

The Community School

Course Catalogue

2010-2011



Our Program

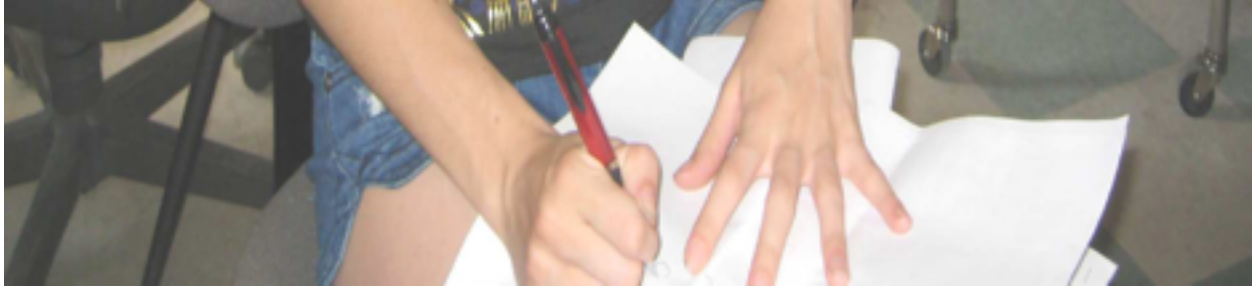
Welcome to our course catalog for the 2010-11 school year. When reading the course descriptions, you will see that they are packed with exciting possibilities. You will immerse yourself in study of themes or topics, spending your time reading, writing, creating, traveling, experimenting, performing, collaborating, and exploring. Our faculty has worked hard to develop an interesting, thorough, and challenging program for you. This will be a year of studies focused on ancient world history, so wherever possible, our courses are linked to the early cultural developments, scientific and technological innovations, social progress, environmental and human developments, and events which shaped the course of history and the world as we now know it.

When signing up for block classes, consider age and skill level, prerequisites, credit needed, and interest. Use a copy of your transcript to see what credits you've earned and what you need to graduate. Students will sign up for classes this summer with Jenny Rowe. The kind of individualized scheduling that we offer at TCS takes time and patience; final schedules will be handed out in the first week of school. During the year, some changes may occur, but it is our goal to minimize schedule changes. To that end, September and October will be the drop/add period, when we ask that you talk to Jenny about any schedule changes you would like **for the year**. Whenever a student is added to or removed from a class, the balance we have created among classes can be disrupted, so we find a drop/add period to be a good way to efficiently plan the school year.

Afternoon Block Classes

Block classes meet for 1.75 hours four times per week. Every student will choose 5 two-month blocks. Blocks will focus on history, social studies, civics, biology, chemistry, ecology, physics, philosophy, health, and land use. Blocks may integrate more than one subject, offering partial credit in several areas.

Teachers will begin the course with a syllabus clearly outlining what content will be covered, what skills will be taught, and what behaviors are expected. The syllabus should also explain how your work will be evaluated at the end of the block. When choosing courses from this selection, please pay attention to any prerequisite requirements, the grade levels specified, trip costs, and credit areas covered. Exceptions can sometimes be made to grade levels; ask Jenny or the course teacher before signing up. Many courses offer opportunities for students to explore the world beyond our campus.



Block One (.40 credits) Sept. 7-Oct. 29

Harvest: Local and Global Lessons

Where does our food come from? Work in the TCS garden to learn how to harvest food (what, how and when) and preserve it. We will explore where our own food comes from on a local level, and how our food choices compare with those of the rest of the world. What can we as citizens of the 21st century learn from past agricultural practices and how can we make food choices to be part of a sustainable world today? How does food connect people? How does food help to define different cultures? This course encourages hands-on learning, so be prepared for a good deal of time spent in the garden and the kitchen. We'll also visit local farms.

Teacher: Brady Potter

Credit: home economics/vocational/health

Grades: 6-12

Pilgrimage

How is place significant in religion and culture? Why do people spend their lives preparing for a pilgrimage? This class will examine the roots of pilgrimages from various religious practices. We will explore the journeys of Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Jews. Some study of the Native American vision quest will fold into our work. We will design and embark upon our own pilgrimage.

Teacher: Mark Bickford

Credit: social studies

Grades: 6-12

Geology of the White Mountains

This survey course examines the physical and ever-changing aspects of our home planet, the forces that shape it and the consequences of those changes, all in the context of the mountains that surround us. Students will explore the inner structure of the Earth; plate tectonics; volcanoes and earthquakes; mountain building; glaciers and glaciation; mass wasting, weathering and erosion; and soil chemistry. Field trips and hikes will show us first hand what we're studying.

Teacher: TBA

Credit: science

Grades: 6-12



Block Two (.40 credits) Nov. 1-Dec. 17

The Big Bang

History doesn't get much earlier than this. What is the Big Bang theory? What was the event? What evidence is there for its occurrence? How does it explain what we find in the universe today? We'll combine research, reading, writing, and experiential activities to develop an understanding of this enormous concept.

This class will include several day trips to labs, a nuclear power plant, and more. Small fees will be charged for each trip.

Teacher: Don Fries

Credit: science

Grades: 9-12

Guns, Germs, and Steel

Using Jared Diamond's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, we will examine broad patterns of history in an attempt to understand the "fates of human societies." We'll travel back 11,000 years to try and determine why some cultures have had more power, advances, and dominance than others. This is a big picture course for strong, motivated readers.

Teacher: Mark Bickford

Credit: social studies

Grades: 9-12, or by permission

Basic Chemistry

The scientific method is one of the cornerstones in science. Learn the components through experimentation in our lab. Hone observation, measuring, critical thinking, and brainstorming skills. Understand the basic elements of chemistry which are the foundation for many of our advanced science classes. This is a required class for every student in his or her first two years at TCS.

Teacher: TBA

Credit: science

Grades: 6-12

Block Three (.40 credits) Jan. 3-Feb. 18

The Birth of Religion

Explore the earliest known roots of religion, focusing on (but not limited to) animism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism. How did ancient people and cultures connect to their gods? What evidence of their practices has been left for later generations to learn from? In what ways have religions interconnected or overlapped, historically? What contemporary religions find their foundations in these oldest of beliefs?

This is a class for strong readers of all ages.

Teacher: Suzanne Weil

Credit: history

Grades: 6-12

Asia In History

Survey the rich and varied histories of China and surrounding nations, from the earliest inhabitants

10,000 years ago, through China's kingdoms and dynastic periods. Examine philosophical and religious beliefs and practices, from Confucianism, Taoism, to Buddhism. The Silk Road will be a topic for exploration in this class. Explore martial arts, technology, art, military engagements, and how geography impacted all.

Teacher: Mark Bickford

Credit: social studies

Grades: 9-12

Winter Ecology on the Perkins Farm

Explore what surrounds us in the deep of winter, paying close attention to the ways animals and plants adapt to the cold. Tracking, building snow shelters, snowshoeing, identifying trees in their winter dress (dendrology), and learning about physical chemistry play big roles in this class.

Teachers: TBA

Credit: science

Grades: 6-12



Block Four (.40 credits) Feb. 28 -Apr. 15

Ancient Technologies and Engineering

Examine ancient history through the eyes of an engineer. Explore the first tools and early temples, study later building and technological practices: city layout, roads, aqueducts, irrigation, ship design and construction, and weaponry. Compare Cro-Magnon to Neanderthal to early Homo Sapiens. Major empires and civilizations including Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Viking, Mongolian, Aztec, Mayan, Persian, and Ottoman will be studied.

Teacher: Mark Bickford

Credit: history

Grades: 6-12

U.S. Government

How and why was the U.S. Constitution drafted? How did it empower a Federal government? Can the Constitution be changed? How do we create laws and enforce them? Does our government still work the way we believe it was intended to? What is our role as citizens? This course will include field trips, research, and experiential activities which will bring government to life.

Teachers: Don Fries
Credit: social studies
Grades: 6-12

Ponds, Brooks, and Vernal Pools

Study the hydrology and biology of waterways and wetlands, especially those that come alive with in early spring in Tamworth. We'll explore bodies of water on the Perkins Farm, as well as seeking pools elsewhere, asking ourselves why some are more diverse than others and setting up a rating system that other naturalists and planners can use.

Teacher: TBA
Credit: science
Grades: 6-12

Block 5 (.40 credits) Apr. 25 -June 15

Gardening

Spend the spring outdoors and see why it makes more sense to grow your own veggies rather than buy them. Explore the different styles of farming (organic, biodynamic, permaculture, and conventional). Help the garden crew to get the season started by planting and caring for the fields and seedlings. This is a class where students get their hands dirty while learning some basic botany and soil chemistry. There may be some day trips with minimal cost.

Teacher: Brady Potter
Credit: voc/home ec
Grades: 6-12

Explorers and Conquerors

How have indigenous cultures been shaped by the intrusion of explorers and conquerors? How has society, as we know it, benefited from these explorations? Why do we idealize explorers? Read from journals and maps, historical fiction and primary source materials to begin to understand what has driven men and women to head out in search of the unknown.

Teacher: Mark Bickford
Credit: social studies
Grades: 6-9

Monitoring Climate Change On the Perkins Farm

Set up parameters for a plant monitoring project on the Perkins Farm and elsewhere in the region. Learn about indicator species and phenology, and how they relate to changing conditions on Planet Earth and here in the Bearcamp Valley. Then learn the basics of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to map the data you gather. Visits to weather stations and other study plots as well as hikes to other forests will be part of the experience.

Teachers: Nat Scrimshaw
Credit: science/technology
Grades: 9-12

Invasive Species

How do invasive species like Japanese knotweed or milfoil literally choke the life out of the land and waterways around us? We'll learn how and why exotic species have been brought to our biome, brainstorm ideas for eradicating the most damaging ones, and compare how those strategies work.

We'll conduct field observations, take day trips, and form our own hypotheses.

Teacher: TBA
Credit: science
Grades: 6-12

Morning Core Classes



Students build skills in English, math, and foreign language classes, scheduled four-five days each week. The work done in these classes helps to enhance skills developed in block time, cover core information in essential subjects, and develop year-long relationships with your teachers. Students will earn 1.5 credits for math and English core work and 1.2 credits for foreign language work each year.

Middle School English

In this class students will be provided with opportunities to explore and share in the delight the written word can afford us! Students will create their own reading and writing processes based on their learning styles. They'll work on developing organization skills, building vocabulary, editing their work with an emphasis on spelling, grammar, punctuation, and structure, sharing their favorite books, and much more!

9-11th Grade English

To be a great writer you need to be an even better reader. Students will dive into fiction, nonfiction, poetry, plays, newspapers, biographies, graphic novels, and magazines. Journals and analytical essays will help students to interact with the texts they read. Creative writing will be a key component of students' weekly work, with mini-lessons, conferencing, vocab studies, and more used as tools to build individual writing abilities.

Senior English

While the foci of Senior English are the college application process and senior project, literature is ever-present in all we do, providing a nice balance to the enormous amount of drafting and writing seniors create throughout the year. Readings will begin to show us how the choices made by individuals in ancient times continue to resonate within modern society. We'll read about Oedipus and the Spartans at Thermopylae, dip into *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, and move on to consider the notion of King Arthur's Camelot. We'll look at how the themes we encounter in these early texts continue to appear in modern literature: *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *The Road*, and more. *Seniors will write short, analytical responses to and*

have innumerable conversations about their readings.



Math 1—2

Students in this class will be working to learn and master a variety of basic skills. An opportunity will be provided for students to master the basic arithmetic skills necessary to move smoothly ahead with Algebra. These areas include working with fractions, decimals, percents, ratio, proportion, operations with integers, rational numbers, basic statistics and probability, geometric shapes, and measurement. The class will continue using the Holt Algebra 1 text as the home base for our work in mathematics. We will progress through the topics covered in the second half of this textbook completing the math skills necessary for a successful understanding of Algebra 1. As we move through the school year, students will also work on Geometry.

Math 3

This class will continue using the Holt Algebra 2 text as the home base for our work in mathematics. We will progress toward a successful understanding of Algebra. As we move through the school year, students will work on trigonometry in preparation for pre-calculus, and prepare for the PSAT and SAT tests. Students enrolling in this class should have demonstrated a good understanding of Algebra 1 skills and may have already had exposure to some Algebra 2.

Math 4

We will begin by preparing for SAT tests since these examinations are typically administered in October. Curriculum for the remainder of the year will include topics from pre-calculus, a review of topics from algebra, and work on calculus. Students enrolling in this class should have a good understanding of Algebra 2 and have worked successfully on some pre-calculus math prior to taking this class. Students in this class should be prepared to undertake independent work.

Art

Prehistoric, ancient, and early art from many cultures will be the reference points for students this year. The skills used to make art, the themes, and the design elements from ancient times continue to inform contemporary artists' work. Using place, mythology, and symbols from different cultures, we'll discover how artists from the earliest times have made sense of their worlds and communicated. Students will explore line, color, volume, texture, shape, form, expression, and symbols using various media.

One hour per week for each student.

Spanish

Learn Spanish by *using* it, even at the most beginning level. Classes focus on acquiring a new language by hearing, speaking, singing, reading, writing, listening to music, watching films, playing games, and playing roles. There's so much to learn this year besides how to express yourself: How did the ancient Mayas, Incas, and Aztecs live? What is life like for present-day indigenous people in the Americas? What influence did the Spanish *conquistadores* have in the New World? Homework consists of on-line practice, individual projects, vocabulary study, and written exercises in preparation for the next day. TCS' exchange with the Monteverde Friends School in Costa Rica continues to help make learning Spanish relevant.

Meets one hour per day, four days per week.

Spanish 1

Basic beginning Spanish for those with little or no experience. Common phrases and questions, pronunciation, the sounds letters make, conjugating present tense verbs, learning how to make adjectives agree with nouns, and basic conversation about school, home, sports, and travel are the basis of this first year.

Spanish 2

Pick up where you left off: speaking and writing simple sentences, learning to speak about past events, increasing your vocabulary to include nature, politics, giving instructions, tools, and cultural activities. Bilingual PowerPoint projects will inform classmates and develop technology and presentation skills.

Spanish 3-4

Learn how to talk and write about the future and conditional events, and about why the subjunctive mood makes so much sense. Music, art, and Planning a trip to a Spanish-speaking country, whether real or imagined, keeps us looking forward to what life can bring next. Bilingual PowerPoint projects will inform classmates and hone technology and presentation skills.



Remember:

It is essential that you check your transcript before choosing classes so that you stay on track for graduation! Call Jenny if you have any questions at all.



Stewardship Classes

Stewardship classes will be held on Friday afternoons and rotate every two months. These enrichment classes often fill in credit needs such as health, PE, shop, music, etc. Sometimes they are student-led.

Past stewardship classes have included music composition, ceramics, timber framing, origami, baking, orienteering, first aid/CPR, monitoring climate change, jamming, trail maintenance, skiing/snowboarding, yearbook, yoga, and more!

To make suggestions for stewardship classes, contact Jenny or bring the idea to school meeting several months in advance of when you think a course should run.

Trip Weeks

For a third year we will offer travel weeks in October and in May. These trips may be an outgrowth of a block class but will be open to others. Trips are a natural outgrowth of The Community School's belief that we're students wherever we go. Travel lets us immerse ourselves in experiences different from what we're used to, stretching our skills and comfort levels in the best possible ways. It gives us an opportunity to grow as individuals and as a community.

Each year we try to balance the trip offerings to include physically challenging adventures (long hikes, rock climbing, camping), city exploration (New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Boston), creative pursuits (making music, writing, building), and service (Habitat for Humanity projects, working for local neighbors).

Costs will vary. It is a great idea to save for the trip you want to take so that you open yourself to possibility.



Community Service opportunities this fall and winter at TCS

Farmers' Table Lunches: Plan and prepare meals for our weekly community lunch.

Reach the Beach: September 17

Get ready for runners coming through. Feed them and cheer them on.

Community Dinners: dates TBA

Set up tables, serve food, do dishes, give tours

Soup, Story and Song: March 2011

Set up tables, serve food, do dishes, give tours, play some music or tell a story.

Celebrate Our Community Auction: April 2011

Run items for auctioneer, set up auction tables, serve food, clean up. Fun!

Faculty/Staff Members

Jenny Rowe, Director and Spanish teacher
Joan Hodges, Admissions
Kendra Bumpus, Bookkeeper

Lianne Prentice, Development and Sr. English
Mark Bickford, history/English/shop teacher
Don Fries, science/math teacher
Brady Potter, harvest and garden teacher
TBA, environmental science teacher
Cynthia Robinson, art teacher
Nat Scrimshaw, GIS mapper/community planner
Raetha Stoddard, English teacher/advisor
Suzanne Weil, social studies teacher
Deb Wilk, Spanish teacher

Amy Carter, librarian
Chris Clyne, volunteer in library, garden, and health
Dennis Quinn, I.T. support

Brady Potter, farm manager
Jennifer Allen, perennial gardener
Andy Bonica, garden crew
George Conklin, garden crew
Megan Hartigan, garden crew
Adam Murata, garden crew
Emily Robinson, garden crew

Bob Cram, bus driver
David McKie, maintenance and recycling
Fred Peabody, cleaning

Heidi Fayle, summer camp leader
Ema Whipple Mckie, summer camp counselor
Mia11, summer camp counselor
Isaiah Barnard, summer camp counselor