Thales of Miletus, c. 624 BC
Father of the Sciences and Western Philosophy
OUR MISSION

The mission of Thales (THAY-LEEZ) Academy is to provide an excellent and affordable education for students in Pre-K to 12th grades through the use of Direct Instruction and a Classical Curriculum that embodies traditional American values.

Thales provides a rigorous academic environment that fosters ethical behavior, critical thinking, virtuous leadership, lifelong learning, and truth seeking with a firm foundation in cognitive, non-cognitive, and technical skills. As a result, Thales Academy students are well prepared to succeed in higher education, career, and life while positively impacting the world around them.
ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Electives

Thales Academy offers elective courses in grades 6 through 12. These offerings vary by campus and are dependent on faculty availability, scheduling, and enrollment.

Honors

Thales Academy offers Honors options for many of the courses available in grades 9 through 12. These offerings are dependent on faculty availability, scheduling, and enrollment. The goal of Thales Academy’s Honors Program is to offer any student who exhibits exceptional ability or the promise of exceptional ability the opportunity to reach his or her maximum potential. These rigorous and demanding courses are intended to challenge students to complete robust coursework and to help those students recognize and attain earlier access to advanced opportunities. Admission to Honors level courses is acquired through teacher recommendation. Students who satisfactorily complete an Honors level course will receive 0.5 additional quality points to their standard GPA.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Thales Academy offers a number of advanced placement courses for high school students. These offerings are dependent on faculty availability, scheduling and enrollment, but may also be taken independently through school-selected blended learning programs. The goal of the Thales Academy AP Program is to offer any student who exhibits exceptional ability or the promise of exceptional ability the opportunity to reach his or her maximum potential. These rigorous and demanding courses are intended to develop students capable of completing college-level coursework and to help those students recognize and attain earlier access to advanced opportunities. In order to encourage placement in the most productive learning environment, the AP faculty recommend that students fulfill certain prerequisites before enrolling in a Thales Academy AP course. Students who are interested in taking an AP course are encouraged to discuss the possibility with AP faculty members. All AP students must complete the AP exam for their respective course. Students who satisfactorily complete an Advanced Placement course will receive 1 additional quality point to their standard GPA.
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to successfully graduate from Thales Academy, all graduation candidates must complete and satisfactorily pass the following minimum high school core requirements:

- **History** (The Near East & the Greek World, Rome & the Medieval World, Western Civilization, and American History & Government)
- **Literature** (Literature of the Near East & the Greek World, Literature of Rome & the Medieval World, Western Literature, and American Literature)
- **Mathematics** (Four high school years of mathematics coursework with a minimum requirement of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus)
- **Science** (Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics)
- **Trivium** (Research, Writing, & Rhetoric; Socratic Logic; Philosophy & Ethics; and Senior Seminar*)
- **PE & Health** (One high school year)
- **Language** (Four high school years of Spanish or Latin)
- **Electives** (Four high school years; Student's choice)

* In order to satisfactorily pass Senior Seminar, all seniors must research, write, and defend an original senior thesis prior to graduation.
## JH COURSE OF STUDY

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<td>LATIN</td>
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## HS COURSE OF STUDY

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<td>Western Civilization</td>
<td>American History &amp; Government</td>
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<td>Literature of Rome &amp; the Medieval World</td>
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<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
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<td>Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus</td>
<td>Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB</td>
<td>Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Math</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
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<td>TRIVIUM</td>
<td>Research, Writing &amp; Rhetoric</td>
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<td>Philosophy &amp; Ethics</td>
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<td>LATIN</td>
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<td>Spanish III, Spanish IV</td>
<td>Spanish IV, AP Spanish Lit</td>
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HISTORY

Ancient & Classical History – 6th Grade

This course traces the history of Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome from the rise of the world’s first civilizations in Mesopotamia circa 4,000 BC to the fall of the Roman Empire in AD 476. This course will trace the beginnings of civilization, including the inventions of farming, the wheel, and writing. From the development of small city-states into powerful empires, this course will study the growth of trade, commerce, and industry, and the cultural, religious, and philosophical innovations of the ancient Near East and Greco-Roman world, and provide an in-depth look at the great historical figures and everyday people that helped shape and define these eras. The topics covered in Ancient and Classical History will include the first farmers; the first forms of writing; the first city-states in ancient Sumer; the first nation-state, Egypt, and its great pharaohs; and the histories of ancient China, India, Africa, the Israelites, the Medes, the Persians, the Greeks, and, at the end of the year, the Romans.

Western Civilization – 7th Grade

This course details the history of Europe from the breakup of the Roman Empire and the development of European nation-states to the nations of the 21st century. It will study the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the three successor civilizations of classical Greece and Rome: Byzantium, Islam, and Western Christendom, with particular emphasis on the last. This course will examine the development and interactions of these civilizations in both peace and war. The topics covered in Western Civilization include: the end of the ancient world, the rise of Christianity, the era of Germanic migrations, the Germanic West, the Catholic Church in the West, the Carolingian Empire, the 9th century invasions, feudalism and manorialism, the Byzantine Empire, the rise of Islam, the Crusades, the development of medieval kingdoms and nation-states, class structure in the Middle Ages, the Renaissance of the high Middle Ages, the Mongol invasions, the beginnings of the Reformation, the Wars of Religion, the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment, the long 19th century, World War I and II, the Cold War, and the European Union. It will also assess the impact of these and other aspects of Europe’s origin on today’s world.
American History & Government – 8th Grade

This course contextualizes American culture as part of Western civilization. This survey course will begin with the Colonial period and the founding of the nation and will extend into the present day. Throughout the course standards, there will be some overlap of time periods to allow for teacher flexibility to address the complexity of these topics and events. The focus of this course provides students with a framework for studying political, social, economic, and cultural issues, and for analyzing the impact these issues have had on American society. In addition, American History & Government provides an in-depth look at the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students will further examine the historical beginnings of our governmental framework and analyze the intentions of our Founding Fathers.

The Near East & the Greek World – 9th Grade

This course details the history of the ancient Near East, Egypt, India, China, and Greece, from the rise of the world’s first civilizations in Mesopotamia to the conquest of the known world by Alexander the Great in 323 BC. This course will trace the developments needed for complex civilizations to arise, including the immense agricultural productivity of river valleys; the development of writing systems; the growth of trade, commerce, and industry; cultural trends and religious and philosophical innovations; and the great historical figures that helped shape and define these eras. The topics covered in this course will include the Neolithic Revolution; the birth, development, rise and fall of civilization in ancient Sumer; the unification of Egypt and the principal pharaohs of its Old, Middle, and New Kingdom epochs; the rise of territorial states in China and India; the emergence of Indo-European peoples including the Mycenaean Greeks and Hittites; the history of the Israelites according to the Hebrew Bible and archaeology; the political, commercial, and diplomatic relationships between states during the Late Bronze Age and its disintegration; the rise and fall of the Neo-Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian, and Persian Empires during the Iron Age, and the indelible mark all of these peoples have left on our world today.
Rome & the Medieval World – 10th Grade

This course traces the expansive history from the classical world through the transition into the medieval world, focusing on the civilizations of Rome, the Germanic peoples of northern Europe, and the empires of India and China. This course will examine the founding of the Roman Republic and Rome’s expansion as an empire across the Mediterranean world, the development of advanced empires in India and China, and the political, commercial, cultural, and religious innovations in and surrounding these civilizations. It will study the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the three successor civilizations of classical Rome—Byzantium, Islam, and Western Christendom, with particular emphasis on the last. The topics covered in this course include: the end of the ancient world, the rise of Christianity, the era of Germanic migrations, the Germanic West, the Catholic Church in the West, the Carolingian Empire, the 9th century invasions, feudalism and manorialism, the Byzantine Empire, the rise of Islam, the Crusades, the development of medieval kingdoms and nation-states, class structure in the Middle Ages, the Renaissance of the high Middle Ages, the Mongol invasions, and the beginnings of the Reformation.

Western Civilization – 11th Grade

This course details the history of Europe from the Renaissance to the 21st century, including World War I and II, the Cold War, and the European Union. It will also assess the impact of these and other aspects of Europe’s origin on today’s world. This course is designed to equip students with the knowledge and tools necessary to understand the mechanics and functions of the free market. Key elements include the study of scarcity, supply and demand, market structures, the role of government, national income determination, money and the role of financial institutions, economic stabilization, trade and interdependence, and other economic systems. This course will prepare students to make informed choices in their respect roles as free market consumers, producers, employees, employers, borrowers, lenders, savers, and voters.
American History & Government – 12th Grade

This course contextualizes American culture in Western civilization. This survey course begins with the Colonial period and the founding of our nation and extends through the present day. Throughout the course standards, there will be some overlap of time periods to allow for teacher flexibility to address the complexity of the issues and events. The focus of this course provides students with a framework for studying political, social, economic, and cultural issues, and for analyzing the impact these issues have had on American society. In addition, American History & Government provides an in-depth look at the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students will further examine the historical beginnings of our governmental framework and analyze the intentions of our Founding Fathers including their understandings of freedom, liberty, equality, private property, and limited government.
LITERATURE

Ancient & Classical Literature – 6th Grade

This course focuses on primary sources from the ancient world, ranging from creation stories to Greco-Roman mythology and history, Norse mythology, Aesop’s fables, and the Old and New Testaments. This course introduces students to Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece, and emphasizes reading comprehension, inference, and analytical thinking. As this course examines the strengths and weaknesses of great heroes long since past, it will provide students with the intellectual toolbox needed to resolve the great dilemmas they’ll encounter in life.

Western Literature – 7th Grade

This course studies the literature from the medieval and Renaissance periods of Western civilization, keeping pace with the material covered in 7th Grade history (Western Civilization). Material studied includes primary sources as well as secondary sources by C.S. Lewis and Roger Lancelyn Green, who wrote adaptations of famous medieval and Renaissance works from a 20th century perspective. In addition, this course covers two of Shakespeare’s plays and Mark Twain’s Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc.

American Literature – 8th Grade

This course focuses on 19th and 20th century American literature, including poetry, short stories, novels, biographies, and dramas. Readings cover a wide range of eras, genres, settings, and themes, to allow for an understanding of the American “classic” and the unique contributions of American writers to the Western canon. Significant American social issues such as slavery, civil rights, and freedom of speech, as well as the intrepid, pioneering spirit of the individual are explored in this course.
Literature of the Near East & the Greek World – 9th Grade

This course examines the works of ancient literature of the Near East and the Greek world that captured such immortal events as the Trojan War and the Exodus, with a particular focus on the authors and the historical context of these great books. Works including the Epic of Gilgamesh, Homer’s Iliad, and selections from the Hebrew Bible will be used to explore the themes, historical contexts, and styles of writing these ancient writers employed. In this course, students will develop the ability to read closely and analyze texts and trace the foundation of the Western tradition.

Literature of Rome & the Medieval World – 10th Grade

This course focuses on classical and medieval literature of the Western tradition, beginning with the Golden Age of Rome and ending with the poetry of the Renaissance. As students read through epic poems like Virgil's Aeneid or Dante’s Divine Comedy, students will explore themes such as heroism, loyalty, sacrifice, forgiveness, piety, and love, enabling them to make sense of life’s challenges and see the influence of poets and dramatists on the course of history.

Western Literature – 11th Grade

This course begins with the plays of William Shakespeare and traces the development of the Western canon into the 20th century. The course will investigate the major movements of Western literature, such as Elizabethan drama, Romanticism, and the Modernist movement while noting the range of themes, characterizations, and literary genres of the Western canon.

American Literature – 12th Grade

This course emphasizes exemplary works of great American authors, poets, thinkers, and essayists. Students will explore great works from unique American voices. Important questions will be addressed through close reading, analysis, discussion, Socratic questioning and seminar, research, and writing. American Literature captures the American spirit and personality. Voices from periods of American history ranging from the colonial period through the modern age will be examined in pursuit of defining the American dream and contextualizing its place in today’s world. The course will equip students with important non-cognitive skills to operate independently, critically, and empathetically in an ever-changing American landscape.
MATHEMATICS

Saxon Course 1
This course works primarily with numerical expressions, including decimals, order of operations, LCM, LCF, reciprocals, factors, fractions, exponents, and ratio problems. Later in the course, algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities will be covered, along with aspects of geometry, including polygons, circles, area, and volume.

Saxon Course 2
This course works primarily with numerical expressions, including order of operations, prime factorization, reciprocals, factors, fractions, exponents, and ratio problems. Later in the course, more complex algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities will be covered, along with aspects of geometry, including polygons, circles, area, volume and surface area.

Saxon Course 3/Pre-Algebra
This course integrates and distributes traditional units, giving students time to learn and practice skills throughout the year, master content, and develop higher-order thinking. Skills and concepts are built through critical thinking, helping students become more proficient and more confident problem solvers. The course focuses students directly on the math, eliminating distracters so that students can build meaningful math connections. Broad topics covered in the course include numbers and operations, measurement, Geometry, Algebra, and data analysis and probability.

Algebra I
This course covers the fundamentals of algebra and builds the algebraic foundation essential for solving increasingly complex problems. Higher-order thinking skills use real-world applications, reasoning and justification to make connections through verbal and numeric representations.
Geometry

This course details the development and structure of a mathematical system and the reasoning process that accompanies this development. There is a strong focus on students’ visualization and problem-solving skills in the application of geometric ideas. Instruction integrates synthetic and coordinate approaches to geometry and reinforces and extends knowledge of algebra.

Algebra II

This course provides a review and extension of the concepts taught in Algebra I. Topics covered will include operations with real numbers, systems of linear equations and inequalities, factoring, algebraic fractions and fractional equations, quadratic functions and some work with conic sections, exponential functions, complex numbers, and logarithms.

Pre-Calculus

This course continues the study of algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities. Order of operations, factors, fractions, and exponents will be reviewed using algebraic expressions instead of numerical. Linear functions will be introduced, including defining a function, finding solutions, and graphing simple linear equations and inequalities. Nonlinear functions and polynomials will also be covered. Aspects of geometry will be explored, such as polygons, circles, area, volume, surface area, and slant height.

Discrete Math

This course introduces students to ideas and techniques from discrete mathematics that are widely used in science and engineering. This course teaches techniques in thinking logically and mathematically and applying these techniques to solving problems. Topics include logic and proofs, sets, functions, algorithms, and mathematical reasoning.
Introduction to College Math

This course emphasizes the fundamental logic and reasoning behind critical math concepts. Math Ready students learn the context behind the procedure: why to use a certain formula or method to solve a problem. This equips students with higher-order thinking to apply math skills, functions, and concepts in varying situations. Topics will include exponentials, quadratics, equations, measurements, number operations, systems, linear functions, and statistics. Hands-on learning and appropriate technology applications will be used regularly.

AP Calculus AB

This course explores the key concepts, methods, and applications of single-variable calculus including functions, graphs, limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students will become familiar with concepts, results, and problems expressed in multiple ways including graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Technology will be used to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. Students will have the opportunity to earn AP credit for college at the completion of this course.

AP Calculus BC

This course details the key concepts, methods, and applications of single-variable calculus including all topics covered in AP Calculus AB (functions, graphs, limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus) as well as additional topics in differential and integral calculus, such as parametric, polar and vector functions, and series. Students will become familiar with concepts, results, and problems expressed in multiple ways, including graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Technology will be used to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. Students will have the opportunity to earn AP credit for college at the completion of this course.
Earth Science – 6th Grade

This course develops an awareness of Earth’s systems and humanity's interactions with those systems. Broad topics included in the course include the Earth in the Universe, Earth systems, structures, and processes, and Earth history. Understanding the awareness of earth’s systems and the human impact on those systems will be the main focus of this course. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the lithosphere, the hydrosphere, the atmosphere, and the biosphere. One of the main goals of this course is to provide the student with the means to understand the interrelatedness of Earth’s systems. Students will make inquiries and analyze data through guided laboratory investigations. Traditional laboratory experiences provide opportunities to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Although there are no fixed steps that all scientists follow, scientific investigations usually involve the collection of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and the development of explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides the background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry.
Life Science – 7th Grade

This course is an introductory level course designed to enable students to explore basic biological concepts. Broad topics included in course include structures and functions of living organisms, genetics and inheritance, disease and living organisms, ecosystems and living organisms, food webs, and biotechnology. Students focus on concepts that are shared by all living things such as cell structure, biochemical make-up, and inheritance. In addition, students examine the diversity of life as they classify the many different species of living organisms into kingdoms and other classification categories. Students also develop an understanding of ecology that relates the interdependence of living with each other and with their environment. Students will make inquires and analyze data through guided laboratory investigations. Traditional laboratory experiences provide opportunities to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Although there are no fixed steps that all scientists follow, scientific investigations usually involve collections of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry. In addition, the science process skills necessary for inquiry are acquired through active experience. The process skills support development of reasoning and problem-solving ability and are the core of scientific methodologies.

Physical Science – 8th Grade

This 8th Grade course will provide a rich knowledge base to provide a foundation for the continued study of science. Broad topics included in the course include forces and motions, matter: properties and change, and energy: conservation and transfer. The investigations are approached in a qualitative manner in keeping with the mathematical skills of the students. Traditional laboratory experiences provide opportunities to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Although there are no fixed steps that all scientists follow, scientific investigations usually involve collections of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and the development of explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry. In addition, the scientific process skills necessary for inquiry are acquired through active experience. These process skills support development of reasoning and problem-solving ability and are the core of scientific methodologies.
Earth Science – 9th Grade

This course provides students a more in-depth understanding and awareness of the Earth’s systems. Broad topics included in the course include the Earth in the Universe, Earth systems, structures, and processes, Earth history, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, climate patterns, and global and human resources. Emphasis will be placed on plate tectonics, rock and mineral formation, Earth’s resources, Earth’s origin, and cycles that circulate materials through Earth’s systems. One of the main goals of this course is to provide the student with the means to understand the principles that govern the planet. The student will make inquiries and analyze data through laboratory investigations. Through the investigation of current events, students will obtain an awareness of environmental issues and how topics discussed in class are related to world events. Traditional laboratory experiences provide opportunities to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Although there are no fixed steps that all scientists follow, scientific investigations usually involve the collection of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and the development of explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry. In addition, the scientific process skills necessary for inquiry are acquired through active experience. These process skills support development of reasoning and problem-solving ability and are the core of scientific methodologies.
Biology – 10th Grade

This course explores topics on cell biology, ecological relationships, genetics, evolution and adaptations, organismal classification systems, and biological molecules. Broad topics included in course include structures and functions of living organisms, genetics and inheritance, disease and living organisms, DNA technology, natural selection, classification of species, molecular biology, and biochemistry. This class is designed to give students an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities and labs that focus on enhancing learning of basic biological standards. Conceptual knowledge of the relationships between structure and function found in biology will be highlighted. Traditional laboratory experiences provide opportunities to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Although there are no fixed steps that all scientists follow, scientific investigations usually involve the collection of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and the development of explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry. In addition, the scientific process skills necessary for inquiry are acquired through active experience. These process skills support development of reasoning and problem-solving ability and are the core of scientific methodologies.
Chemistry – 11th Grade

This course introduces the study of the composition and properties of matter. Students will have additional problem-solving opportunities throughout the year. Laboratory experiments are incorporated throughout the curriculum to enhance and reinforce chemistry concepts, as well as to learn and develop laboratory skills. Broad topics covered include atomic structure, electron structure, bonding, chemical nomenclature, chemical quantities, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gas laws, thermochemistry, electrochemistry, solutions, and nuclear chemistry. Traditional laboratory experiences provide opportunities to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Although there are no fixed steps that all scientists follow, scientific investigations usually involve collections of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and the development of explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry. In addition, the scientific process skills necessary for inquiry are acquired through active experience. These process skills support development of reasoning and problem-solving ability and are the core of scientific methodologies.

Physics – 12th Grade

This course explores the mathematical and motion-oriented study of matter and energy. It provides an understanding of the scientific method as well as the physical principles and laws that govern kinematics, mechanics, light, sound, waves, and electromagnetism. Students are provided with various laboratory experiences that are designed to enhance and reinforce the concepts and principles studied in physics. In the academic/standard course, more time is taken to explore the concepts and tie those in mathematically. Students are expected to have taken or currently be taking Algebra II while taking physics. Traditional laboratory experiences provide opportunities to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Although there are no fixed steps that all scientists follow, scientific investigations usually involve the collection of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and the development of explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry. In addition, the scientific process skills necessary for inquiry are acquired through active experience. These process skills support development of reasoning and problem-solving ability and are the core of scientific methodologies.
AP Physics – 12th Grade

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. At the completion of the course, students will take the AP Physics 1 exam for a chance to earn AP college credit.
TRIVIUM

Grammar – 6th Grade

This course provides an in-depth study of grammar, revising and editing skills, writing techniques, and the writing process. Shurley English is designed to integrate frequency, intensity, and cross training to help students learn effectively. By the end of this course, students should have the tools they need to write and communicate effectively in Standard English.

Grammar/Formal Logic – 7th Grade

This course takes students through additional units of Shurley English, which teaches parts of speech and syntactical elements through classification. Students will know definitions of and be able to identify all classifications of words, from articles to participles. This course also guides students through other aspects of grammar such as subject-verb agreement and proper conjugation of verbs. Students will develop the style and structure of their writing through frequent writing assignments. In addition, students will begin the study of formal logic. Formal logic looks at reasoning in the abstract and focuses primarily on deductive reasoning, dealing with types of arguments in which the conclusion must be true if premises used to support it are true, ensuring that arguments are not only valid but also true. Formal logic studies how an argument is built (the form and structure of an argument), rather than what an argument is about (the content or substance of an argument).

Formal Logic/Informal Fallacies – 8th Grade

This course continues the study of formal logic and introduces logical fallacies. A logical fallacy is an occurrence of poor or incorrect reasoning that occurs by means of irrelevance, presumption, or a lack of clarity. This course also discusses the content of argumentation and basic rhetorical strategies through the examination of both classic and modern day examples.
Research, Writing, & Rhetoric – 9th Grade

This course sharpens students’ written communication skills and knowledge of good research techniques across all core academic disciplines. Students review and practice the elements of effective writing for English, history, science and math courses; develop advanced vocabulary; and practice citation and documentation of source material in a variety of formats. This course places emphasis on how the audience, purpose, and organization of one’s writing can vary from one genre to the next, and thus equips students with the skills they need to successfully navigate differing requirements in their high school and college careers. In addition, this course is designed to enrich effectiveness of verbal and nonverbal communication and overall public speaking abilities. Students will study speech communication as a process that includes speaking, listening, and perception by creating, delivering, and evaluating public speaking.

Socratic Logic – 10th Grade

This course teaches elements of logic using the Socratic Method, Platonic questions, and Aristotelian principles. It uses Socrates as the ideal teacher for the beginner and the Socratic Method as the ideal method of logical reasoning. This course presents a complete system of classical Aristotelian logic, the logic of ordinary language, and the logic of the four language arts: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Philosophy & Ethics – 11th Grade

This course places primary emphasis on the perennial problems in philosophy rather than on particular schools of thought. Students read selections from the Western tradition that help them to discover that philosophical questions, regardless of their age, remain relevant to students in the 21st century. In addition, the course examines historical philosophers’ views on ethics and the ethical systems they formulated in light of the contexts in which they wrote. Through this course, students understand history through the moral ideologies that have and continue to influence the actions of mankind.
Senior Seminar – 12th Grade

This course is the capstone of the classical curriculum, combining all previous skills and knowledge to develop original conclusions through logical reasoning and analysis. Seniors study a particular course topic (varies year to year) in depth and generate an original 15–25 page thesis on a subject of their choice relating to the seminar content. Students receive one-on-one advising from a faculty member throughout the writing process. Following completion of the thesis, students must defend their work before a faculty panel. This course is rigorous but provides an excellent preparation for college level work. In addition, this course provides practical preparation for post-secondary education. Students receive personalized advising on researching and applying to colleges, writing personal statements, submitting financial aid forms, applying for scholarships and exploring careers and other post-secondary options. Students also strengthen and develop post-secondary life skills with units regarding campus life, post-secondary academic skills, college issues, and financial education. This course is a comprehensive course for all 12th Grade Thales Academy students and a passing grade is mandatory to meet graduation requirements.
LATIN

Introduction to Latin – 6th Grade
This course introduces students to the classical Latin language and Roman civilization. Students will gain proficiency in language study as they master the rigors of Latin pronunciation, grammar, and translation. Students will learn and retain new vocabulary as they work to reinforce knowledge of previous concepts and skills, while gaining proficiency in the translation of Latin texts by applying new grammatical and syntactical concepts. They will also develop an appreciation for classical civilization, the contributions of Rome to world history and the present day, and its foundational role in Western civilization.

Latin 1A – 7th Grade
This course continues to introduce students to the Latin classical language and Roman civilization. Students will gain proficiency in language study as they master the rigors of Latin pronunciation, grammar, and translation. Students will learn and retain new vocabulary as they work to reinforce knowledge of previous concepts and skills, while gaining proficiency in the translation of Latin texts by applying new grammatical and syntactical concepts. They will also develop an appreciation for classical civilization, the contributions of Rome to world history and the present day, and its foundational role in Western civilization.

Latin 1B – 8th Grade
This course continues to introduce the Latin classical language and Roman civilization. Students will gain proficiency in language study as they master the rigors of Latin pronunciation, grammar, and translation. Students will learn and retain new vocabulary as they work to reinforce knowledge of previous concepts and skills, while gaining proficiency in the translation of Latin texts by applying new grammatical and syntactical concepts. They will also develop an appreciation for classical civilization, the contributions of Rome to world history and the present day, and its foundational role in Western civilization. During 3rd quarter, students will be responsible for translating material and will be required to take the National Latin Exam for their level.
**Latin II – 9th Grade**

This course allows students to gain proficiency in language study as they master the rigors of Latin pronunciation, grammar, and translation. Students will learn and retain new vocabulary as they work to reinforce knowledge of previous concepts and skills, while gaining proficiency in the translation of Latin texts by applying new grammatical and syntactical concepts. They will also develop an appreciation for classical civilization, the contributions of Rome to world history and the present day, and its foundational role in Western civilization. More emphasis will be placed on reading the language as students read historical accounts of daily life as well as cultural themes and various lessons on the fall of the Roman Republic and the longevity of the Roman Empire. During the 3rd quarter, students will be required to take the National Latin Exam – Level II.

**Latin III – 10th Grade**

This course further allows students to gain greater proficiency in language study as they master the rigors of Latin pronunciation, grammar, and translation. Students will learn and retain new vocabulary as they work to reinforce knowledge of previous concepts and skills, while gaining proficiency in the translation of Latin texts by applying new grammatical and syntactical concepts. They will also develop an appreciation for classical civilization, the contributions of Rome to world history and the present day, and its foundational role in Western civilization. During 3rd quarter, students will be required to take the National Latin Exam – Level III.

**Latin IV – 11th Grade**

This course provides greater proficiency in language study as they master the rigors of Latin pronunciation, grammar, and translation. Students will learn and retain new vocabulary as they work to reinforce knowledge of previous concepts and skills, while gaining proficiency in the translation of Latin texts by applying new grammatical and syntactical concepts. Students will focus on the literature, especially poetry and historical texts while constantly reviewing basic Latin grammar. Authors will include Ovid, Horace, Catullus, Cicero and Caesar. During 3rd quarter, students will be required to take the National Latin Exam – Level III/IV Poetry.
AP Latin – 12th Grade

This course focuses on the in-depth study of selections from two of the greatest works in Latin literature: Vergil's Aeneid and Caesar's Gallic War. The course requires students to translate the readings and places these texts in a meaningful context, which helps develop critical, historical, and literary sensitivities. Throughout the course, students consider themes in the context of ancient literature and bring these works to life through classroom discussions, debates, and presentations. Additional English readings from both of these works help place the Latin readings in a significant context. At the completion of the course, students have the opportunity to take the AP Latin exam to earn AP college credit.
PE, HEALTH, & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

PE, Health, & Digital Citizenship – 6th Grade

Students in 6th Grade receive Physical Education, Health, and Digital Citizenship instruction every week. PE focuses on a variety of activities to improve psychomotor (physical), cognitive (knowledge) and affective (personal/social behavior) abilities. Health encourages students to take responsibility for their mental, physical, and emotional well-being, and thereby promotes the flourishing of the complete person. Digital Citizenship introduces students to the 24/7 social nature of digital media and technologies. Students gain basic technical vocabulary and knowledge, learn how to conduct effective and efficient online searches, learn strategies for guarding against identity theft and scams, and learn about the difference between being a passive bystander versus a brave up-stander in cyberbullying situations. Students are also introduced to copyright and fair use policies, and the rights they have as creators.

PE, Health, & Digital Citizenship – 7th Grade

Students in 7th Grade receive Physical Education, Health, and Digital Citizenship instruction every week. PE focuses on a variety of activities throughout the course to improve psychomotor (physical), cognitive (knowledge) and affective (personal/social behavior) abilities. Health encourages students to take responsibility for their mental, physical, and emotional well-being, and thereby promotes the flourishing of the complete person. In Digital Citizenship, students review their media habits and the array of media they use on a weekly basis, and reflect on their responsibilities as creators and consumers of creative work. While acknowledging the benefits of online communication and messaging, students learn how to handle situations or online behavior that may make them feel uncomfortable. Students learn that presenting themselves in different ways online carries both benefits and risks. Students analyze a “Dress Up Your Avatar” feature of a virtual world for kids for evidence of stereotypes about boys and girls.
PE, Health, & Digital Citizenship – 8th Grade

Students in 8th Grade receive Physical Education, Health, and Digital Citizenship instruction every week. PE focuses on a variety of activities throughout the course to improve psychomotor (physical), cognitive (knowledge) and affective (personal/social behavior) abilities. Health encourages students to take responsibility for their mental, physical, and emotional well-being, and thereby promotes the flourishing of the complete person. In Digital Citizenship, students realize they have a digital footprint and that this information can be searched, copied and passed on, but that they can take some control based on what they post online. Students learn that anyone can publish on the Web, so not all sites are equally trustworthy. Students draw connections between young teens’ perceptions of digital drama and stereotypes of men and women on reality TV, and distinguish good-natured teasing from cyber bullying. Students expand their understanding of fair use, apply it to case studies, and create an original work of fair use.

PE & Health – 9th Grade

This course encourages students to take responsibility for their mental, physical, and emotional well-being, and thereby promote the flourishing of the complete person. Students use contemporary textbooks to study nutrition, personal responsibility, and physical fitness, alongside original source texts from ancient, medieval, and modern eras on issues relating to these topics. Students are encouraged to think philosophically on a wide range of issues and utilize concepts learned in the classroom to analyze challenges they face outside of school. In addition, students will complete a variety of activities throughout the course to improve their psychomotor (physical), cognitive (knowledge) and affective (personal/social behavior) abilities.
SPANISH ELECTIVES

Introduction to Spanish – 6th Grade
This elective course bridges Spanish learned in the primary school context to Spanish learning in a secondary setting. Introductory Spanish will focus on basic vocabulary acquisition with expansion into simple sentence construction. There is an emphasis on proper Spanish pronunciation and conversation. This course will also integrate cultural knowledge about Spanish-speaking nations. Students in this course will apply their knowledge in conversation, brief writings, and projects. This course is recommended to precede Spanish 1A. This is a semester-long course.

Spanish 1A – 7th Grade
This elective course focuses on culture and beginning level Spanish expressions, developing writing competencies through listening, speaking, and reading. Concepts include the alphabet, calendar, cognates, classroom objects, school subjects, foods, commands, basic verb conjugations, numbers, colors, greetings, and a basic understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. This preparatory course is highly recommended for students who intend to take high school Spanish. This is a semester-long course.

Spanish 1B – 8th Grade
This elective course builds on the concepts covered in Spanish 1A. This course focuses on culture and beginning level Spanish expressions, developing competencies through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Concepts include pastimes, family and home vocabulary, verb conjugations, personal descriptions, comparisons, and a basic understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. This preparatory course is highly recommended for students who intend to take high school Spanish. This is a semester-long course. Following the satisfactory completion of Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B, students may move directly into Spanish II.
Spanish I – 9th Grade

This elective course is intended for students who did not satisfactorily complete Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B. This course introduces the study of the Spanish language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. This course strives to help the learner acquire knowledge by integrating the four basic skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. By the end of this course, students will have acquired skills in basic communication, vocabulary, and grammar, and will have a beginning knowledge of Hispanic culture. Instruction will gradually change from English to Spanish and by midyear students will be expected to understand basic Spanish instructions for assignments and classroom tasks. This is a year-long course.

Spanish II – 9th or 10th Grade

This elective course helps the student gain an understanding of the Spanish language by integrating the four basic skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The use and immersion of Spanish in the classroom will be the primary goal. An effort to use the language at all times is expected. By the end of this course, students will have solidified their understanding of Spanish I key vocabulary and sentence structures necessary for limited personal communication, as well as learned how to communicate in past, future, and perfect tenses. This is a year-long course.

Spanish III – 10th or 11th Grade

This elective course continues the study of the spoken and written language. This fast-paced course includes advanced grammar structures, vocabulary, and extensive listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture activities. Instruction and assessment are almost entirely in Spanish and students are expected to communicate in Spanish. This is a year-long course.

Spanish IV – 11th or 12th Grade

This elective course further continues the study of spoken and written language while expanding cultural and literary knowledge of the Spanish language. This fast-paced course includes advanced grammar reviews while learning the basics of literary analysis in Spanish. There are also extensive listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural activities. Instruction and assessment are almost entirely in Spanish and students are expected to communicate in Spanish. This is a year-long course.
AP Spanish Literature – 12th Grade

This course details a study of spoken and written language in Spanish and builds on the literary analysis skills learned in Spanish IV while expanding vocabulary and reading a variety of texts in Spanish. Students will be required to communicate, write extensively, and read a large body of texts in Spanish. Multiple AP practice assessments will be given throughout the year. Instruction and assessment are entirely in Spanish. This is a year-long course. Following the completion of the course, students have the opportunity to take the AP Spanish Literature exam to earn AP college credit.
LUDDY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVE

Exploratory STEM – 8th Grade

This elective course gives students an opportunity to experience how concepts and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) can be used to solve problems in real world situations. It also provides students an opportunity to explore various STEM careers and educational options in secondary and post-secondary academic paths.

Fundamentals of Engineering: Design – 9th–11th Grade

This elective course explores and applies the skills, concepts, and fundamental principles of engineering. Students learn the basics of various technological systems and engineering processes in engineering career fields. Instructors reinforce the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture ideas. The design process is introduced to solve problems and understand the influence of creative and innovative design on daily life. Students learn traditional drafting techniques as well as the industry-standard CAD software package, SolidWorks, to create images of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.

Fundamentals of Engineering: Graphical Communication – 9th–11th Grade

This course explores various technological systems and engineering processes and exposes students to major concepts typically covered in a post-secondary engineering course of study. Topics include mechanisms, energy, statics, materials, and kinematics. Students develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions to various challenges, document their work, and communicate solutions. Students utilize CAD (SolidWorks) and physical and virtual modeling concepts to construct, test, collect, and report data.
Fundamentals of Engineering: Engineering Specialties – 9th–11th Grade

This course details various technological systems and engineering processes in related career fields by studying various questions: How are things made? What processes go into creating products? Is the process for making a water bottle the same as it is for a musical instrument? How do assembly lines work? How has automation changed the face of manufacturing? While students discover the answers to these questions, they learn about the history of manufacturing, robotics and automation, manufacturing processes, computer modeling, manufacturing equipment, and flexible manufacturing systems. Students utilize CAD (SolidWorks) and physical and virtual modeling concepts to construct, test, collect, and report data.

Engineering Design Project or Apprenticeship – 12th Grade

Students must complete Fundamentals of Engineering: Design prior to enrolling in this course. This course provides students a choice of one of two tracks. Track 1 prepares students for engineering undergraduate programs. Students in Track 1 develop and complete a year-long project involving design, fabrication, and testing of a device or machine encompassing all skills and knowledge that they have learned in order to meaningfully impact the world around them. Track 2 allows students to complete an industrial apprenticeship through the North Carolina Triangle Apprenticeship Program (NCTAP). Following acceptance to NCTAP, students in Track 2 attend Thales Academy half day and participate in a paid industrial apprenticeship half day. The NCTAP program continues following high school graduation. See www.nctap.org for more information.
GENERAL ELECTIVES

Elective offerings vary by campus and are dependent on faculty availability, scheduling, and enrollment.

Performing Arts – 6th–8th Grade

This course develops and enhances skills necessary to produce successful vocal music and dramatic performances as individuals and ensembles. Musically, this course focuses on proper vocal technique through rehearsal and performance of a diverse repertoire. Theatrically, this course focuses on acquiring acting techniques and strategies, and provides exposure to a variety of dramatic exercises. Community performances are held throughout the term, and the semester culminates with a concert and play.

Band – 6th–8th Grade

This elective course is open to all interested students. The degrees of difficulty for each grade level will vary according to the abilities of each class as a whole. During the year-long elective, emphasis is placed on providing a strong fundamental approach to each student’s instrument. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality, and training in music literacy. Concert performances are mandatory. There is no prerequisite for this class.

Advanced Band – 8th–12th Grade

This course is open to all 8th–12th Grade students who have successfully completed Intermediate Band or two years of band or private lessons elsewhere. This year-long elective introduces “comprehensive musicianship” through musical performance of challenging and varied literature with skills and concepts from the previous year being developed and expanded upon. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance, and improve ensemble performance skills through musical expression and technical accuracy. Concert performances are mandatory.
**Chorus – 6th–8th Grade**

This elective course is open to all interested students. The degrees of difficulty for each grade level will vary according to the abilities of each class as a whole. Students learn, memorize, and perform a variety of choral styles appropriate to the grade level and developmental ability. Skills covered include simple to complex rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic patterns through sight-singing and performance literature; application of musical elements and theory to all choral literature; creation of a positive learning environment by working as a group towards a common goal; and basic vocal/choral skills such as appropriate singing posture, vowel and consonant placements, diction, breath support, choral tone, and resonance.

**Art – 6th–8th Grade**

This elective course is open to all interested students. The degrees of difficulty for each grade level will vary according to the abilities of each class as a whole. This course focuses on a variety of art media to build a strong foundation and understanding of art elements, principles of design, art history, and art theory. Lessons focus on engaging a student’s imagination, enhancing critical thinking skills, and developing technical and perceptual skills. Students are introduced to artists and art movements from history with follow-up assignments that provide the opportunity to interpret style and themes using their own imagery.

**Personal Fitness – 6th–12th Grade**

This course teaches basic concepts of fitness and methods of implementation to develop a personal fitness plan. Specifically, students implement fitness concepts and principles to improve cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Students are required to dress out for this course.
Personal Fitness & American Military History – 9th–12th Grade

This course offers students an opportunity to benefit from the physical activity of a fitness class while simultaneously studying American military history. A normal week includes three days of Personal Fitness activity and two days of instruction and discussion on American Military History. Personal Fitness is a physically rigorous course that focuses on developing full-body strength, endurance and agility. Students regularly take fitness tests in order to assess their development in a one-lap sprint, one-mile run, pull-ups, push-ups, and sit-ups. The American Military History portion of the class rotates on a four year cycle that will study early American, modern American, American Naval, and World War II military history. This portion of the class involves lecture, discussion, weekly readings and an occasional paper.

Curriculum Assistance – 6th–8th Grade

This course is designed to meet the needs of students who seek a quiet environment to individually complete homework assignments. This is helpful for students who devote large amounts of time to after-school activities or for those who are acclimating to Thales Academy’s rigorous course loads. Students are expected to arrive to class with individual work to complete; Curriculum Assistance is not a place for group or partner collaboration.

Studio Art – 9th–12th Grade

This course introduces students to the foundation of art through a sequential study of artistic fundamentals, art media, and art history. Students are encouraged to explore principles, theories, and concepts through hands-on practice and projects. A wide range of media are used to obtain historical and cultural knowledge of artistic movements including painting, drawing, etching, printing, sculpting, and more.
Economics in Action – 10th–12th Grade

This semester-long course introduces students to the body of thought known as free market economics. Students learn that economics is the study of human action. Economic laws and theory ranging from scarcity, choice, and supply and demand to monetary theory and understanding the cause of economic booms and busts can all be derived from human action. A solid understanding of economics empowers students to understand the nature and causes of current issues and events that affect the world daily.

Entrepreneurship – 10th–12th Grade

This semester-long course introduces students to the rewards and risks of entrepreneurship. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of skills needed to plan, organize, manage, and finance a small business. Skills in communication, technical writing, mathematics, research, and problem-solving are reinforced as each student prepares his/her own entrepreneurial plan.

Science Olympiad – 9th–12th Grade

This course allows students to participate in Science Olympiad. Science Olympiad competitions include a series of 23 team events in each division (Division B is middle school; Division C is high school). Each year, portions of the events are rotated to reflect the ever-changing nature of genetics, Earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering, and technology. By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to compete. Emphasis is placed on active, hands-on, group participation. Through Science Olympiad, students, teachers, parents, principals, and business leaders bond together and work toward a shared goal. Competitions are held annually at the regional, state, and national levels.

Junior Classical League – 9th–12th Grade

This course allows students to participate in Junior Classical League (JCL). JCL's purpose is to encourage an appreciation for and interest in the languages, literature, and cultures of ancient Greece and Rome and to impart an understanding of the debt of our own culture to that of Classical antiquity.
College Preparedness – 10th Grade
This course allows students to determine interests and personality traits to make more informed educational and career choices. Throughout this class, the instructor advises students and parents on high school programs and academic curricula in preparation for college applications and admissions. Students work extensively on college admissions test (SAT/ACT) preparation, learning about the test format, directions, and scoring, and test-taking strategies for success.

College Admissions 101 – 11th Grade
This course allows students to prepare for the college application process. Students navigate college admissions resources, research college programs, and develop application essays. This course serves as a critical resource during the college application process.

AP Blended Learning – 10th–12th Grade
AP courses provide students with an opportunity to study a subject in greater depth and provide insight into college coursework while building the skills students need for the college classroom. Students may elect to take AP courses online individually through school-selected third party providers during normal school day hours. Following the completion of the course, students may opt to take the AP exam for a chance to qualify for AP college credit.

Individualized Blending Learning – 11th–12th Grade
This course is a formal education program in which students may take a variety of courses online through a school-selected third party provider during the regular school day. This program allows students to access a wider variety of coursework than typically offered through the standard Thales Academy curriculum.
Psychology – 10th–12th Grade

This course engages students in the understanding and articulation of psychology as a science. Students are introduced to psychology, with a focus on the scientific study of human development, learning, motivation, and personality. It emphasizes the empirical examination of behavior and mental processes and infuses perspectives fostering students’ growth, development, and understanding of cultural diversity. Students of psychology acquire information from a variety of sources, use information as they make decisions and evaluations, and solve problems. The study of psychology enables students to recognize and cope with uncertainty and ambiguity in human behavior.