

Los Gatos High School

2018-2019 Course Descriptions for the Class of 2022



ENGLISH

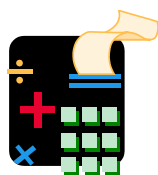
Two freshman English courses provide the opportunity for students to work at their demonstrated level of ability. The state standards in English are addressed at each level. **Summer reading is required at each level and must be completed prior to the first day of school.** Four years of English are required for graduation.

P-English 9 (course #E100B) is a college-preparatory course in literature, composition, grammar, and language. Students study literary forms of the short story, the novel, drama, and poetry. The course emphasizes development of composition skills in expository, narrative, and descriptive writing. Grammar fundamentals, including syntax, coordination, and subordination are an integral part of this course, as are spelling and vocabulary development.

Required summer reading for P-English 9: *Breaking Through* by Francisco Jimenez.

P-English 9 H (course #E100H) is a college-preparatory honors course designed for students who have demonstrated excellence in English. English 9 Honors provides in-depth study and analysis of literature and the writing of composition with particular emphasis on exposition. Extensive outside reading, vocabulary, spelling, usage, sentence patterns, and the development of critical thinking skills augment the curriculum. Extensive summer reading is required. Recommended **Prerequisite:** **In the eighth grade English class, a student should earn an "A-" or higher for the first semester. There is an optional placement test given at Los Gatos High School for students who desire feedback regarding the decision to enroll in the class.**

Required summer reading for P-English 9H: In addition to reading *Breaking Through* by Francisco Jimenez, students should read either *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok or *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. The book not read over the summer will be required reading at the start of the fall semester.



MATHEMATICS

Four freshman math levels provide the opportunity for students to work at their demonstrated level of ability. The state-mandated math competencies are taught at all levels. Two years of math are required for graduation.

Algebra A (course #M092B) In Algebra A and Algebra B, students will learn all of the Algebra 1 content standards over the course of two years. This additional time allows for more review of Pre-Algebra content and extra time to practice new Algebra 1 skills. Algebra 1 is the foundation for all future mathematics courses so it is important to ensure complete understanding of the content before moving on. This course gives students the time to do that. Students will earn college prep credit for Algebra 1 upon successful completion of both Algebra A and B. **Algebra A and B is recommended for students who earned below a C- in 8th grade math.**

P-Algebra 1 (course #M100B) is a college prep course designed to give students a foundation for all future mathematics courses. This course covers key algebra concepts and builds the algebraic foundation essential for students to solve increasingly complex problems. Students will explore: foundations of Algebra, solving equations and inequalities, an introduction to functions, linear functions, system of equation and inequalities, exponents, polynomials and factoring, quadratic functions and equations, radical expressions and equations, and an introduction to data analysis and probability. Algebra 1 focuses on algebraic thinking and multiple representations - verbal, numerical, symbolic, and graphical. **Prerequisite:** **Successful completion of 8th grade math without meeting the prerequisites for Geometry. R.J. Fisher students currently enrolled in Math 8CC will matriculate to Algebra 1. (C- or higher in 8th grade math recommended.)**

P-Geometry (course #M200B) is a college prep course in which students study plane and geometric figures and parallel lines. The development of logical systems of reasoning including geometric proofs is taught. Students study triangles, other polygons, circles, areas, volumes, and coordinate geometry. **Prerequisites:** **To qualify for this class, a student must earn a C- or higher in Algebra 1. (B- or higher in Algebra 1 is recommended.)**

P-Algebra 2 Accelerated (course #M350B) students study linear functions and relations, inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, quadratic functions and factoring, polynomials and polynomial functions, rational exponents and radical functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, quadratic relations and conic sections, counting methods and probability, data analysis and statistics, and an introduction to trigonometry. ***Prerequisites: B or higher in Algebra 1, C- or higher in Geometry (B- or higher is recommended.)***



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Two years of P.E. credit are required for graduation. All freshman students must be enrolled in Health and Fitness. The second year of P.E. credit may be fulfilled in any other school year.

Health and Fitness (course #F509B) is designed to help develop the student physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. The student is expected to participate in physical and learning activities that assist in meeting these goals. The experiences presented in the course are designed to build rapport among the students and help students develop knowledge, understanding, habits, attitudes and ideals necessary to maintain physical, mental, and emotional health. Two years (four semesters) of P.E. credit are required for graduation. All freshman students must be enrolled in Health and Fitness. The second year of P.E. credit may be fulfilled in any other school year.



SCIENCE

Three freshman science levels provide the opportunity for students to work at their demonstrated level of ability. Two years of science are required for graduation.

P-Earth/Space Science (ESS) (course #Q100B) is a hands-on, engaging college-preparatory course in physical science that addresses a broad range of topics and is designed to prepare students for success in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and other advanced science courses at LGHS. The ESS course introduces students to main principles of the physical sciences through an overview of chemistry, astronomy, cosmology, meteorology, oceanography, geology, and nuclear science. Students can set themselves up for success along the science pathway at LGHS by starting with the ESS course. Earth/Space Science gives students opportunities to develop and practice organizational, test-taking and critical thinking skills that contribute to success throughout high school through participation in challenging interdisciplinary labs and activities. The curriculum provides students with an overview of high school sciences and exposure to foundational lab skills and techniques in the context of real-world examples and experiences.

P-Biology (course #200B) is a fast-paced, critical thinking college-preparatory laboratory course in life science, traditionally taught at the sophomore level and beyond that is open to freshmen. Only students who have strong reading, writing and analytical skills, as well as strong organizational and study habits, should attempt Biology as freshmen. The Biology course has two major aims: the first is to ensure that students become knowledgeable about many biological facts and the concepts that are built on them, and the second is to understand what science is and the inter-disciplinary nature of it. Students participate in a variety of laboratory activities throughout this course and continue to develop solid skills in scientific procedure as well as critical thinking. Specific areas covered in Biology include ecology, population dynamics, cells, biochemistry, reproduction, genetics, evolution, plant and animal structure and function, and biotechnology. ***Prerequisite: B- or higher in 8th grade science, B- or higher in Algebra 1.***

P-Biology Honors (course #Q201H) is a freshman level honors course for which a placement test is required as part of the entrance process. The Biology Honors course is heavily laboratory-oriented with a high-level critical thinking emphasis. Biology Honors primarily focuses on molecular biology but also covers ecology, genetics, bioethics, anatomy, evolution, and a variety of other specialized sub-fields. Mostly, the class is dedicated to learning about human beings and the biologic world humans live in. In this course, students expand their thinking ability and knowledge by conducting laboratory experiments (including long-term projects), contributing to class discussions, reading and answering questions from textbooks, watching science videos, and taking part in interactive lectures and class activities. Much of the reading for this course is at a 12th grade level or above. Students who take Biology Honors will be asked to complete laboratory and observational work during tutorial and after school. Completing daily homework assignments of approximately one hour is mandatory. ***Prerequisites: A or higher in Algebra 1. A or higher in eighth grade science; a score of 25 out of 40 on the multiple choice portion and a score of 3 of 5 on the essay portion of the Bio H placement exam.***

ACADEMIC COURSE OPTIONS

Your ninth grade electives may be chosen from any of the courses listed within social studies, world language, applied arts, or visual/performing arts. You should think carefully before choosing. All courses are year-long. Base your elective choices on interest and on the knowledge of your time commitment to other classes, sports, and extra-curricular activities.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Three years of Social Studies are required for graduation. Courses taken during the freshman year count as academic electives but do not apply towards the 30 units required for graduation.

P-History in Film (course #S500B) is designed to enrich the historical experience through the viewing and evaluation of movies and documentaries dealing with events in European history ranging from the horrors of the Black Death to world exploration and conquest, from the Renaissance to Communism, and everything in between. Students will analyze particular films in relation to their accuracy, popular appeal, and effects on our perception of history. This class is open to all students, but it is especially helpful for students preparing to take European History AP. Almost all work will be completed in class.

WORLD LANGUAGES



World Language is not required for graduation; however, most colleges require a minimum of two years of study in the same world language. If you select a first year world language as an elective, list an alternate language in “Elective Alternates” that you are willing to take if your first choice is not available. If no alternate language is listed, it will be assumed that you wish to wait until the sophomore year to take a world language if your first choice is unavailable. You will be placed in a non-language elective. (Consider a world language as a freshman only if you are earning A’s and B’s in academic subjects.)

P-French 1 (course #L201B) is an exciting course designed for students with limited or no experience with the French language. This course will explore Francophone cultures and students will begin to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a culturally appropriate context. At the end of this academic course, students will be able to converse with others in French by using appropriate greetings and talking about school subjects, family and friends, foods and cultural activities, and much more! **Prerequisite: none**

P-French 2 (course #L202B) students will continue to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Longer target language readings are introduced and students will begin to compose short essays. At the end of this academic course, some of the topics on which the students will be able to converse include: technology, art, travel, and cuisine. **Prerequisite: B or higher in 8th grade French 1.**

P-Japanese 1 (course #L501B) is a course designed to introduce and develop the basics of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Japanese and to prepare students for global citizenship. Students learn to understand and talk about a variety of topics, including self, family, likes and dislikes, school, food, hobbies, and activities. Emphasis in the first semester is on learning to recognize the symbols in the hiragana syllabary system and on language acquisition and listening comprehension rather than production. By the second semester, students begin to write paragraphs and short stories, make oral presentations, participate in dialogues, and recognize and write simple kanji. Hands-on cultural experiences are integrated throughout the year, and technology is a key component of the course. **Prerequisite: none**

P-Japanese 2 (course #L502B) is the continuation of the beginning level course in Japanese. The focus of the course is on the further development of written and oral communication skills and intermediate grammatical patterns. Students are expected to acquire proficiency in reading and writing katakana and approximately 200 kanji. Communication activities, which require active participation in pairs or groups continue to be an integral part of the course, but increased emphasis is placed on applying reading and writing skills, in both the computer lab and the classroom. The study of Japanese cultural practices, products, and perspectives is integrated throughout the curriculum. **Prerequisite: Teacher approval.**

P-Spanish 1 (course #L601B) is designed to prepare students for real-world language use and global citizenship. The course introduces students to the grammar, structures, and vocabulary of the Spanish language through a variety of activities designed to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Cultural study and hands-on experiences are integrated throughout the course, and technology is also an integral part of the classroom instruction and practice. One essential component of student success in the course is oral participation. **Prerequisite: none**

P-Spanish 2 (course #L602B) builds on the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills developed in Spanish 1. Students learn to use and understand more complex and sophisticated grammar structures. Oral communication continues to be an integral part of the course along with an increased emphasis on reading and writing skills. Cultural study is integrated throughout the course. Students regularly use a variety of technical, collaborative, and independent methods for practice and cultural research. **Prerequisite: B or higher in 8th grade Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 placement test.**

ADDITIONAL COURSE OPTIONS

APPLIED ARTS

P-Clothing/Fashion Design 1 (course #A205B) is a year-length course for students who want to learn how to make their own clothing. The class is taught on a small group and individual basis, depending on the skill level of the student. Students will learn how to operate a sewing machine, use a pattern, basic construction skills and the care and purchase of fabrics.

International Cuisine and Hospitality 1 (course #A211B) is a class designed to acquaint students with fundamental and advanced cooking skills, equipment, ingredients, and product standards information. Emphasis first semester is placed on nutrition and wise consumer practices in the selection and preparation of foods. Emphasis second semester is on developing skills in the preparation of full course meals. Foods of many cultural varieties will be prepared during the year. There will be an individual project each semester. Students will be eligible to join Skills USA (VICA Club) and compete in local culinary competitions.

P-Introduction to Engineering Design (course #A350B) is a year-length course based on Project Lead the Way curriculum (<http://www.pltw.org/>). Through hands-on projects, students apply engineering standards and document their work. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to help them design solutions to solve proposed problems, document their work using an engineer's notebook, and communicate solutions to peers and members of the professional community.

Introduction to Fashion Style and Merchandising (course #A251B) is a year-long project-based course designed for students interested in the fashion industry. Topics include apparel and accessories terminology, body imagery, color theory, basic cosmetology, merchandise positioning, brand imagery and characteristics of fashion apparel and accessories. The course will also include a fashion illustration component and an internship component where students will gain an understanding of the retail industry.

P-Leadership (course #A701B) is a year-long course for students who are currently school leaders or hope to take on leadership positions at LGHS. The curriculum will focus on such leadership skills as organization, event planning, presentation skills, etc. Guest speakers will give workshops on running meetings, marketing ideas, and motivating constituents. Ongoing projects will revolve around student body and related school activities such as talent shows, spirit weeks, fund raising, dances, campus clean-up days, and more. This course may be repeated for credit.

Freshmen interested in joining Leadership must follow the guidelines specified in the Leadership Application Packet. These packets may be obtained at the "8th Grade Student-Parent Welcome Night" or from the Guidance Office. Interested students should list Leadership as an elective alternative on the Freshman Course Request Sheet, and will be moved into the class once they have been selected.

Metals/Manufacturing 1 (course #A401B) is a year-length introductory course in the field of metalworking. This course gives students an understanding of safety procedures, tools, equipment, materials, techniques, and consumption of metal products. Five major areas of practical experience for students include oxyacetylene welding, electric arc welding, parallel line sheet metal development, heat-treating of steel and ornamental wrought iron.

Successful completion of three years of Metals/Manufacturing can be used as one year of physical science to meet high school graduation requirements.

P-Multimedia Journalism 1 (course #A175B) introduces students to a wide array of multimedia fields including graphic design, video production, computer animation, broadcast journalism, videogame design, and web design. Emphasis is placed on teaching students the fundamental principles of artistic composition in each field and the technical knowledge necessary to effectively use a variety of multimedia software and hardware systems. These include studio lighting, visual recording and audio systems, Adobe InDesign, Page Maker, Photoshop, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Flash 8, Maya, and Dreamweaver. Class time will primarily be spent on project development and practice. After completing introductory units within each field, students will have the opportunity to specialize in a specific area to create a substantial final project to develop their portfolio.

Music Production (course #P050B) is for students who are interested in creating and recording original music and have some prior background in instrumental and/or vocal music. We will explore the elements of songs (music and lyrics) that make them impactful and memorable. We will use our new understanding to write our own songs. In the latter portion of the course, we will explore the use of technology in the creation of music. The culminating experience of the course will be to record and produce a musical album of original songs.

P-Robotics (course #A380B) is a year-long course designed for students who would like to learn fundamentals of robotics as well as serve on the LGHS Robotics Team. Core concepts including programming, computer-aided design (CAD), and machining will be covered. Students will work collaboratively on projects, some small and large, and will prepare for robotics competition in the spring.

P-Stage Technology/Design (course #A619B) is a year-long course designed to introduce students to the basics of stagecraft and theatrical production. Students will explore a variety of marketable skills and careers in the theater industry including: set design and construction, lighting design and operation, sound design and operation, stage management, prop fabrication, costuming, hair styling, stage and special effects makeup, house management, box office sales, and public relations. Students will apply these skills by preparing and executing Los Gatos' High School's productions, including Dramatic Desserts, fall play, spring musical, and student directed productions. During the year students will be required to attend all technical rehearsals and performances for LGHS productions. Rehearsals and performances may be scheduled for after school, on school nights, and/or on weekends. Production schedules will be distributed in advance of schedule start dates.

Woodworking Technology 1 (course #A511B) provides students with an in-depth study of woodworking and is project-based. The use of modern design, construction, and materials is stressed. Students are encouraged to use their own ingenuity and to develop independent working skills. The use of jigs, fixtures, and other devices to speed up production is taught. Students should acquire a high degree of skill in the use of hand tools and woodworking machinery, the ability to apply mathematics, science, and drawing to practical situations, and a thorough knowledge of the requirements and opportunities in the woodworking trades and industries. Students will use a variety of domestic and exotic hardwoods in their projects. They may also gain experience using a CO-2 laser to embellish their projects. Students may take this course up to four years. This is a hands-on participation course where students learn by doing.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

All Visual and Performing Arts courses meet the one-year Visual/Performing Arts requirement for graduation. Most colleges require one year of Visual/Performing Arts.

P-3D Design (course #V501B) will give students a broad range of 3D Design through the tradition of sculpture mediums ranging from stained glass and traditional stone carving to CAD applications on a Chromebook that are printed on a 3D printer. Students will use a broad range of mediums. We will make fun, beautiful art, while also learning skills that can be applied to learning future careers in engineering, manufacturing, construction, fabrication, architecture and industrial design. Some of these skills will be basic CAD, soldering, fundamental tool use, mold making, materials education, spatial thinking and much more.

P-Art 1 (course #V101B) is an introductory studio experience for students interested in learning the basics of art. Students are introduced to drawing, painting, collage, and other art forms. The history of art is addressed and skills in basic media are used to teach the principles and elements of design. Media include: tempera, watercolor, pencil, pen and ink.

P-Beginning Guitar (course #P631B) is a course that introduces students to the fundamentals of playing guitar. Students will be introduced to techniques that are essential to playing this instrument, such as picking and playing chords. This is an introductory course designed for students who may have an interest in learning how to play an instrument.

P-Ceramics 1 (course #V201B) is a year-length studio course which introduces students to methods of clay construction. The first semester is primarily concerned with introducing students to the tools and equipment in the studio, clay preparation, and hand building techniques – pinch, coil, and slab construction. The second semester is focused on the techniques and forms on the potter’s wheel – bowls, vases, mugs, and cylinders. Other topics covered throughout the course are pottery decoration, glazing methods, and firing methods.

Please note: Upperclassmen receive priority when enrolling for Ceramics as limited seats are available. Interested freshmen will be entered into a lottery drawing for any available seats. If you would like to be considered for this lottery, please check the box on the Freshman Course Request sheet. If your name is drawn, you will receive Ceramics in lieu of the elective choice you listed

P-Concert Choir 1 (course #P111B) is a music class designed to acquaint students with a variety of choral music styles ranging from traditional to contemporary. Emphasis is placed on proper vocal technique, musicianship, and music reading skills. The major focus is ensemble singing. As a performance-oriented class, campus and community performances are required.

P-Drama 1 (course #P301B) is an introductory–PERFORMANCE BASED–year-long course, designed to develop basic acting skills while providing the student with a background in theatre arts. It is NOT an acting class to create professional actors, but rather a theatre arts class to create well-rounded citizens. It is a *fun* class for students who want to develop leadership skills, build self-confidence, learn how to solve problems, and expand their creativity. Students in this class will perform memorized scenes from published plays, develop their own improvised scenes, learn about technical theatre, and research elements of the theatre. Historical perspective and analysis will also be covered and students will learn to analyze and assess the aesthetic and technical properties of their own work as well as recognized artists.

P-Introduction to Music Theory (course #P490B) is designed to develop students’ visual and aural understanding of the structure of music. In this course, students will study the language and symbols of music. Not only will students learn to read various musical elements, such as scales, chords, pitch notations, and time signatures, they will also learn to construct these elements themselves. The course also teaches students to understand basic forms in music compositions, including the skill of notation. As students learn these various aspects of music theory, they will undergo ear training to teach them to recognize these elements aurally as well.

P-Jazz Ensemble 1 (course #P441B) offers the student an introduction to a variety of jazz-related music styles, which may include, but are not limited to, swing, Latin, funk, blues and rock. Emphasis is placed on proper instrumental technique, musicianship, music reading skills and exploring the basic techniques used for improvisation. This course is open to standard jazz instrumentation: saxophone, trombone, trumpet and rhythm. This ensemble will primarily perform as a “big band.” However, some small jazz combo settings may be explored. Campus and community performances as well as outside festivals are required. ***Prerequisite: Students must be enrolled in a traditional music ensemble in addition to Jazz.***

P-Marching/Symphonic Band 1 (course #F410B) is a course that develops musical skills and techniques by performing a variety of high quality literature. During the fall, the band focuses on the marching show and performs at various competitions, at home football games and other community events. During the remainder of the year, the band works on concert music and participates in concerts and festivals. Enrollment in P-Marching/Symphonic Band 2 - 4 fulfills 15 units of Physical Education. ***Prerequisite: Students must have prior experience on a wind instrument, keyboard, or percussion instrument (i.e., middle school band or private lessons).***

P-Orchestra 1 (course #P451B) is a course that develops musical skills and techniques by performing a variety of high quality literature ranging from traditional to contemporary. Emphasis is placed on proper instrumental technique, musicianship and music reading skills. As a performance-oriented class, campus and community performances are required. ***Prerequisite: Students must have prior experience on a string instrument (i.e., middle school orchestra or private lessons).***

SPORTS AND SPORT ELECTIVES

Fall/Winter Sports TBD (course #F610B) and **Spring Sports TBD** (course #F611B) are seventh period placeholders. Students will earn elective credit at the end of the semester if they have participated for the full sport season.

LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM			
<u>First Semester Sports</u>		<u>Second Semester Sports</u>	
Fall Season	Winter Season	Spring Season	
Boys/Girls Cross Country	Boys/Girls Basketball	Co-Ed Badminton	Boys/Girls Swimming
Girls Field Hockey	Boys/Girls Soccer	Boys Baseball	Boys Tennis
Boys Football	Boys/Girls Wrestling	Boys Golf	Boys/Girls Track
Girls Golf		Boys/Girls Lacrosse	Boys Volleyball
Girls Tennis		Girls Softball	
Girls Volleyball			
Boys/Girls Water Polo			

For those interested in the LGHS sports program, please note the following:

- Students will be trying out for highly competitive LGHS sports teams, and final placement in a sport will be determined by the outcome of try-outs and final recommendations from the coaching staff.
- Students must meet all academic, residence, physical, try-out, insurance, and scheduling requirements.
- Sports sign-ups will be taken at Sports Information Night; try-out dates, locations, and practice times will be announced; and coaches will be available to answer questions.
- Attend **Sports Information Night**. Inform yourself about time commitment, try-out dates, insurance, summer team obligations, and costs.
- Try out. The coaching staff will make final selections. The LGHS website lists contact information for sports teams.

Colorguard 1 (course #F101B) is a year-long performance based course that combines dance and equipment choreography (i.e., flags, rifles, and saber) to create an ensemble visual routine. The members of this ensemble will combine with the marching band for the fall semester. During the spring semester, the ensemble will perform as a winter guard. This class will require after school time commitments throughout the year. Expenses include uniforms and other essentials necessary for public performances. **Members of this ensemble are required to participate in both fall and spring seasons.** Auditions may be necessary for particular equipment or specific elements of the ensemble.

Dance Team 1 (course #F205B) Students who join the LGHS Dance Team share a passion for dance and will spend many hours outside of the regular class in practice and performance. Dancers' backgrounds range from having past experience in ballet, ballet folkloric, competitive dance, Bay Area performing companies, to theater. Sometimes relatively new dancers who have a sincere desire to learn and improve their art will be added to the team. Dancers support their school with dance performances at different venues throughout the school year. Auditions will be held in the spring.

Spirit Squad 1 (course # F210B) Students who are selected for Spirit Squad will be required to spend many hours outside of the regular class in practice and performance at games. Expenses include uniforms and other essentials necessary for public performances. Participation in spirit related activities (Football Program sales, Father-Daughter Dance, etc.) is required. Auditions requiring workshop participation will be held in the spring.