



ACADEMIC TERM: 2016-2017 | 

# VLN ESSENTIALS

COURSE CATALOG



**VLN Partners**

*Your Partners in Distance Education*

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## About VLN Partners

VLN Partners is an educational consulting company that works closely with public schools to help them more effectively compete with cyber charter schools and other external education providers. Public school districts throughout Pennsylvania rely on our products and services to implement and maintain cyber schools, alternative education programs, homebound programs, tutoring programs, summer schools, credit recovery programs, professional development opportunities and other online learning programs and opportunities.

By emphasizing practical uses for instructional technology, we enable school districts to bring high-quality, online education to their students. Our holistic model for blended learning combines the very best aspects of the traditional bricks-and-mortar classroom and the ever-expanding online learning environment.

## Our Courses

The courses included in this catalog will equip your students with an essential base knowledge. Our expert team of course developers and Pennsylvania-certified teachers has designed these courses to provide a rich and solid foundation that school districts can use immediately and build on in years to come. Our diverse catalog includes core subject areas, such as language arts and math, and elective courses, such as American Civil War and Forensic Science. In addition, we provide an extensive complement of NCAA approved courses for students pursuing athletic endeavors.

Though the classroom is virtual, the course framework utilizes specific, widely-adopted textbooks. The courses listed in this catalog have a consistent structure and are designed to provide students with engaging content, assignments and assessments. Weekly lesson modules include reading assignments supported by short answer assessments, essay questions, quizzes and traditional homework assignments. Courses are also supplemented with a wealth of web-based resources including: videos, interactive animations, supplemental materials from textbook publishers and a wide range of other engaging educational media.

## Standards Aligned Instruction

All courses are developed to meet state standards and the Common Core Standards. Our team has extensive experience and is able to integrate state standards-based content seamlessly within the context of each lesson and course. As a result, each student experiences a rich, deep understanding of content that is applicable to both local and state assessments.

## Grading

While some grading is done automatically within the learning management system, most grading for cyber school students is provided by VLN's highly-qualified, certified teachers. Grading for alternative education and other blended education programs is provided by school district teachers.

## Course Tracks

### Foundations **F**

The Foundations track provides a basic level of rigor for students who may have lower reading comprehension and math skills. The pace of the instruction for these courses is reduced, lessons include more interactive/engaging multimedia, and the assessment strategy requires students to complete portfolio assignments in order to practice key concepts. Students' knowledge is then demonstrated through mastery-based online quizzes and tests.

### General Education **GE**

The General Education track mirrors the Academic track but eliminates essay questions from the required assignments for a less rigorous assessment strategy. This track is geared toward students who aren't planning to follow a traditional college preparatory curriculum.

### Academic **A**

The Academic track offers students a curriculum designed to introduce key skills that will be vital in post-secondary educational environments. In addition to courses in the core content areas, the Academic track includes: physical education, health and wellness, foreign languages, senior project/graduation project, test prep and a wide variety of electives.

### Advanced Placement **AP**

Advanced Placement courses meet the rigorous standards of the College Board and are designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Exams.

## Assessments

Rigorous assessment and performance tracking are provided for all students through the courses themselves and our learning management system. All courses contain a consistent framework of assignments that includes a well-balanced set of assessments designed to give teachers direct insight into a student's understanding of content. Assessments vary to give all students an opportunity to demonstrate mastery. All courses contain weekly modules and include:

**ESSAYS** – Students answer short essay questions.

**SHORT ANSWERS** – Students provide hand-written short answers to topic-relevant questions.

**ASSIGNMENTS** – A series of portfolio assignments developed from textbooks and textbook publishers' resources.

**QUIZZES AND TESTS** – Rigorous multiple-choice, true/false and other question types are provided at regular intervals within each course. Math assessments require students to show their work, further indicating mastery of concepts and procedures.

**PROJECTS** – Many courses also include project assessments requiring student research, planning and organization, adherence to formats and persuasive writing capabilities.

Additional assessments can be found within video content from Discovery Education and BrainPOP.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT

### AP English Language and Composition

AP

This college-level course is designed to provide the in-depth reading and writing skills that students need for college success. Critical and responsive reading skills are cultivated and developed using diverse fiction and nonfiction texts. Writing activities support and deepen students' understanding and control of formal conventions of written language, while broadening their understanding of how language is used rhetorically in formal and informal texts. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP English Language and Composition Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### AP English Literature and Composition

AP

This college-level course helps students hone their critical literary analysis skills. Through intensive reading assignments, students explore language, character, action and theme. Students also write compositions representing a variety of genres, including literary analysis, exposition, argument, narrative and creative writing. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### AP Calculus AB

AP

This college-level course addresses such topics as elementary functions, properties of functions and their graphs, limits and continuity, differential calculus and integral calculus. Students are expected to work with functions graphically, numerically and analytically. Challenging and engaging assignments reinforce the content. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Calculus AB Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### AP Calculus BC

AP

This college-level course focuses on the calculus of functions of a single variable. Students will build upon topics taught in Calculus AB, including but not limited to limits, derivatives, integrals and approximation. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on using multiple representations by expressing concepts graphically, numerically, analytically and verbally. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Calculus BC Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### AP Statistics

AP

AP Statistics is designed to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for data collection and analysis. Students will draw conclusions from data using technology and problem solving. Major themes covered in this course include data exploration, sampling and experimentation, patterns, and statistical inference.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### AP Biology

AP

This college-level course focuses on conceptual understandings of four big ideas: 1) The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life; 2) Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis; 3) Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes; 4) Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties. Challenging and engaging assignments reinforce the content. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Biology Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### AP Chemistry

AP

This college-level course covers such topics as atomic theory and structure, chemical bonding, states of matter and reactions. Challenging and engaging assignments reinforce the content. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Chemistry Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### AP Environmental Science

AP

This college-level course provides students with the scientific principles, concepts and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students will identify and analyze environmental problems that are both natural and human-made. They will evaluate the risks associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions to addressing them. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Environmental Science Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## AP European History

**AP**

This college-level course covers European history from the High Renaissance to the present. Topics include important political, economic, religious, social and intellectual developments that occurred in Europe during that time period. Students demonstrate understanding of historical events and themes through a variety of challenging and engaging writing assignments. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP European History Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## AP Human Geography

**AP**

This college-level course will introduce students to the systematic study of patterns. Aside from interpreting maps and analyzing geospatial data, students will learn to define regions and evaluate the regionalization process, characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places, and understand and explain the implications of associations and networks among phenomena in places. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Human Geography Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based

**AP**

This college-level course is an algebra-based, introductory physics course. Students explore topics such as Newtonian mechanics, rotational motion, work, energy, power, mechanical waves, sound and an introduction to circuits. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based

**AP**

This college-level course is an algebra-based, introductory physics course. Students explore topics such as fluid statics and dynamics; thermodynamics with kinetic theory; PV diagrams and probability; electrostatics; electrical circuits with capacitors; magnetic fields; electromagnetism; physical and geometric optics; and quantum, atomic and nuclear physics. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## AP Psychology

**AP**

This college-level course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They will also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in the science and in practice. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP Psychology Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## AP U.S. Government and Politics

**AP**

This college-level course will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics. Students will be able to describe and compare concepts and theories pertaining to U.S. government, explain patterns of political process and behaviors, interpret data and critically analyze relevant theories and concepts. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## AP U.S. History

**AP**

This college-level course is an intensive study of United States history from 1492 to the present. Students learn how to analyze, evaluate and interpret historical sources and evidence. This course requires extensive reading, research and writing and meets the rigorous standards of the College Board. It was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP U.S. History Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## AP World History

**AP**

This college-level course examines world history over the past thousand years. Students develop a deeper understanding of the evolution of and interactions between cultures, regions and institutions. By concentrating on historical global events, students also explore the impact of changes within an international framework. Challenging and engaging assignments reinforce the content. This course meets the rigorous standards of the College Board and was designed to prepare students to sit for the AP World History Exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## KINDERGARTEN

### Kindergarten Art

A

This course provides students with a general overview of art and art concepts. Students will be introduced to various line styles, shapes, colors, space and form, texture, patterns, balance and unity. There will be plenty of hands-on experience for students.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Kindergarten Health and Wellness

A

Students will cover five units that include showing, expressing and understanding your emotions and others around you, understanding how and why you grow and change, how to eat healthy and maintain proper hygiene and how to stay safe. This course provides a basic overview of each topic and is presented in a way that makes it easy for all students at this grade level to understand.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Kindergarten Language Arts

A

This course is divided into four sections: phonics, grammar, reading and writing. Students will begin by reviewing the sounds of letters and blending sounds to make words. Each week, students will discover new sight words that will aid in their reading process. In the grammar section, students will explore basic grammar identification such as nouns, verbs and adjectives. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and write simple sentences.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Kindergarten Math

A

In this course, students will begin by reviewing the names of the numbers and how to count to 100. They will be able to master writing the numbers up to 20 and be able to answer the “how many?” question. Students will compare and classify objects and identify basic shapes. By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate basic addition and subtraction skills and understand place value.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Kindergarten Science

A

Students will be exposed to three basic concepts: life science, earth and space science and physical science. During each unit, students will identify living and nonliving things, explain how plants and animals survive, describe different features of the Earth and other planets in the solar system and learn about changes in the weather. Students will also get a firsthand look at physics. They will identify matter, observe how it changes and explore forces and energy.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Kindergarten Social Studies

A

This course begins by exploring the different types of families and where we live. It then looks at how people lived long ago, why people work and why we have rules. Students will also get a very basic introduction to using maps and globes.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## ELEMENTARY

### 1st Grade Art

**A**

This course provides a more detailed introduction to art. Students will be able to identify the various types of lines in a picture and describe the mood and movement that the lines create. Students will also take a closer look at colors and their value. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and describe balance, emphasis, harmony and variety in many different works of art. This course is hands-on and allows the student to practice the techniques described.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### 1st Grade Health and Wellness

**A**

Students will learn about individual health and how to keep themselves safe from harm. They will explore topics that include healthy food choices, hygiene, making wise decisions and the dangers of drugs. This course expands upon the knowledge presented in the Kindergarten course and introduces new topics in a manner appropriate for this age group.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### 1st Grade Language Arts

**A**

This course is divided into five sections: phonics, grammar, reading, writing and spelling. Students will build on the knowledge from the Kindergarten Language Arts course. In the phonics section, they will review all letter sounds and blend and read more complex words. In the grammar section, they will review basic grammar identification and expand upon their previous knowledge. Students will also add to their sight word list, which will help them read and write longer and more complex sentences and stories. Also in this course, students will begin to spell simple words.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 1st Grade Math

**A**

Students will build upon their basic knowledge of numbers and be able to write larger, 2-digit numbers. Students will also be able to count past 100 and complete 1- and 2-digit addition and subtraction problems, as well as solve basic equations. Students will begin to organize and interpret data and tell time to the half-hour. By the end of the course, students will be able to explain place value and identify, classify and measure various objects and lengths. They will also have a first-hand look at money and its value.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 1st Grade Science

**A**

Students will add to the knowledge they acquired from the Kindergarten course. They will again explore the same three units: life science, earth and space science and physical science. Students will begin to classify living things into groups, identify habitats and life cycles of plants and animals, identify minerals and rocks found on the Earth, identify stars and planets in our solar system and describe matter and how things move.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 1st Grade Social Studies

**A**

This course takes the basic information from the Kindergarten course and expands upon each topic. Students will discuss the different types of families and neighbors. They will also discuss how people lived long ago, when money was first produced and used and why people work. The course will also discuss the concepts of wants vs. needs and supply and demand. Finally, students will build on their basic understanding of government and how it works.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 2nd Grade Art

**A**

Students will begin to develop more complex pieces of art. They will be able to describe the lines, movement and mood of their piece as well as identify warm, cool, light and dark colors. Students will also explore a variety of art styles and works that will aid in their understanding of balance, harmony and unity in art. This course is hands-on and allows students time to practice the skills and apply the concepts discussed.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### 2nd Grade Health and Wellness

**A**

Students will begin to discuss feelings and how to get along with others. They will also identify important parts of the body and how they function, grow and change. Students will expand upon their knowledge of healthy eating, be introduced to the food guide pyramid and learn why exercise is an important part of their lives. The course will finish with a few lessons about staying safe, avoiding drugs, germs and the proper use of medication.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## 2nd Grade Language Arts

**A**

This course is a continuation of the 1st Grade Language Arts course and is also divided into five sections: phonics, grammar, reading, writing and spelling. Each aspect explores and expands upon students' prior knowledge of the area. By the end of this course, students will be able to use complex sentences in short stories they write. They will also be able to read larger words and sound out the words that they do not know. Each week, students will practice and master the spelling of longer words.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 2nd Grade Math

**A**

Students will begin by adding and subtracting larger numbers and measuring longer items. They will also collect data and represent their findings in various graphs and charts. Their basic understanding of money will be expanded, and they will learn how to add and subtract money. Students will also be able to skip count by 5s, 10s and 100s and solve simple word problems. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize and draw shapes as well as divide the shape into several parts.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 2nd Grade Science

**A**

Students will build upon their learning from the previous science course. This course will focus on plants and animals in their habitats. Students will also explore the seasons and the solar system and be able to explain how day and night occur. They will also learn about Earth's natural resources. Toward the end of this course, students will take a closer look at how matter changes and can be changed.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 2nd Grade Social Studies

**A**

Students will take a closer look at how we all live together in a community and in the world. The course will also explain the impact people from long ago have had on society today and discuss the formation of the government and its purpose. Students will also continue to develop their map and globe skills during this course.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 3rd Grade Art

**A**

Students will expand upon their knowledge and develop art projects that explain various lines, shapes, colors, movements and textures. Students will also explore patterns, rhythm and unity within a piece of art. This course is hands-on and allows the students to show their creativity and understanding of each topic addressed.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## 3rd Grade Health and Wellness

**A**

Students will discuss mental and emotional health. They will also identify how to make and keep healthy relationships with family and friends, learn how bodies change and learn about personal health and safety at home, in school and outside. Students will also learn how to avoid violence. This course will also provide a simple overview of administering first aid and how to prevent diseases from spreading.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## 3rd Grade Language Arts

**A**

Students will continue to study five aspects of language arts: phonics, grammar, reading, writing and spelling. Each aspect explores and expands upon students' prior knowledge of the area. In the phonics section, students will identify more complex blends to read longer words. In the grammar section, they will identify parts of sentences as well as parts of speech. Each week, students will be challenged with longer stories and more complex comprehension questions. By the end of this course, students will demonstrate their writing skills by using longer, more complex sentences in their stories. Each week, students will have new spelling words to master.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 3rd Grade Math

**A**

This course focuses on more complicated math topics and explores in depth the topics of multiplication and division. Students will be able to write and solve their own word problems as well as collect, interpret and represent data. This course also provides an introduction to fractions and measurements of time, liquids, volumes and masses.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 3rd Grade Science

**A**

Students will study plants and animals and learn to classify them into groups. They will also begin to study the ecosystem and food web. Students will be able to explain why changes occur on Earth, how and why the planets move in the solar system and how to use our natural resources wisely. Students will end the course by exploring different forms of energy and motion.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 3rd Grade Social Studies

A

Students will study various communities and will be able to explain how they change over time. Students will also be able to identify and explain many different cultures and what we can learn from each. The course will further discuss the different levels of government, and students will be able to explain how each branch of government helps citizens.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 4th Grade Reading and Spelling

A

At this level, students continue to build knowledge of letters and sounds, syllables and word formation to increase their knowledge of reading and spelling words with multiple syllables. This course is designed to help students learn to read and spell more easily and accurately and to increase reading comprehension. Students in this course read both fiction and nonfiction materials.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 4th Grade Writing and Grammar

A

In this course, students continue to develop their writing and grammar skills by practicing the skills necessary to write essays, stories, plays and fiction. Students begin to use literary devices in their writing and continue to develop good grammar skills. This course urges students to focus on clarity of topic, task and audience of their writing by developing more complex sentences.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 4th Grade Math

A

Students review place value and basic addition and subtraction facts before moving on to multiplication and division with 1-, 2- and 3-digit numbers. Fractions and decimals are also covered, along with the foundations of measurement, time and temperature. Students are introduced to data and various types of graphs and learn both how to create and interpret them. The thread of problem solving runs throughout each skill covered in the course.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 4th Grade Science

A

At this level, students are exposed to a wide array of scientific topics and concepts. The year begins with a unit on life science and encompasses learning about cells, ecosystems, plants, animals and life processes. The next unit of study is entitled *Earth Science: Earth and Beyond* and includes learning about Earth's history, the sun, moon, planets, water and the weather. The final unit of study focuses on physical science and includes learning about the properties and changes of matter.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 4th Grade Social Studies

A

The scope of learning for this class covers topics at the state, national and international levels. Through this course, students will be able to differentiate common characteristics of social, political, cultural and economic groups that are critical to our history. Students will also locate and analyze historical documents and artifacts to distinguish conflict and cooperation among different cultures and groups that have impacted the development of our nation and world. This course will also enhance the student's ability to use common geographic tools to interpret information on people, places and regions, as well as identify key principles and ideas within our governmental system.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 4th Grade Art

A

In this 18-week art course, students will explore 6 units of art study, which include: *Line, Shape, Pattern, Rhythm, Movement, Color and Value; Form, Texture and Emphasis; Space, Proportion and Distortion; Balance and Harmony; Variety; and Emphasis and Unity.*

COURSE: 18 weeks

### 4th Grade Health and Wellness

A

In this 36-week course, students will learn about health and wellness. Students will complete 5 units of study, which include: *Mental, Emotional, Family and Social Health; Growth and Nutrition; Personal Health and Safety; Drugs and Disease Prevention; and Community and Environmental Health.* Topics will include *A Plan for Good Health, How Families Change, Body Systems, Nutrients, Good Grooming, Being Safe Outdoors, Tobacco and Health, Setting Healthy Goals and Making Responsible Decisions.*

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 4th Grade Music

A

In this 18-week music course, students will begin to explore the keyboard and musical notes. They will have the chance to play an interactive keyboard to experience the sounds of the notes first hand. They will also learn about the different notes on a staff and how to use rests when composing music. This course also provides a brief overview of several composers such as Bach, Haydn and Mozart.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## 5th Grade Reading and Spelling

A

In this course, students build upon the reading comprehension and spelling skill sets they have studied at previous grade levels to read and comprehend both fiction and nonfiction texts independently by utilizing strategies such as re-telling, summarizing, note-taking, connecting to prior knowledge and extending ideas.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 5th Grade Writing and Grammar

A

At this level, students will write poems, stories and plays using literary elements and devices while maintaining a sharp, clear focus on the topics presented. At the 5th grade level, students build upon their knowledge of writing informational pieces with a focus on effective persuasive writing. Students begin to develop skills that help them to create a clearly-stated position or opinion in their writing that includes supporting details and cited sources.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 5th Grade Math

A

Students review place value and the basic mathematical operations before moving on to multiplication and division with 2- and 3-digit numbers. Addition, subtraction and multiplication with fractions and decimals are covered along with an introduction to concepts of geometry, perimeter and area. Students use both customary and metric units of measurement and further explore data, graphs and probability. The thread of problem solving runs throughout each skill covered in the course.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 5th Grade Science

A

At this level, students are introduced to important topics of life, earth and physical sciences. Topics in this class include characteristics of living things and their environments, Earth and its resources, astronomy, weather, climate and the properties of matter.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 5th Grade Social Studies

A

In this course, students will differentiate how continuity and change in U.S. history, world history and state history interact and are enacted. Students will illustrate concepts and knowledge through a variety of historical documents and artifacts while being able to locate primary and secondary sources for research. Students will also be able to identify our governmental system and describe the roles and responsibilities of governmental offices and officials. Finally, this course will enhance the students' familiarity with geography and the interactions between people, environment and regions.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 5th Grade Art

A

In this 18-week art course, students will explore 6 units of study, which include: *Line, Shape and Value; Space, Shape and Form; Color and Pattern; Proportion and Distortion; Texture, Rhythm, Movement and Balance;* and *Harmony, Variety, Emphasis and Unity.*

COURSE: 18 weeks

## 5th Grade Health and Wellness

A

In this 36-week course, students will expand upon their earlier studies related to health and wellness. Topics of study include: *Mental, Emotional, Family and Social Health; Growth and Nutrition; Personal Health and Safety; Drugs and Disease Prevention; Managing Stress; Your Heart and Lungs; The Stages of Life; A Balanced Diet; How to Handle Emergencies; Resisting Pressure; Signs of Illness and Careers in Health and Fitness.* Healthy lifestyle choices are explored and encouraged.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## 5th Grade Music

A

In this 18-week course, students will expand upon the basic knowledge from the 4th grade course. They will study composers such as Brahms, Chopin and Tchaikovsky. They will also begin to compose more complex music, incorporating a grand staff, various notes and rests. They will also begin to understand different musical scales and intervals.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### 6th Grade Language Arts

GE A

At this level, students explore the genres of poetry, fiction and nonfiction. They gain a better understanding of basic grammar, including: punctuation, parts of a sentence and more. They also learn how to compose narrative, persuasive and informative essays.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 7th Grade Language Arts

GE A

In 7th grade, students build upon their existing reading skills and focus on increasing their metacognitive abilities through careful analysis. They further explore poetry, fiction and nonfiction and begin to learn about a fourth type of writing — drama. They increase their grammar skills by combining sentences and mastering other writing techniques. Their writing expectations become increasingly sophisticated as they work on narrative, persuasive and informative essays.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 8th Grade Language Arts

GE A

Fables, speeches and nonfiction (namely, *The Diary of Anne Frank*) are at the heart of this language arts course. Topics of exploration include characterization, point of view, rhythm and other writing techniques. Students further hone their grammar skills with an emphasis on improving and strengthening sentences and writing in a variety of styles for different purposes.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 9th Grade Language Arts

F GE A

In this entry-level high school course, students explore fiction and nonfiction writing techniques such as foreshadowing and theme. They read classic literature and authors and become acquainted with Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, excerpts from Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and various poems by Robert Frost. They continue to develop their writing skills as they compose increasingly sophisticated and well-organized narrative, persuasive and informative essays.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 10th Grade Language Arts

F GE A

The focus in 10th Grade Language Arts is on multicultural literature. Students read classic dramas such as Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and Sophocles' *Antigone* while also coming to appreciate Japanese tankas and Mark Twain's wit. Students study literary techniques, including: plot structure, symbolism and more. After reading these various styles of writing, students get to try their hands at drafting their own examples, which they work to improve through the writing process.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 11th Grade Language Arts

F GE A

In 11th grade, students study American literary traditions. They learn about such literary schools and influences as Puritanism, Transcendentalism, Romanticism, the Harlem Renaissance and Modernism. In addition to an extensive research paper, students write narrative, persuasive and informative essays.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### 12th Grade Language Arts

F GE A

Students in this course study important British literature, including *Beowulf*, *Macbeth* and *Gulliver's Travels*, as well as read poignant examples of writing from literary schools such as Romanticism and the Victorians. There is a strong emphasis on writing throughout the course, which culminates with an extensive research paper.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## MATHEMATICS

### Mathematics - Course 1

GE A

Students in this course work with fractions, decimals and percentages. They use these tools to solve problems relating to geometry, algebra and probability. They develop, implement and evaluate problem-solving plans for various types of mathematical problems.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 6

### Mathematics - Course 2

GE A

In this course, students expand upon their working knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages acquired in Course 1. They also apply their understanding of numbers to describe relationships between shapes and are encouraged to use these skills to solve algebraic equations and become familiar with rates of change and other patterns.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 7

### Mathematics - Course 3

F GE A

Students in Course 3 learn to evaluate and solve multi-step equations and functions to serve as a foundation for future work in geometry, measurement and probability. Students will be able to display their solutions in tables, graphs and equations.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 8

### Pre-Algebra

F GE A

This course is the first formal introduction to the concepts and language of algebra. Students become familiar with positive and negative rational numbers, proportions and how those numbers relate to each other through various algebraic operations. These skills form a foundation that will help students in later math and science courses.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 8/9

### Algebra I

F GE A

At this level, students study the existence of patterns within mathematical models and display them graphically. They examine varying rates of change and the impact of a changing variable on an algebraic expression. These skills will be used to perform various mathematical operations on polynomial expressions.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 9

### Geometry

F GE A

In this geometry course, students learn about associations between geometry, algebra and measurement. Students are encouraged to analyze 2- and 3-dimensional geometric shapes and understand relationships between shapes. They utilize the coordinate plane to demonstrate relationships between points.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 10

### Algebra II

F GE A

As a continuation of skills learned in Algebra I, students now focus on evaluating and solving algebraic, quadratic, exponential and logarithmic expressions. These concepts will be integrated into mathematical and geometric models involving series and sequences. Students study these models through a combination of systems of equations and graphing.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 11

### Trigonometry

GE A

This course in trigonometry helps students gain an understanding of exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Students are exposed to symbols, terminology and rules of trigonometry. They learn how to identify, describe, analyze and evaluate polynomial forms of these functions.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 12

### Pre-Calculus

GE A

In this course, students will be exposed to a wide array of mathematical concepts. Topics will include: *Fundamentals of Calculus, Equations and Inequalities, Functions, Polynomial and Rational Functions, Applications to Optimization, Trigonometric Functions* and *Conic Sections*. Throughout this course, students will be exposed to these topics and have an opportunity to explore additional topics in algebra.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: High School

### Calculus

GE A

In this advanced math class, students focus intensively on plane analytic geometry and solid analytic geometry. This concept is then integrated with differential and integral calculus. In addition to the mechanics of differential and integral calculus, the mean value theorem, the fundamental theorems of differential and integral calculus and ordinary and uniform continuity are emphasized. Limit theory and application of differential calculus are also studied.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: High School

## SCIENCE

### Physical Science

GE

A

This course introduces students to important topics in physical science. Students receive an overview of concepts related to chemistry and physics and how these concepts can be applied in real life. Topics covered include: matter, atoms, mixtures, energy, forces, temperature, heat, work, electricity and magnetism.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 6

### Life Science

F

GE

A

As part of this course in life science, students study living organisms, the structure and function of the cell, heredity, evolution, viruses, bacteria, plants, animals and how living things interact in the environment.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 7

### Earth Science

F

GE

A

In their study of Earth Science, students learn about Earth's materials and the changes to its surface and interior, along with the forces that cause those changes. Other topics covered include weather and climate, the ocean and the study of our solar system, galaxies and the universe.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 8

### General Science

A

Students beginning high school will benefit greatly from taking this course designed to merely introduce the many areas of science. In this course, students will be introduced to the subjects of physics, chemistry, biology, Earth science, and astronomy. Upon completion, students will receive the background knowledge necessary to feel confident going into any of their future science courses.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 9

### Biology

F

GE

A

This biology course includes topics of study such as cell structure and function, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, mitosis and meiosis, genetics and heredity, evolution and ecology and environmental sciences. Students will be able to apply the theory of cell biology to all living organisms.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 9

### Chemistry

GE

A

In this class, students are introduced to principles of chemistry and their applications. The course explores general chemistry topics and problem solving skills. Topics covered include: matter and change, measurement, the periodic table, chemical bonding and reactions, stoichiometry and reaction kinetics.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 10

### Physics

GE

A

Students study algebra-based concepts in this course that emphasize kinematics in one and two dimensions, forces and Newton's Laws of Motion, work and energy, circular motion, momentum and collisions, vibration and waves and electrical energy. They further develop problem-solving skills that can be applied across the sciences.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 11

### Environmental Science

F

GE

A

Through this environmental science course, students extensively explore biological and ecological topics, including: ecosystems, human populations, biodiversity, renewable and non-renewable resources and waste. They learn how humans impact the environment and about the economics and policies related to environmental issues.

COURSE: 36 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 12

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Middle School World History

**GE** **A**

Middle school students begin their study of world history by exploring human history from ancient civilizations to the modern world. They examine the major themes of world history (geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture, global relations, science and technology and constitutional heritage). The text is supported by primary sources, maps and online resources.

COURSE: *36 weeks* | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 6

### World Geography

**GE** **A**

In World Geography, students receive an overview of the cultural and physical geography of the world. They develop critical thinking skills as they explore the seven continents of the world. The text is supported by online resources that include maps, videos, primary and secondary sources and quizzes that help reinforce effective citizenship.

COURSE: *36 weeks* | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 7

### U.S. History I

(Colonial Times to Reconstruction)

**GE** **A**

This middle-school level course gives students an overview of American history from colonization to the Civil War. They journey through various themes of American history, including culture and traditions, continuity and change, geography and history, individual action, groups and institutions, government and democracy, economic factors, science and technology, global connections and civic rights and responsibilities as they grow to understand what it means to be an American today.

COURSE: *36 weeks* | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 8

### Civics

**F** **GE** **A**

In this class, students take an engaging, current and relevant look at the foundations of American government, citizenship and the American economic and legal systems. A wide variety of instructional tools are used to motivate students to participate, make decisions and take action both in and out of the classroom.

COURSE: *36 weeks* | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 9

### High School World History

**F** **GE** **A**

High school students explore the history of our world from ancient civilizations to the modern world in this course. They further examine the themes of world history (geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture, global relations, science and technology and constitutional heritage). The text supports higher-level thinking with primary sources, maps and online resources.

COURSE: *36 weeks* | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 10

### Modern America

(Reconstruction to Present)

**F** **GE** **A**

This course provides students with an overview of American history starting with Reconstruction and continuing on to modern day. World War I, World War II and the post-World War II periods are extensively explored.

COURSE: *36 weeks* | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 11

### Economics/American Government

**F** **GE** **A**

At this level, students achieve a fundamental understanding of core economic principles through a multi-dimensional program. Through text, graphics, videos and online resources, key concepts are developed and supported by a variety of activities to help students apply their newly-acquired knowledge to the real world. Students will also study critical components of our government system. By examining a variety of primary sources and current events, they will learn about the three branches of government and how each works independently and interdependently.

COURSE: *36 weeks* | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 12

### American Government

**GE** **A**

This course provides an introduction to the workings of the American system of government. Students study critical components of our government system today — such as the Constitution and the amendments. They learn about the three branches of government, the role each plays and how each works independently. Students also examine current events as a major part of the course.

COURSE: *36 weeks* | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 12

### Economics

**GE** **A**

This course equips students with an understanding of basic economic principles and how they relate to real-world situations. Students study the roles of government, business and individuals within different levels of the economy. They also examine the varying challenges and variables within economic systems.

COURSE: *36 weeks* | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 12

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELLNESS

### Middle School Physical Education\*

**F** **GE** **A**

Middle school students enrolled in this course will learn information which they can use to develop a healthy, active lifestyle. Topics covered include muscle function, cardiovascular fitness, body types, nutrition, weight management and body systems. The course includes an activity log with an expectation of 90 minutes of documented physical activity per five days of school.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### High School Physical Education

**F** **GE** **A**

High school students acquire a more advanced understanding of health and wellness information that they can utilize to develop healthy attitudes and behavior patterns. Critical thinking and decision-making skills are taught and practiced throughout the course as students are encouraged to recognize their power to choose healthy behaviors to reduce risks. The physical education component includes an activity log with an expectation of at least 90 minutes of documented physical activity per five days of school weekly.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### High School Physical Education (18 weeks)\*

**A**

This textbook-independent course focuses on vital exercise- and nutrition-based concepts to give students a well-rounded understanding of healthy lifestyle choices. The course also includes a weekly activity log with an expectation of at least 90 minutes of documented physical activity per five days of school.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Middle School Health I

**GE** **A**

This course introduces middle school students to a variety of basic health topics with a focus on healthful decision making, personal health, and growth and development. Additional health topics covered include emotional wellness, nutrition, physical activity and body systems.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Middle School Health II

**GE** **A**

This course reviews topics covered in Middle School Health I and focuses on the effects of substance abuse and different types of diseases. Topics covered include tobacco, alcohol and other drug abuse, personal health, consumer choices and communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Middle School Health III

**GE** **A**

In addition to reviewing concepts from Middle School Health I and Middle School Health II, this course will focus on relationships, mental and emotional health, conflict resolution and violence prevention. Topics covered include mental and emotional problems, building healthy relationships and promoting social health.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Health I

**F** **GE** **A**

High school students enrolled in this health course focus on three dimensions of human health and development: physical, emotional and social. They learn how to make good decisions about their health. Topics covered include: nutrition, fitness, drug abuse, mental health and related information.

COURSE: 18 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: High School

### Health II

**F** **GE** **A**

Students build upon the knowledge they acquired in Health I as they learn more about the three dimensions of human health and development. Topics of study include: different body systems, first aid and safety. Students also gain a deeper understanding of the importance of good decision making as it relates to these topics as well as others.

COURSE: 18 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: High School

### Food and Nutrition

**GE** **A**

This course helps students better understand the principles of nutrition. Students gain a basic knowledge of nutrition and good health. They study healthy preparation and care of food as well as food management. They also learn about the food science involved in the preparation process.

COURSE: 36 weeks

\* Textbook not required.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

### French I

A

Beginning French students are introduced to the basic elements of French as they move through the early stages of language acquisition. They study major vocabulary categories, verb tenses and other fundamental components of French grammar. The main purpose of the course is to help students communicate in French at a basic level, appreciate the French-speaking world and develop cultural awareness.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### French II

A

French II students review the basic elements of French grammar acquired in French I and then will greatly expand their communicative abilities. The textbook is written entirely in French, which helps students advance their knowledge of French grammar, structure and vocabulary. Their language skills increase so they are able to participate more fully in general conversations, read more sophisticated passages and write with a firmer command of syntactical structures. Cultural awareness is also further developed.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### French III

A

French III students will continue to study grammar and verbs, read and discuss French fiction and nonfiction, write compositions, and prepare and present advanced conversations. Their language skills increase so they are able to participate more fully in general conversations, read more sophisticated passages and write with a firmer command of syntactical structures. Cultural awareness is also further developed.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### German I

A

German I students are introduced to the German language through basic vocabulary and grammar. Students learn about German culture while gaining familiarity with the German language. Communication and conversation skills are emphasized through the use of technology and supplemental materials.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### German II

A

In German II, students build on their background from German I and increase proficiency in reading comprehension, written skills, and conversation. Students learn how to ask for information, describe people and places and communicate in sentence form. Cultural awareness is also strengthened through written exercises and readings.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Latin I

A

Students are introduced to Latin language and ancient Roman culture. Focus is placed on basic grammar, syntax and vocabulary. Students explore Latin and English words through a set of recorded Latin stories with English translations. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to read and write in Latin on a basic level.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Latin II

A

Students enrolled in Latin II will expand upon what they learned in Latin I. They increase their skills and depth of knowledge through the practice of structures, forms and vocabulary.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Mandarin Chinese I

A

Mandarin Chinese I students are introduced to Chinese language and culture. Topics of study related to language acquisition include: basic syntax, simple vocabulary, written characters and spoken tone. Students also learn about Chinese culture through exploration of art, literature, customs and history.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Mandarin Chinese II

A

Mandarin Chinese II students build upon skills developed in Chinese I. They are better able to understand and express themselves in Chinese and increase their vocabulary. They continue to explore the customs, history and art of Chinese-speaking people.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Spanish I

A

Spanish I students are introduced to the Spanish language through basic vocabulary and grammar. Students study the present tense of both regular and irregular verbs and are introduced to affirmative commands and the present progressive tense. Students are able to greet others, introduce themselves and communicate in short conversational phrases. Students learn about the culture and history of the Spanish-speaking world, culminating in a project about a country of their choice.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## Spanish II

**A**

Spanish II students review the basic elements of Spanish grammar acquired in Spanish I and expand their vocabulary. Students master the present and present progressive verb tenses and are introduced to the preterite tense. Students are able to ask for information, describe people and places and communicate in sentence form. Students continue to learn about the different perspectives, practices and products of the Spanish-speaking world.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## Spanish III

**A**

Spanish III students review the basic elements of Spanish grammar acquired in Spanish I and II and expand their communicative abilities. Students master the preterite verb tense and are introduced to the imperfect and future tenses and the present subjunctive. Students will communicate in paragraph form and explain events that have happened in the past, as well as describe events that will take place in the future. Students continue to learn about the Spanish-speaking world through art, literature and music.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## Spanish IV

**A**

Spanish IV students review the grammar concepts previously learned in Spanish I, II and III, including the present, preterite, imperfect and future verb tenses. Students will further their knowledge of the Spanish language by learning the command forms and delve more in-depth with the various forms of the subjunctive tense. Students will continue to learn about the Spanish-speaking world through authentic literature and poetry.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## SENIOR PROJECT/ GRADUATION PROJECT

### Senior Project/Graduation Project\*

**A**

Through career exploration, students research their intents, talents and abilities as these relate to post-secondary options. This course will lead students to focus on and discover desirable and appropriate post-secondary decisions as they relate to life after high school.

COURSE: 36 weeks

\* Textbook not required.

## TEST PREP

### Power to Perform on the PSSA!

GE A

Traditionally, schools tend to expect the classroom teacher to carry the load for leading students to success on the PSSA. The Power to Perform on the PSSA! series provides explicit learning opportunities for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the skill sets needed for success on the PSSA. It has been designed with a focus on the most recent Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content (2007).

COURSE: 36 weeks

**Reading 6th Grade**

**Reading 7th Grade**

**Reading 8th Grade**

**Mathematics 6th Grade**

**Mathematics 7th Grade**

**Mathematics 8th Grade**

**Science 8th Grade**

### Keystone Exam Prep: Literature and English Composition\*\*

A

This writing-intensive course provides a thorough and rigorous foundation for high school students looking to succeed on Pennsylvania's Keystone Exam in Literature and English Composition. Focusing directly on 2012 Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content and specifically designed with questions that are directly modeled after the questions on the Keystone Exam, this course provides high school students with the practice and precision that is necessary for success on the exam.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Keystone Exam Remediation I: Literature and English Composition\*\*

A

This writing-intensive course provides a thorough and rigorous foundation for high school students looking to succeed on Pennsylvania's Keystone Exam in Literature and English Composition. Focusing directly on 2012 Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content and specifically designed with questions that are directly modeled after those on the Keystone Exam, this course provides high school students with the practice and precision that is necessary for success on the exam. This course is an intensive 6-week version of the prep course, which prepares students to be successful on the Keystone Exams during the retesting opportunity.

COURSE: 6 weeks

### Keystone Exam Project Based Assessment: Literature and English Composition\*

A

This 18-week portfolio building course provides support and guidance to your students through both a 9-week Literature and English Composition Practice Project and then an additional 9 weeks of consistent support through the Live Keystone Project stages. Working in coordination with your district mentor, VLN Partners fulfills the required tutor role for your students as they complete the Keystone Project Based Assessment Activities, removing from your district the burden of tutoring your students through the delivery stages of the project.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Keystone Exam Prep: Algebra I\*\*

A

This course is designed to provide students with essential ideas in Algebra I. Students enrolled in this course will review concepts such as defining, evaluating and comparing functions, linear equations, interpreting rate as slope and solving systems of equations. In addition to these concepts, students will also review creating graphs from data, displaying frequencies in a two-way table and identifying patterns of association.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Keystone Exam Remediation I: Algebra I\*\*

A

This course is designed to remediate students with essential ideas in Algebra I. Students enrolled in this course will review concepts such as defining, evaluating and comparing functions, linear equations, interpreting rate as slope and solving systems of equations. In addition to these algebra-related concepts, students will also review congruence and geometric translations, angles, creating graphs from data and displaying frequencies in a two-way table and identifying patterns of association. This course is an intensive 6-week version of the prep course, which prepares students to be successful on the Keystone Exams during the retesting opportunity.

COURSE: 6 weeks

\* Textbook not required.

\*\* Also available as Textbook Independent.

## Keystone Exam Project Based Assessment: Algebra I\*

A

This 18-week portfolio building course provides support and guidance to your students through both a 9-week Algebra I Practice Project and then an additional 9 weeks of consistent support through the Live Keystone Project stages. Working in coordination with your district mentor, VLN Partners fulfills the required tutor role for your students as they complete the Keystone Project Based Assessment Activities, removing from your district the burden of tutoring your students through the delivery stages of the project.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## Keystone Exam Prep: Biology\*\*

A

This course in biology is designed to cover the assessment anchors involved in the Keystone Biology Exam. This course focuses heavily on cellular life and processes, but also includes DNA, evolution, genetic engineering and ecosystem interactions.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## Keystone Exam Remediation I: Biology\*\*

A

This course in biology is designed to cover the assessment anchors involved in the Keystone Biology Exam. This course focuses heavily on cellular life and processes, but also includes DNA, evolution, genetic engineering and ecosystem interactions. This course is an intensive 6-week version of the prep course, which prepares students to be successful on the Keystone Exams during the retesting opportunity.

COURSE: 6 weeks

## Keystone Exam Project Based Assessment: Biology\*

A

This 18-week portfolio building course provides support and guidance to your students through both a 9-week Biology Practice Project and then an additional 9 weeks of consistent support through the Live Keystone Project stages. Working in coordination with your district mentor, VLN Partners fulfills the required tutor role for your students as they complete the Keystone Project Based Assessment Activities, removing from your district the burden of tutoring your students through the delivery stages of the project.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## ACT Test Prep

GE

A

This course is designed to prepare students for the math portion of the SAT. Students enrolled in this course spend a great deal of time understanding the SAT and honing the skills needed for test taking. They develop higher-order math strategies and problem-solving skills. They also work on a variety of math problems ranging from algebra to calculus in preparation for the SAT.

COURSE: 18 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: High School

## SAT Prep – Math

GE

A

This course is designed to prepare students for the math portion of the SAT. Students enrolled in this course spend a great deal of time understanding the SAT and honing the skills needed for test taking. They develop higher-order math strategies and problem-solving skills. They also work on a variety of math problems ranging from algebra to calculus in preparation for the SAT.

COURSE: 18 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: High School

## Test Taking Skills\*

GE

A

This course is designed to help prepare students to take standardized tests. Students enrolled in this course will review time management, rubrics, multiple-choice strategies and educated guessing. In addition to these general concepts, students will also review writing narrative and persuasive essays, reading comprehension strategies and math multiple-choice techniques.

COURSE: 9 weeks | SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: Middle & High School

\* Textbook not required.

\*\* Also available as Textbook Independent.

## ELECTIVES - LANGUAGE ARTS

### Creative Writing

**A**

This course explores strategies used in creative writing and helps students to develop a deeper appreciation of good writing and established authors. Students create a variety of works ranging from poems to short stories. While writing prose, students review rules and guidelines for correct punctuation, grammar and sentence structure. Effective, appropriate and economical word choice is also practiced.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Journalism

**A**

This high school course includes a brief history of American journalism and discusses the duties of a journalist. Additional topics that are taught in this course include the rights and responsibilities of journalists, style and editing, news writing, sports writing, feature writing, editorial writing, newspaper design, yearbook design, advertising and much more.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Mythology

**A**

This course analyzes Greek and Roman myths about creation, nature, love and heroism. Students study the classics, becoming acquainted with some of the most famous stories of all time. They also discover the beginnings of drama and man's attempt to explain his universe as they delve into myths about Greek and Roman gods and their relationships with mortals.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### The Bible as Literature

**A**

This course provides a comprehensive study of the Bible, focusing on literary and historical perspectives. Students study the Bible as a series of texts developed to convey messages and concepts to a specific audience. They explore literary forms, strategies, styles and techniques within the historical and physical context of the times and places in which these scripts were written. This course also utilizes extensive resources such as maps, timelines and online references.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### World Literature

**A**

This 36-week course is designed for the accelerated learner who wants to broaden their exposure to essential world texts and deepen their experience with literary analysis. Critical thinking skills will be developed as students analyze texts from the Mediterranean, Ancient India, Eastern Europe and Asia.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## ELECTIVES - MATHEMATICS

### Business Math

**GE****A**

This high school business course is structured utilizing a three-pronged approach: basic math review, personal finance and business mathematics. It builds and strengthens students' basic math skills in personal and business mathematics.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Probability and Statistics

**GE****A**

This course introduces students to sampling methods, descriptive statistics and probability distributions. Students learn how to take effective samples and create valid experiments. They acquire tools and knowledge that will enable them to effectively evaluate and interpret data.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## ELECTIVES - SCIENCE

### Anatomy and Physiology

GE

A

This intensive course gives students an overview of human anatomy and physiology. It covers information about the human body at the cellular and chemical levels. Students learn about control and regulation of each of the systems in the human body and how each of the systems applies to disease and development.  
COURSE: 36 weeks

### Astronomy I

GE

A

Students explore the process of astronomical scientific discovery and begin to develop an understanding of the integrated study of the universe, which includes concepts of physics, mathematics and chemistry. This course traces astronomy's observational foundation and continues to an in-depth exploration of our solar system. It emphasizes critical thinking and visualization.  
COURSE: 18 weeks

### Astronomy II

GE

A

At this level, students complete an extensive survey of the universe, moving beyond the exploration of our solar system found in Astronomy I to the vast wonders of our galaxy and larger cosmological concepts and structures. Other topics covered extensively include stellar formation, evolution, novae, supernovae and black holes and other strange objects. Additionally, students learn about the birth, future and fate of the universe, as well as theories of extraterrestrial life and our place in the cosmos.  
COURSE: 18 weeks

### Conceptual Physics

A

Students following the non-academic route will benefit from taking this physics course designed to introduce the concepts before computations. This design will provide students with the solid foundation needed to understand complex topics such as energy conservation, motion, and magnetism. Students following the academic route can also benefit from this course by taking it before a standard high school physics course.  
COURSE: 36 weeks

### Forensic Science

A

Students interested in criminal justice and crime scene investigation will enjoy this elective course designed to introduce students to the world of forensic science. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to combine their math, chemistry, biology, physics, and earth science skills in order to analyze multiple case studies. Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to explore the various aspects of having a career in forensic science.  
COURSE: 36 weeks

### Oceanography

A

Students taking this course will combine their knowledge of geology, chemistry, physics, and biology to examine and learn more about our Earth's oceans. This course is designed to allow students to take away a fundamental understanding of how the oceans work and why they behave in the ways that they do. Overall, this elective course does a good job of explaining the larger picture of how our oceans interact with all of the systems on Earth.  
COURSE: 36 weeks

## ELECTIVES - SOCIAL STUDIES

### American Civil War

**A**

This course provides an in-depth look at the most pivotal and defining era in American history. Students will examine the growing political, economic, and cultural rift between the American North and South that led to disunion and war. Students will “experience” the war through primary and secondary resources as they explore the fundamental causes of the war and the war years themselves, both at home and on the battlefield.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

### American Government (18 weeks)

**A**

This course provides an introduction to the workings of the American system of government. Students study critical components of our government system today — such as the Constitution and the amendments. They learn about the three branches of government, the role each plays and how each works independently. Students also examine current events as a major part of the course.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

### Economics (18 weeks)

**A**

This course equips students with an understanding of basic economic principles and how they relate to real-world situations. Students study the roles of government, business and individuals within different levels of the economy. They also examine the varying challenges and variables within economic systems.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

### Psychology

**A**

This introductory psychology course acquaints students with basic principles of psychology. Students learn about how concepts they encounter in the course have real-life applications. The text is supported by online resources, videos and quizzes.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

### Sociology

**A**

This sociology course explores the interactions and relationships of the varying groups within society. Students investigate the roles of societies’ institutions and the effects of these institutions on different demographics. They also learn about the challenges and problems faced by communities.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

## World Religions

**A**

This course explores the development, doctrines and practices of today’s major faiths. Students begin by examining personal religious development and then survey major religious movements. Detailed information about the beliefs and practices of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Daoism and Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism are presented. New-Age religious movements and religion in the 21st century complete this extensive exploration of faith and beliefs.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

## ELECTIVES - ARTS & HUMANITIES

### Art History

**A**

Art History students will gain a basic understanding and appreciation of art as it is encountered on the high school level and beyond. Students begin with a study of art processes, criticism and aesthetics and progress to an overview of art history through the 21st century.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Music History/Music Appreciation

**A**

This course introduces students to perceptive listening and provides an engaging presentation of musical elements, styles and stylistic periods. Organized chronologically, this course provides a survey of music's evolution from the music of the Middle Ages to classical, jazz, blues and rock. This course concludes by exploring the non-Western music traditions from Africa, India and Japan.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## ELECTIVES - BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

### Accounting I

**A**

Accounting I students learn how to maintain accurate business records. Students study business transactions, including working with source documents, handling ledger accounts, preparing worksheets and working with financial statements. They will gain a real-world understanding of the applications of accounting.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Business and Personal Law

**A**

This course examines legal obligations of parties involved in housing, business and personal endeavors. Topics of study include contractual obligations, corporate responsibilities and marriage/divorce law.

COURSE: 36 weeks

### Career Exploration\*

**A**

The Career Exploration course equips students with a background and process for successfully transitioning from school (high school or college) to a career. Students complete a self-assessment — analyzing their interests, skills and goals — to begin the development of a targeted approach to their next educational steps and, ultimately, their careers. Additionally, students study and practice practical skills such as resume writing and interviewing. Various career opportunities are presented as well as the tools students need to further understand and research their own career directions.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Google Drive\*

**A**

This course will instruct students in the essentials of Google Drive. Students will create, format and share documents, spreadsheets and presentations, and gather data via Google Forms. Students will learn how to adjust permissions and document accessibility, as well as how to create collaborative projects with a group of faculty or fellow classmates.

COURSE: 18 weeks

### Marketing

**A**

The Marketing course introduces students to basic marketing techniques and business decision-making processes. Students study the marketing process and increase their knowledge of markets, buyers, promotion and pricing. The course aims to improve students' understanding of how professional advertising agencies design, market and distribute their products.

COURSE: 36 weeks

\* Textbook not required.

## **Microsoft Office 2010 and Computer Applications (36 weeks)\***

**A**

This course covers computer basics and focuses on detailed uses of Microsoft Office 2010 programs, including Word, PowerPoint and Excel. It allows students to explore the new features built into the 2010 edition. In addition to exploring these programs, students study content related to Internet literacy, email etiquette, copyright/ethics issues and HTML programming. They use this knowledge to increase their communication and technology skills.

COURSE: 36 weeks

## **Microsoft Office 2010 and Computer Applications (18 weeks)\***

**A**

This course covers computer basics and focuses on detailed uses of Microsoft Office 2010 programs, including Word, PowerPoint and Excel. It allows students to explore the new features built into the 2010 edition. In addition to exploring these programs, students study content related to Internet literacy, email etiquette, copyright/ethics issues and HTML programming. They use this knowledge to increase their communication and technology skills.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## **Microsoft Office 2013 and Computer Applications (18 weeks)\***

**A**

Microsoft Office has been and continues to be a cornerstone of essential software suites that all people need to understand. This 18-week course explores Microsoft Office 2013 both in general and explores the nuances of this specific version of the software suite. Software is only as user-friendly as the user's ability to understand and manipulate it. This course sets students up to understand and use Microsoft Office 2013 with ease.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## **Microsoft Office 2016 and Computer Applications (18 weeks)\***

**A**

Microsoft Office has been and continues to be a cornerstone of essential software suites that all people need to understand. This 18-week course explores Microsoft Office 2016 both in general and explores the nuances of this specific version of the software suite. Software is only as user-friendly as the user's ability to understand and manipulate it. This course sets students up to understand and use Microsoft Office 2016 with ease.

COURSE: 18 weeks

## **Personal Finance and Financial Literacy**

**A**

The Personal Finance and Financial Literacy course exposes students to important financial issues they are likely to encounter in their lives. Topics include home buying, balancing a budget and responsible use of credit and borrowing. This knowledge will increase students' abilities to manage their finances in a responsible and intelligent manner.

COURSE: 36 weeks

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\* Textbook not required.

## ELECTIVES - MISCELLANEOUS

### Digital Citizenship\*

**A**

This course is entirely web-based and will prepare students to safely and effectively communicate online while helping them to become familiar with website privacy policies. Students will be able to identify cyber-bullying and ways to respond, thus making their online experience more enjoyable. Additional concepts and information students will gain from this course include understanding copyright rules, browsing websites and various methods of downloading.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

### PA Driver's Education\*

**A**

The PA Driver's Education course provides an introduction to driver theory. Topics include signs and signals, safety, managing speed, driving practices, handling emergencies and the Pennsylvania point system. Also covered are transportation-specific laws and regulations such as substance abuse and seatbelt laws.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

### Parenting Skills\*

**A**

This course covers the basics of parenting and family skills. Topics include conception, contraception, pregnancy, child development, aging and the family.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

### Study Skills\*

**A**

The study skills course hones reading and study skills needed for academic success in high school. Students develop such abilities as: studying techniques, note taking, time management, listening, test taking and research. They gain confidence as they master these basic skills and have the opportunity to apply them to other courses.

COURSE: *18 weeks*

\* Textbook not required.

## CREDIT RECOVERY

Complementing the Foundations track is a Credit Recovery delivery platform. Like the Foundations track, Credit Recovery courses are less rigorous in that they are void of Short Answer and Essay questions. This delivery platform is designed for students who have already attempted the course and require a self-paced learning mechanism to acquire proficiency. The Credit Recovery delivery platform consists of a mastery-based testing strategy that enables students who have fallen behind academically to get back on track.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

6th Grade Language Arts  
7th Grade Language Arts  
8th Grade Language Arts  
9th Grade Language Arts  
10th Grade Language Arts  
11th Grade Language Arts  
12th Grade Language Arts

### MATHEMATICS

Mathematics - Course 1  
Mathematics - Course 2  
Mathematics - Course 3  
Pre-Algebra  
Algebra I  
Geometry  
Algebra II  
Pre-Calculus  
Calculus

### SCIENCE

Physical Science  
Life Science  
Earth Science  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Environmental Science

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Middle School World History  
World Geography  
U.S. History I (Colonial Times to Civil War)  
Civics  
High School World History  
Modern America (Reconstruction to Present)  
Economics/American Government  
American Government  
Economics

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Middle School Physical Education  
High School Physical Education  
Health I (MS)  
Health II (MS)  
Health III (MS)  
Health I (HS)  
Health II (HS)  
Food and Nutrition

### TEST PREP

Test Taking Skills

### ELECTIVES – MATHEMATICS

Business Math  
Probability and Statistics

### ELECTIVES – SCIENCE

Anatomy and Physiology  
Astronomy I  
Astronomy II

## NCAA APPROVED COURSES

VLN Partners is proud to present a listing of NCAA approved courses designed to benefit students pursuing athletic endeavors as part of their educational experience. In keeping with NCAA academic standards, only the Academic version of the courses listed below are eligible for NCAA acceptance.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

9th Grade Language Arts  
10th Grade Language Arts  
11th Grade Language Arts  
12th Grade Language Arts  
Creative Writing  
Mythology  
The Bible as Literature  
World Literature  
AP English Language and Composition  
AP English Literature and Composition

### MATHEMATICS

Algebra I  
Geometry  
Algebra II  
Trigonometry  
Pre-Calculus  
Calculus  
Probability & Statistics  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC

### SCIENCE

Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Environmental Science  
Anatomy & Physiology  
Astronomy I  
Astronomy II  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Physics 1: Algebra -Based  
AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics  
High School World History  
Modern America (Reconstruction to Present)  
Economics/American Government  
American Government  
Economics  
Psychology  
Sociology  
World Religions  
AP European History  
AP Human Geography  
AP Psychology  
AP Us Government and Politics  
AP Us History  
AP World History

### FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French I  
French II  
Latin I  
Latin II  
Mandarin Chinese I  
Mandarin Chinese II  
Spanish I  
Spanish II  
Spanish III

## SUMMER SCHOOL

Each 30-day summer school course contains key content, relevant online resources and structured assessments. All daily modules begin with a reading assignment followed by a writing assessment and a 10-question multiple-choice quiz. Every week, a 5-question short answer assignment is presented, adding to the authentic assessment of the course. Twenty multiple-choice and 5 short-answer question final exams complete each summer school course.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

**6th Grade Language Arts**  
**7th Grade Language Arts**  
**8th Grade Language Arts**  
**9th Grade Language Arts**  
**10th Grade Language Arts**  
**11th Grade Language Arts**  
**12th Grade Language Arts**

### MATHEMATICS

**Mathematics – Course 1**  
**Mathematics – Course 2**  
**Mathematics – Course 3**  
**Pre-Algebra**  
**Algebra 1**  
**Geometry**  
**Algebra II**  
**Trigonometry**

### SCIENCE

**Physical Science**  
**Life Science**  
**Earth Science**  
**Biology**  
**Chemistry**  
**Physics**  
**Environmental Science**

### SOCIAL STUDIES

**Middle School World History**  
**World Geography**  
**U.S. History I (Colonial Times to Civil War)**  
**Civics**  
**High School World History**  
**Modern America (Reconstruction to Present)**  
**Economics/American Government**



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