



Course Catalogue

2025-2026



Clara B. Ford Academy

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Below you will find information about the courses offered at Clara B. Ford Academy. Courses are categorized by department.

ENGLISH

Middle School English

Grades 6-8. 2 semesters. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course is to enhance students' literary comprehension, analytical skills, and ability to engage in thoughtful discourse. Various genres of literature will be explored to stimulate critical thinking and discussion. The course will cover a thematic examination of literature from different periods and cultures, focusing on literary forms, themes, and the human experience. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension, literary analysis, and written and oral communication.

English 9

Grade 9-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course is to enhance students' literary comprehension, analytical skills, and ability to engage in thoughtful discourse. Various genres of literature will be explored to stimulate critical thinking and discussion. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension, literary analysis, and written and oral communication.

English 10

Grade 10-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course is to foster students' skills of reading comprehension, literary analysis, and critical thinking and to practice and further develop their expository, argumentative, and creative writing skills. In this course we will write daily; read and analyze diverse, engaging, and award-winning contemporary young adult literature; and read and analyze high-interest nonfiction articles. Time will be spent on collegiate-level vocabulary acquisition. Grammar instruction occurs not in isolation but with the intention that students apply new grammatical knowledge to the improvement of their writing.

English 11

Grade 11-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course is to foster students' skills of reading comprehension, literary analysis, and critical thinking and to practice and further develop their expository, argumentative, and creative writing skills. In this course we will write daily; read and analyze diverse, engaging, and award-winning contemporary young adult literature; and read and analyze high-interest nonfiction articles. Time will be spent on collegiate-level vocabulary acquisition. Grammar instruction occurs not in isolation but with the intention that students apply new grammatical knowledge to the improvement of their writing.

English 12

Grade 12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course is to foster students' skills of reading comprehension, literary analysis, and critical thinking and to practice and further develop their expository, argumentative, and creative writing skills. In this course we will write daily; read and analyze diverse, engaging, and

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award-winning contemporary young adult literature; and read and analyze high-interest nonfiction articles. Time will be spent on collegiate-level vocabulary acquisition. Grammar instruction occurs not in isolation but with the intention that students apply new grammatical knowledge to the improvement of their writing.

MATH

Middle School Math

Grades 6-8. 2 semesters. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The aim of this course is to introduce middle school students to integers, as well as increase their understanding of fractions, decimals, and percentages. The course also consists of units specific to financial literacy and budgeting, geometry with perimeter and area, and probability both simple and compound. Students practice their problem-solving skills and learn to think through how to approach problems in both mathematical and real-world contexts.

Algebra I

Grade 9-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The aim of this course is to introduce ninth-grade students to the fundamentals of Algebra 1. The course consists of learning to work within the Real Number System, solve for unknown variables in mathematical and real-world applications, and express linear functions as equations, graphs, and written statements. The course delves into the relation between fractions, rates, and slope; additionally, students practice their problem-solving skills and learn to think through how to approach problems in both mathematical and real-world contexts.

Geometry

Grades 10-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The aim of this course is to introduce ninth and tenth-grade students to the fundamentals of Geometry. The course consists of defining lines, points, rays, and segments; building off of those concepts to talk about triangles and get an introduction to trigonometry and introducing manipulation of shapes in rigid motions such as translation, rotation, and reflection. Students practice their problem-solving skills and spatial visualization skills in mathematical and real-world contexts.

Algebra II

Grades 11-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The aim of this course is to introduce eleventh and twelfth-grade students to the fundamentals of Algebra 2. The course consists of reintroducing the Real Number System, solving equations and inequalities, and working with linear and exponential functions. Students learn to manipulate numbers with exponents and roots, and they apply their problem-solving skills to work through problems in mathematical and real-world contexts.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

Physical Education

Grades 9-12. 1 semester, 0.5 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

Students will engage in a variety of physical activities designed to promote fitness, health, and well-being. This course aims to develop students' physical competence, knowledge of

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movement, and safety, as well as their ability to perform a range of activities associated with an active and healthy lifestyle.

Health Education

Grades 9-12. 1 semester, 0.5 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain and improve their physical, mental, and social well-being. This comprehensive program covers a variety of topics, encouraging students to make informed decisions about their health and wellness. Through interactive lessons, group activities, and personal reflection, students will learn to develop healthy lifestyles, recognize the importance of mental health, and understand the impact of their choices on their overall well-being.

SCIENCE

Middle School Life Science

Grades 6-8. 2 semesters. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course in life science focuses on living things and their interactions with the environment. Investigation of the various topics will help build a strong science foundation that transitions from elementary school to high school. The topics studied throughout the year include the Scientific Method, Cells, Mendel Genetics, and Plant and Animal Reproduction.

Biology

Grades 10-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course subject is designed to provide a general background for the understanding of the science of Biology. This course develops an appreciation of the beauty of life from its simplest composition at the molecular level to the global spectrum of complex issues. It discusses scientific processes, cell structure and function, cell reproduction and genetics. Issues, cell processes with protein synthesis concerns, and problems with life are also included. It also deals with the basic principles and processes in the study of biology.

Environmental Science

Grades 10-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The course provides students with opportunities to learn and practice scientific skills within the context of relevant scientific questions. Scientific inquiry skills are embedded in the direct instruction, wherein students learn to ask scientific questions, deconstruct claims, form and test hypotheses, and use logic and evidence to draw conclusions about the concepts. Case studies of current environmental challenges introduce each content lesson and acquaint students with real-life environmental issues, debates, and solutions. Lab activities reinforce critical thinking, writing, and communication skills and help students develop a deeper understanding of the nature of science. Virtual Lab activities enable students to engage in investigations that require long periods of observation at remote locations and to explore simulations that enable environmental scientists to test predictions..

Chemistry

Grades 11-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The course provides students with opportunities to learn and practice critical scientific skills within the context of relevant scientific questions. Topics include the nature of science, the importance of chemistry to society, atomic structure, bonding in matter, chemical reactions,

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redox reactions, electrochemistry, phases of matter, equilibrium and kinetics, acids and bases, thermodynamics, quantum mechanics, nuclear reactions, organic chemistry, and alternative energy.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Middle School Social Studies

Grades 6-8. 2 semesters. (This course may also be offered virtually)

Students will explore patterns of change in continuity by focusing on the expansion and the decline of civilizations, patterns of geography, and the development of political, economic, and societal systems. Students will learn about ancient civilizations in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Students cover these units with emphasis on the region's history, geography, civics, and economics. Current events are a daily part of the curriculum. Students will use critical thinking and analysis skills to examine the social, cultural, political, and technological changes in this era in American history.

US History and Geography

Grades 10-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course is to increase students' knowledge of historical events, sharpen their skills at rational discourse about American social problems in American History are raised to stimulate critical thinking skills by students. The course will consist of a basic examination of the chronological history of the United States from the 1870's Industrial Revolution to the present. Emphasis is placed on the economic, political and social developments in the United States. The study of geography is integrated in the course to provide a spatial understanding of the historical concepts taught.

World History & Geography

Grades 9-12. 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

This course explores the interactions of civilizations from the decline of ancient empires through a study of the impact of globalization. The study of how and why economic, social, political, and intellectual factors shaped and defined the history of Western and non-Western civilizations in the ancient, medieval, and early modern eras.

Government

Grades 11-12. 1 semester, 0.5 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge to fully participate in and become a responsible and active participant in American civic life. This course will consist of a solid understanding of the U.S. Constitution, the formation of the United States Government, an in depth look at the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, how individuals can influence the political process, and the role of responsible citizens of the United States.

Economic

Grades 11-12. 1 semester, 0.5 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a solid understanding of economic principles, systems, and activities in order to fully participate in the United States free enterprise system. This course focuses on the basic principles concerning production, consumption, and

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distribution of goods and services in the United States; as well as a variety of factors including geography, the federal government, economic ideas, social values, scientific discoveries, and technological innovations have on the national economy and economic policy.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Grades 11-12, 4 semesters, 2 credits.

World Language courses are taken virtually via APEX.

French I & Spanish I

The students will develop beginner level proficiency in expression and inquiry, constructing meaning, linking language and culture, acquiring knowledge and using strategies to communicate.

French II & Spanish II

The students will develop a more advanced proficiency in expression and inquiry, constructing meaning, linking language and culture, acquiring knowledge and using strategies to communicate

VPAA

Introduction To the Arts

Grades 6-8; Grades 9-10, 2 semesters, 1 credit. (This course may also be offered virtually)

The purpose of this course is to expose students to opportunities for making multi-disciplinary art projects including music, visual arts, and performance arts (improv and acting). The course will consist of a basic examination of music theory and reading as well as technical skills on a number of different instruments. Visual arts include pencil technique and the basics of stylistic and realist drawing as well as a variety of crafts projects. Emphasis is placed on expression of ideas through art as well as technical mastery over basic skills.