options; begin to use the keyboard to enter text.	Practice proper use and care of materials; learn that literature comes in a variety of styles; continue to use the Super3 information problem-solving process; study the books of Mo Williams and Bob Graham; explore the poetry of Lee Bennett Hopkins.	Working Together: Emphasize group learning and cooperation; respect similarities and differences in people; begin to express feelings appropriately; develop conflict-resolution skills; begin increasing self-responsibility and independence; practice core character values through the C.A.R.E. curriculum.	Participate in grade-level projects that include reading to children in preschool and visiting nursing homes; participate in division-wide projects that include food drives and Advent collections; develop an understanding of the needs of the larger community.
Continue to develop reading skills through the consolidation of phonemic awareness and the use of picture, context and phonetic strategies; enjoy daily writing in various genres using personal spelling; move toward more conventional spelling; introduce the writing process; practice D'Nealian printing.	Think, solve, investigate and communicate mathematically; become familiar with reading and writing numbers, patterning, equations, addition and subtraction; explore the concepts of number sense, numeration and place value; time measurement, geometry, money, graphing and fractions are studied using real world hands-on materials. Curriculum is Math Expressions.	Build community using the C.A.R.E. character curriculum; expand on community with the study of friendship, family and traditions; write in personal journals and learn more about classmates; compare diverse communities and cultures; explore current events when developmentally appropriate.	Continue language from kindergarten; continue to practice the sound system; develop listening skills; learn about cultural holidays; expand foundation of core vocabulary; learn increasingly complex songs.	Earth Study: Study rocks, volcanoes, islands, coral reefs, oceans, fossils and dinosaurs; develop skills of observing, questioning, identifying, collecting, classifying, comparing, modeling and recording.	Continue to develop pitch matching in an expanded range; discover and identify rhythmic and melodic notation and simple instrumental melodies and accompaniment; use creative and structured movement; attend a performance at Orchestra Hall; perform at the Christmas program, Baccalaureate and Closing Exercises.	Study design elements and some principles, including repetition, balance and pattern; make a Hawaiian environment for the social studies unit; participate in Art Masterpiece Program; visit Minneapolis Institute of Arts.	As above.	Movement and Basic Skill Development: Develop perceptual and fundamental motor skills; participate in cooperative, manipulative and rhythmic movement activities; participate in recreational activities including ice skating and aquatics; participate in fitness testing; introduce health-related physical fitness concepts.	Begin to use appropriate Internet resources; employ proper and ethical use of computer technology at developmental level; use graphic software to create original drawings for projects and activities; begin to use the track pad; learn the organization of keys to increase keyboarding skills.	Learn the major areas of the library and check out books from all areas; begin using the online catalog to search for books; employ the Super3 information problem-solving process to solve information problems systematically; study the books of Mem Fox and Donald Crews; explore the poetry of Jack Prelutsky; participate in the Grade 1 Picture Book Choice Project.	Independence and Community: Plan as a group; strengthen self-management techniques; adjust to more changes/transitions; further develop problem-solving skills; increase independent learning; respect learning differences; increase focus, persistence and work completion; practice emergency procedures; practice core character values through the C.A.R.E. curriculum.	Participate in grade-level projects that include reading to children in preschool and kindergarten and visiting a day care center; participate in division-wide projects that include food drives, Advent collections and activities sponsored by the Service Committee.
Develop reading comprehension skills through phonetic, contextual and meaning-based reading strategies; begin direct teaching of spelling; explore writing processes of drafting, revising and editing; refine D'Nealian printing.	Develop quick and accurate recall of basic addition and subtraction facts. Add and subtract double-digit numbers with and without regrouping; further apply concepts of time, place value and money; apply rounding and estimation, measurement and problem-solving strategies; study simple geometry, area and perimeter; collect data to create and interpret graphs; use mathematical language to communicate problem-solving strategies. Curriculum is Math Expressions.	Study local and world communities, citizenship, American history and geography; learn that the world is made up of interdependent communities; recognize cultural differences within own community; research historically significant people and important historical events in U.S. history; focus on introductory map skills and basic geography.	Continue language from kindergarten; expand core vocabulary; listen and respond to basic classroom conversation; read and write creatively; develop cultural understanding; begin to integrate technology with the target language.	Plants: Study the life cycle of plants from seed to mature plant, including germination, bulb exploration, parts of the flower, plant types, leaves, stems, roots, phototropism, geotropism, pollination and photosynthesis; grow classroom plants and experiment with a variety of diverse growing conditions; study trees and plants on school grounds.	Build on skills developed in Grade One; sing canons; perform at nursing homes, Christmas program and Closing Exercises.	Explore elements of design using line, texture and space; work with color, mixing, repetition, contour, gesture; begin to critique own work; participate in Art Masterpiece Program; visit Walker Art Center.	As above.	Movement and Basic Skill Development: Develop perceptual and fundamental motor skills; participate in cooperative, manipulative and rhythmic movement activities; participate in recreational activities including ice skating and aquatics; participate in fitness testing; discuss five components of fitness; study nutrition.	Learn and practice proper keyboarding posture, position and techniques; improve dexterity manipulating objects with the mouse; begin word processing; expand use of the Internet and begin to use personalized server folder to save and retrieve files.	Explore parts of a non-fiction book; review the areas of the library (Dewey Decimal System); participate in the Grade 2 Book Choice Project; continue to use the Super3 information problem-solving process; continue to search for books using the Alexandria online catalog; study the books of Eric Kimmel and Patricia McKissack; explore the poetry of Douglas Florian.	Strengthen self-confidence and self-advocacy; increase respect for differences among people; increase social problem-solving skills; strengthen cooperative group skills; understand friendships; increase understanding of core character values through the C.A.R.E. curriculum.	Participate in grade-level projects that include reading to younger students; visiting a day care center, caroling at a nursing home; participate in division-wide projects that include food drives, Advent collections and activities sponsored by the Service Committee.
Further develop reading, writing, speaking and spelling skills; improve facility with reading and writing in a variety of genres; study writing mechanics; begin D'Nealian cursive.	Add and subtract with and without regrouping; understand place value; apply concepts of time and money; begin to develop skills in multiplication and division; study simple geometry and measurement; compare fractions; further develop graphing skills; formulate and apply problem-solving strategies. Curriculum is Math Expressions.	View history from many viewpoints while focusing on the land, history and people of Minnesota; study Dakota and Ojibwa, European explorers, traders and immigrants, and look at the diverse culture of Minnesota today; examine natural resources (lumber, farming, mining) and their effect on the state.	Continue language from kindergarten; follow basic commands; build on reading, writing and conversational skills; continue to develop cultural understanding; integrate technology with the target language.	Phenology: Explore phenology through the study of school study sites (woods, pond and marsh); identify plants and animals; examine tracks in the winter and record observations/changes	Build on skills developed in Grade Two; learn letter names of notes on the music staff; introduce the soprano recorder; perform at the Christmas program and Closing Exercises.	Study design elements and principles, including color mixing, color values, contour and gesture; create observational drawings; explore sculpture and clay; participate in Art History/Multicultural curriculum; visit Minneapolis Institute of Arts.	As above.	Movement and Basic Skill Development: Develop perceptual and fundamental motor skills; participate in cooperative, manipulative and rhythmic movement activities; participate in recreational activities including ice skating and aquatics; participate in fitness testing; discuss five components of fitness; study nutrition; participate in circuit training.	Practice keyboarding skills; review proper use of computers; continue to develop word processing skills; begin the use of an age-appropriate search engine to perform keyword searches to assist with research.	Investigate the Dewey Decimal System and demonstrate the ability to select books from each area; begin the Maud Hart Lovelace Reading Project; move from the Super3 to the more elaborate Big6 information problem-solving process; use the online catalog to search for media materials; participate in book talks.	Promote living safely with others; teach cooperation in groups and grace in competitive situations; reinforce and expand friendship skills; practice social problem solving; value and celebrate differences in others; see self in relation to others; apply core character values promoted through the C.A.R.E. curriculum; support citizenship; participate in community service within the school and into the community.	Participate in grade-level projects that include visiting a nursing home; participate in division-wide projects that include food drives, Jump-a-thon, Advent collections and activities sponsored by the Service Committee.
Expand and refine reading, writing, speaking and spelling skills within various genres; develop non-fiction research skills through formal report writing; study writing mechanics; practice D'Nealian cursive.	Develop multiplication and division skills; apply addition and subtraction with and without regrouping; explore geometry and measurement; develop fraction and decimal concepts; apply graphing skills; formulate and apply problem-solving strategies. Curriculum is Math Expressions.	Expand from states to the nation; study the seven geographic regions of the United States with an emphasis on cultural and physical geography; work on map and research skills, using proficiencies from mathematics, science, English and language arts; implement the C.A.R.E. curriculum.	Continue language from kindergarten; build core vocabulary; comprehension and pronunciation; expand conversational range; write; expand cultural awareness; integrate technology with the target language.	Weather Through Journey North; track monarch butterfly migration and its relationship to seasonal change; learn about photoperiods and the causes of seasonal change through projects such as Journey North's "Mystery Class;" investigate basic concepts of electricity; simple machines; study the water cycle.	Build on skills developed in Grade Three; explore instruments in band and string orchestra; perform at the Christmas program, fourth-grade show and Closing Exercises.	Study design elements and principles, including color mixing, color values, contour and gesture; create observational drawings; use art references and study two- and three-dimensional art forms, including clay; participate in Art History/Multicultural curriculum; visit Walker Art Center.	As above, plus participate in worship leadership through membership on the Chapel Committee.	Basic Movement Mastery, Game Skills and Fitness: Practice perceptual and fundamental motor skills; set goals for fitness levels; participate in cooperative, manipulative and rhythmic movement activities; participate in recreational activities including ice skating and aquatics; participate in fitness testing; discuss five components of fitness; study nutrition; participate in circuit training.	Practice keyboarding skills to attain a minimum speed of 20 words/minute with 90% accuracy; expand word processing skills; expand use of an Internet search engine for keyword searches; create multimedia presentations with images and sounds; begin to organize data and produce charts; begin to organize notes with outlines and mind maps.	Continue the Maud Hart Lovelace Reading Project; use the online catalog to search for media materials using six different categories; continue use of the Big6 information problem-solving process; become familiar with various genres of literature; participate in book talks.	Citizenship and Leadership: Apply social problem-solving; increase sensitivity and empathy towards others; practice time-management and organizational skills; produce high-quality work; demonstrate leadership through community service; reinforce core character values as taught through the C.A.R.E. curriculum.	Participate in grade-level projects that include serve, host and clean up lunch for preschool and kindergarten classes (bidding); participate in division-wide projects that include food drives, Jump-a-thon; provide student leadership through membership on the Service Committee.
Continue to develop reading and writing skills in two-period English/History block; develop vocabulary; build an understanding of the writing process and the elements of effective creative and expository writing; practice spelling rules; study grammar and mechanics. A Language Arts class is offered for selected students to provide support in core reading and writing skills.	Develop computational skills in basic operations; study whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percents; study geometry and number theory. Curriculum is UCSMP Everyday Mathematics.	Pre-Modern Civilizations: Study the ancient cultures of Egypt, Greece, India, and China; develop research and expository writing skills; expand and refine reading skills using historical literature.	Continue language from Lower School or begin entry-level Spanish or Chinese; improve pronunciation and understanding of the sound system through a more formal approach to phonics; expand vocabulary and structural understanding; begin TPR storytelling and writing.	Scientific Exploration: Study earth and space science; build rockets and space vehicles; robots; create scale maps; use latitude and longitude; study cartography; participate in Alpha Prime Project.	Elective courses in Dance, Drama, Boys Chorus, Girls Chorus, Beginning Band, Intermediate Band, Beginning and Advanced Strings; opportunity to perform in the Middle School Musical; private instruction available on piano, guitar, strings, voice, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.	Continue study of elements of design and composition; two- and three-dimensional work; complete sketchbook; mixed media, block printmaking and hand-built clay sculpture; continue investigations of multicultural influences on contemporary art.	Who Am I?: Begin study of sense of belonging; look at friendships and place in communities; learn about historical, Biblical and modern examples of community building.	Advanced Movement and Intermediate Game Skills: Participate in cooperative team and individual sports. Fitness testing. Totally Awesome Health: Learn about human anatomy, puberty, body systems, personal safety, tobacco, organization and time management; participate in Project Adventure, including community building and conflict resolution techniques.	Continue to enter and organize mathematical or scientific data; operate a digital camera and import images; perform keyword searches with an online database; cite information sources; choose appropriate location to save documents.	Develop keyword searching skills; use a variety of information formats, including the online catalog, subscription databases and the Internet; participate in book talks; participate in the Maud Hart Lovelace Reading Project; apply the Big6 problem-solving process to various projects such as ancient civilization studies and space study.	Community Building and Developing Relationships: Play initiative games to practice teamwork and promote a safe environment; apply core character values, as above; understand and respond to bullying situations.	Participate in grade-level projects that include setting up cots for preschool naps; visiting Head Start urban day care center; participating in service activities sponsored by Service Committee; designing door hangings, calendars and cards for nursing homes.

# Breck School 2009-10 Curriculum Guide

Condensed version.side two

	English/Language Arts	Mathematics	Social Studies/History	Modern Language	Science	Performing Arts	Visual Arts	Religion	Physical Education/Health	Computer	Library/Media	Life Skills	Community Service
six	Further develop reading and writing skills in two-period English/History block; develop reading comprehension, research and writing strategies; study grammar, mechanics and practice spelling rules; introduce literary concepts such as plot, setting, characterization and conflict. A Language Arts class is offered for selected students to provide support in core reading and writing skills.	Extended and Regular Sequences: Refine whole-number computation skills while developing integer, decimal and fraction concepts; focus on developing the nature of ratios, proportions and percents. Curriculum is UCSMP Everyday Mathematics.  Accelerated Sequence (Pre-Algebra): Compute with real numbers, leading into ratios, proportions and percents; develop variable concepts; develop skills in problem solving and writing, and solving equations and expressions; analyze geometric properties. Curriculum is UCSMP Transition Mathematics.	U.S. History up to the Colonial Period (Tandem English-history): Emphasize language skills through history instruction; develop an understanding of the geography, political and economic systems, social structure, religions, institutions and cultural literacy of the U.S.; undertake research projects; participate in Washington DC trip and Colonial Fair.	Continue language from fifth grade; build pronunciation and conversation skills; develop vocabulary and grammatical understanding; continue TPR storytelling; begin writing own stories.	Physical Science with focus on energy. Study human population growth, energy, electricity, water, waste management; recycling, and simple machines; participate in solar sprint competition; conduct long-term studies of food waste and electricity consumption.	As above.	Continue study of advanced elements of design and composition; explore two- and three-dimensional work; complete sketchbook; critique and display work.	Starting with Genesis, look for parallels to modern life in the Torah; act as reporters in the time and place of the later books; produce a newspaper front page; write 52 modern proverbs.	Advanced Movement and Basic Game Skills: Participate in modified games in both team and individual sports; reestablish fitness levels.  Fitness testing.  Totally Awesome Health: learn about drugs, alcohol, tobacco, mental and nutritional health, first aid and emergency response.  Project Adventure: Work on building a supportive community and learn steps in successful group problem solving.	Manipulate presentation of information to enhance meaning; utilize Internet resources to deepen classroom learning; evaluate websites for accuracy, relevancy and bias.	Search for materials, using the online catalog, Alexandria, subscription databases and the Internet; use a variety of information formats; participate in book talks; participate in the Maud Hart Lovelace Reading Project. Apply the Big6 problem-solving process to various projects, such as the Colonial Fair and Washington DC reports.	Problem Solving, Trust Building: Work on trust and team-planning skills; set goals for taking risks; discuss values, peer relationships, peer pressure; develop organizational and time-management skills; practice and apply strategies to reduce bullying.	Participate in grade-level projects that include choice of visits to Head Start urban day care center, senior citizen center, or urban grade school; participate in service activities sponsored by Service Committee; sponsor an urban preschool's visit to Breck.
seven	Read literature in a variety of genres; introduce literary analysis and textual references in writing; write formal essays and critique papers; begin to develop sentence variety, continue to study grammar and mechanics, mastering all parts of speech; develop vocabulary.	Extended and Regular Sequences: UCSMP Transition Mathematics; develop problem-solving skills through study of integers, rational numbers, measurement, variables, geometry and linear equations.  Accelerated Sequence: UCSMP Algebra.	American History: Beginning at the Civil War proceeding through Industrialization (1850-1920), focus on reading and writing skills; reinforce study skills, research skills and test-taking skills; read a novel during Western Expansion and Immigration unit; complete History Day Projects.	Continue language from fifth grade (entry-level Spanish and Chinese are sometimes possible); develop communication skills; write using proper grammatical constructions and vocabulary; begin to read short stories in the foreign language.	Life Science: Study living things in their natural habitat focusing on ecology, biodiversity and land ethics; reflect on human impact, especially individual choices on biodiversity issues; design original field studies related to Breck habitats; study shoreline restoration and native vegetation, plants, water and water issues, and seeds; participate in radio-tracking, earthworm, leaf litter, lichens and invasive-species studies.	As above, plus Middle School Dance Repertory, Intermediate and Advanced Strings, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, MS Chamber Singers and Percussion.	Seventh and Seventh/Eighth Grade Art: Continue study of advanced elements of art and design; explore two- and three-dimensional work including clay; complete sketchbook; critique and display work.  Creative Design: Explore composition utilizing the elements of art and integrating them with the principles of design; study basic drawing skills; develop color theory; expand visual literacy; develop two- and three-dimensional work with a variety of materials; keep weekly sketchbook; explore history of art from multiple viewpoints; participate in individual and group critiques.	Imagining the Word: Encourage artistic reflection on scriptural truths; beginning with own family tree, research family spiritual/religious histories and connections to Biblical genealogies; research and report on a NT book; write a modern-day parable, use photos, journals and short papers.	Advanced Movement and Intermediate Game Skills: Participate in cooperative team and individual sports to develop more advanced skills.  Fitness testing.  Totally Awesome Health: Learn about sexuality and relationships, eating disorders, nutrition and cancer; strengthen sensitivity to and respect for others.  Project Adventure: Explore diversity issues and behaviors that lead to group success.	Refine organization skills; refine document layout skills; create a video project using audio, still images and video; use advanced features of search engines and online databases.	As above (excluding Lovelace Project), plus differentiate between use of natural language vs. keyword vs. subject searching; use primary sources and differentiate between primary and secondary sources; utilize proper bibliographic formats for citation; apply the Big6 problem-solving process to various projects, such as History Day and the shoreline-restoration project.	Social and Personal Responsibility: Develop initiative and high-level problem-solving skills; strengthen sensitivity to and respect for others; refine study, organization and time-management skills; increase ways to ensure personal safety.	Participate in grade-level projects that include choosing one of 12 different social service agencies (at-risk day care, urban preschool or senior citizen center) for four visits.
eight	Develop comprehension and critical thinking through discussion of literature in a variety of genres; study and practice public speaking, culminating with the eighth grade speech; practice writing; study grammar and mechanics, especially phrases and clauses; develop vocabulary.	Extended Sequence: UCSMP Algebra; begin study of algebra, which continues into ninth grade.  Regular Sequence: UCSMP Algebra.  Accelerated Sequence: UCSMP Geometry.	Modern Global Issues: A regional approach to current issues around the globe. Study Middle East, Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe; develop an understanding of events that shaped today's world; use a variety of resources on original research projects; develop writing skills including thesis formation and use of proper documentation; complete History Day Projects.	Continue language from fifth, sixth or seventh grade; expand the use of vocabulary and grammar in conversation and writing; read simple literature.  New students take Upper School Level I Spanish, French or Chinese.	Earth Science: Study topographical mapping, map reading and orienteering; study plate tectonics; volcanoes and earthquakes; investigate hydrology and geology of the Breck campus and surrounding area including soil classification of leaf litter; create a geologic cross section of the area; study glaciers and glacial features; conduct long-term study investigation of leaf-litter decomposition and ground water levels; conduct a ground water pumping test on wells at Breck.	As above.	Everyday Ethics: Introduce culturally diverse approaches to moral dilemmas, including journaling, discussion, debate and reflecting on the ethics inherent in music and film in youth culture.	Mastery of Advanced Movement and Game Skills and Strategies: Work on activities and improve skills with advanced strategy and tournament play; evaluate fitness and lifetime activities.  Fitness testing.  Totally Awesome Health: Identity, gender and differences, healthy behaviors, CPR, harassment, death and dying.  Project Adventure: As above with addition of working in teams on indoor and outdoor high ropes courses.	Continue to enhance word-processing skills in support of a research paper; use software to clarify digital images; continue to evaluate and cite research sources; enhance video editing skills.	As above (excluding Lovelace Project) plus utilize subscription databases to gather information; use primary sources and differentiate between primary and secondary sources; utilize proper bibliographic formats for citation; participate in genre studies; apply the Big6 problem-solving process to various projects, such as History Day and plate tectonics.	Personal Choices and Consequences: Look for challenge and realize limits can be beyond perceived limitations; increase understanding of interdependence; identity, gender roles and differences; understand dynamics of personal safety and potential danger.	As above.	
nine	Continue to develop comprehension and critical thinking skills through study and discussion of literature from a variety of genres and time periods; further refine writing skills by writing both formal and informal essays, focusing on sentence structure and variety; reinforce grammar and mechanics skills; develop vocabulary.	Extended Sequence: UCSMP Algebra/Geometry.  Regular Sequence: UCSMP Geometry.  Accelerated Sequence: Honors Advanced Algebra.	Roots of the Modern World: Overview of Greco-Roman civilizations and the ancient and medieval Mediterranean region; assess primary documents to develop historical perspective; develop independent critical thinking and application through discussion and essay writing, conduct research and document sources with bibliography.	Continue language begun in Middle School (placement based on teacher recommendation and proficiency exam) or begin a new language (Chinese I-IV, French I-III, Spanish I-III).	Physics: Apply concepts of physics to phenomena in the everyday world; emphasis on concepts with algebra-based computations: metric system with significant figures; sound and light waves; electricity and magnetism; motion—forces, work, energy and momentum with robotics focus.  Conceptual Physics: As above with project-based and non-mathematical concepts in nature study of metric system; sound and light waves, electricity and magnetism; basic motion—forces, work, energy and momentum with robotics focus.	Elective courses in Dance I & II, Dance Repertory, Acting I & II, Breck Chamber Players, Chamber Singers, Symphonic Winds/Jazz Band, Intro to Theater Technology, Intermediate Theater Technology. Other opportunities include the Upper School Musical, Fall Dramas, Breck-apella, and Theater Improv.	The following classes are available to students in grades 9-12:  Creative Design (prerequisite for all US classes): See Eighth Grade Creative Design above.  Beginning Drawing and Painting I & II: Develop portfolios, sketchbook, critiques and exhibits.  Beginning Ceramics: Develop clay techniques; keep sketchbook; participate in critiques and exhibits.  Advanced Drawing and Painting I & II: Develop portfolios, sketchbook, critiques and exhibits.	World Religions: Study Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Christianity, Judaism and Islam; think more deeply about own religion; use integral theatre exercises.	Performance Physiology/Health: Study and test components of health and performance fitness; study cardiovascular, respiratory and muscular systems; monitor fitness; study nutrition and consumer awareness.	Continue to use computer to effectively gather, organize and communicate information; access online library and Internet databases; enhance word-processing skills in support of a research paper; expand knowledge and skills in the areas of video, audio, images and data manipulation.	As above, plus evaluate resources for validity, accuracy and bias; utilize MLA Bibliography format; focus on the Big6 problem-solving process.	Transition: Participate in advisory discussions, special assemblies organized to address executive functions that will help students more fully engage in the Upper School. (A required meeting of all ninth-grade students and parents is held at the beginning of the year to explain this focus.)	Participate in Wednesday Service Learning: Serve the community by working with and alongside people from various backgrounds and cultures three times per month at off-campus sites; participate in division-wide projects that include annual food, clothing and blood drives; perform 20 hours of in-school service during Upper School. engage in formal reflection on learning three times per year.
ten	The Individual and Society: Trace the course theme through literature from a variety of genres and time periods; continue to develop critical thinking skills; further develop writing skills, focusing on formal, analytical essays; review grammar, mechanics and sentence structure; develop vocabulary.	Extended Sequence: UCSMP Geometry/Advanced Algebra.  Regular Sequence: UCSMP Advanced Algebra.  Accelerated Sequence: Honors Trigonometry/Precalculus/Statistics.	Modern World History from 1500-Present: Trace the history of the modern world by examining political, economic, religious and social-cultural systems with emphasis placed on the impact of the interactions within and between nations; focus on research and writing skills, along with thesis development and formal documentation of source materials; complete a technology-based research project. AP European History is an option for selected students.	Continue language from ninth grade (placement based on teacher recommendation and proficiency exam); Chinese I-IV, French I-IV, Spanish I-IV.	Biology: Gain appreciation for role as interactive occupants of the biosphere; address important themes of ecology and molecular biology; provide basic biological frameworks to become better decision makers in a global society.	As above, plus Breck Singers and Dynamics.	Advanced Drawing and Painting I & II: Develop portfolios, sketchbook, critiques and exhibits.  Advanced Ceramics: Develop advanced clay techniques and Southwest blackware techniques; keep sketchbook; participate in critiques and exhibits.  Studio Drawing and Painting I: Develop specialized portfolio; keep sketchbook; participate in critiques and exhibits.  Studio Drawing and Painting II: Develop specialized portfolio; keep sketchbook; participate in critiques and exhibits.  AP Studio Ceramics: Develop specialized portfolio.	World Religions II: Look more closely at human spirituality, including elementary theology, different kinds of knowledge; reflect on questions of meaning, being and value, as viewed through the lenses of world religions.	Lifetime Activities: Explore and participate in team and individual lifetime fitness activities.  Project Adventure.  Building off of MS PA, students will reinforce their teamwork and communication skills while performing more difficult tests.	Continue to refine and apply previously learned skills to use computers to effectively gather, organize and communicate information.	Use computers to effectively gather, organize and communicate information; develop library research strategies such as formulating questions, planning and selecting resources and using reference sources; use formal bibliographical and parenthetical notation.	Responsibility: Participate in advisory discussions, special assemblies organized around this theme. Major topics include brain development, information on alcohol and drugs and dangerous behaviors that often accompany use, and decision-making techniques; focus on taking responsibility for individual decisions.	As above.
eleven	North American Literature: Study important American literature as aesthetic works and as cultural documents; study literary analysis; further develop writing in a variety of forms, including literary analysis, frequent journal reflections and a culminating ten-page memoir; refine sentence structure and mechanics; develop vocabulary.	Extended Sequence: UCSMP Advanced Algebra with Trigonometry.  Regular Sequence: UCSMP Functions, Statistics and Trigonometry.  Accelerated Sequence: AP Calculus AB or Advanced Statistics.	U.S. History: Examine the evolution of the American nation and its people with emphasis on territorial expansion and constitutional growth; emphasize active reading and analysis; complete a formal research paper.  AP U.S. History is an option for selected students.	Continue language from ninth grade (placement based on teacher recommendation and proficiency exam); Chinese I-V, French I-V, Spanish I-V.	Chemistry: Study chemistry concepts supported by real-life applications; develop laboratory skills; write social issues papers; conduct six-week laboratory chemistry research study.  Chemistry in the Community: Study chemistry through an applied approach with emphasis on real-life applications and global implications of chemical concepts.  Environmental Science: Study global environmental problems and issues related to energy and environmental sustainability.	As above, plus Music Theory I and II, and opportunities for independent study.	Studio Ceramics: Develop advanced techniques; keep sketchbook; participate in critiques and exhibits.  Studio Ceramics II: Expand on studio work to strengthen portfolio; develop advanced techniques; keep sketchbook; participate in critiques and exhibits.  AP Studio Ceramics: Develop specialized portfolio.	Juniors may take any of the electives listed below, of which seniors must take one:  Senior Ethics: Learn some of the main ethical theories, construct one's personal worldview, debate such controversies as abortion, lying, suicide and euthanasia; apply worldviews to specific case studies.  Biblical Studies: Study the history, literature and culture of the Old and New Testament and consider the way people can interpret and use scripture.	As above.	Introduction to Computer Science I: Engage in computer-aided problem solving, algorithmic thinking, and elementary data structures.  Introduction to Computer Science II: Analyze problems and algorithms, use data structures, and apply algorithms.	As above, plus develop understanding of the invisible web; utilize Boolean logic and inter-library loan resources; employ annotated bibliographies, endnotes and/or footnotes; use academic databases and peer-reviewed journals; learn to compare sources and information.	Leadership: Participate in advisory discussions, special assemblies organized to both encourage and understand different leadership styles; volunteer for Junior Council leadership that directs activities and traditional events throughout the school year.	As above, plus engage in 72-hour service Quest during 11th or 12th grade May Program; keep a daily journal, recording thoughts, observations and experiences; write a paper and prepare a ten-minute presentation of service experience, reflecting on experiences in deep, meaningful ways.
twelve	Senior Electives: Build on skills in semester-long courses such as Women Writers, World Literature, Creative Writing, Shakespeare, 21st Century Literature, Fiction to Film and two AP courses for qualifying students: AP Literature and AP Language and Composition.	Extended Sequence: UCSMP Functions, Statistics and Trigonometry or Problem Solving and Discrete Mathematics.  Regular Sequence: UCSMP Precalculus and Discrete Math or AP Calculus AB or Problem Solving and Discrete Mathematics or Advanced Statistics.  Accelerated Sequence: AP Calculus BC or Problem Solving and Discrete Mathematics or Advanced Statistics.	Electives: Courses offered include Economics I and II, Early and Modern Russian History, The Constitution, Political Theory and Utopia, Asia and Africa in the Modern World, and the Middle East in the Modern World.  AP European History is an option for those students who have not previously taken it.	Continue language from ninth grade (placement based on teacher recommendation and proficiency exam); Chinese II-VI, French II-AP, Spanish II-AP.	Astronomy: Survey astronomical objects and investigate stellar properties.  Astronautics: Investigate orbital mechanics, robotics and rocketry.  Physics: Study mechanics, electricity, magnetism, sound and optics.  AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics  Robotics/Engineering Advanced Science Research I, II, III	As above.	AP Drawing and Painting: Develop specialized portfolio.	Buddha/Jesus/Muhammad: Comparatively study the lives, teachings and religious descendants of these three founders of religions.	As above.	As above.	As above.	Legacy: Participate in special assemblies organized to promote legacy with the seniors; participate in first-grade buddy program; help with the ninth-grade transition at the beginning of the year; prepare and deliver senior speech; emphasize giving back to the school.	As above.