



# **2025 -2026**

# ***Course Catalog***

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## Disclaimer

The American Nicaraguan School reserves the right to update course information, as needed, throughout the school year. The School reserves the right to cancel any elective course, particularly those for which enrollment decreases to fewer than ten students.

Most recent update: March 2025

# Introduction

Course design at ANS values the transfer of learning to meaningful contributions in society. Foundational to this, is students’ development of core values and essential skills. Across ANS courses, curriculum is written by teacher teams as inquiry-based units that foster the development of our six core values through student-centered learning experiences. To best take advantage of engaging and rigorous coursework, students must master essential skills as self-led learners. This section details both core values and essential skills at ANS.

## Core Values



Social Responsibility

How do we live in relation to others?  
How can I contribute to the community?  
How can I help others?  
Are my needs/wants impeding those of others?



Environmental Stewardship

Where do we live?  
What resources do we have or need?  
How do I care for the natural resources?



Innovation & Creativity

Why and how do we create?  
What are the consequences?  
How do space and materials drive the process?



Intellectual Curiosity

What am I curious about?  
What do I want to learn?  
How am I changing?



Global Awareness

How can I make a difference in the world?  
How does location impact universal problems?  
How can I make the world a more peaceful place?



Respect of Self & Others

How can we be a more inclusive community?  
How can we teach our community about important topics in adolescent development?  
How can character play a greater role in our community?

Essential Skills

- How do I manage my learning?
- How do I know?
- How do I communicate my understanding?

Through essential skills, students are provided with the tools to enable them to take responsibility for their own learning. Central to this is “learning how to learn” and developing in individuals an awareness of how they learn best, of thought processes and of learning strategies. While all skills will be used throughout ANS courses, certain skills are highlighted in each particular unit of a course:

- Organizational skills and attitudes towards work
- Adaptability
- Entrepreneurialism
- Citizenship
- Collaborative skills
- Communication (Verbal, written and presentational)
- Information literacy/Research
- Time management
- Reflection
- Problem-solving and critical thinking skills

ANS Diploma

These are the requirements to earn the U.S. accredited high school diploma.

<b>English</b> 4 Credits	<b>Spanish</b> 4 Credits	<b>Science</b> 4 Credits	<b>Social Studies</b> 4 Credits	<b>Senior Capstone</b> 1 Credit
<b>Mathematics</b> 4 Credits	<b>Physical Education</b> 2 Credits	<b>Fine Arts</b> 0.5 Credit	<b>Electives</b> 8 Credits	

Electives are classes designed to enhance and enrich the educational experience at ANS. Students select from a diverse elective offering in fulfillment of this requirement for graduation. To some extent, this course offering varies from one year to the next. Electives may also serve to meet requirements for Global Studies recognition. Within the required course credits, there are multiple pathways for fulfillment of requirements.

Awarding Credits:

- 1 credit will be issued for a yearlong course.
- 0.5 credit will be issued for a semester course.
- Students must earn a minimum of a passing grade (D-, 60%) in order to receive credit.

If a student is to fail three or more full-year core courses during a given school year, she or he automatically fails the grade, and must repeat the school year if they remain enrolled at ANS. They are not entitled to take remedial courses or for-credit exams. If a student is to fail one or two courses during a given school year, they are required to remediate the course(s) and pass a for-credit exam(s) prior to the start of the following academic year. A student who passes the for-credit exam will receive a maximum grade of 60 for the course.

A student who does not take or does not pass the for-credit exam in two separate courses must repeat the year if he/she chooses to remain at ANS.

# Diploma de Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras

Granted by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education

The American Nicaraguan School offers its students the Diploma de Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras granted by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education, which is required for higher education in Nicaragua, by countries in Latin America, and some countries in Europe and Asia.

Please see below the requirements to earn the Diploma de Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras:

- Spanish
- Foreign Language (English)
- Art and Culture
- Civics /Creciendo en Valores/Ethical Leadership (CLAW)
- Women Rights
- Physical Education (known as Health and Fitness)
- Technology/Educación para Aprender, Emprender y Prosperar
- Social Studies (including Geography and History of Nicaragua and Latin American, Economics, Sociology, and Philosophy)
- Natural Sciences (including Chemistry, Physics, and Biology)
- Mathematics

\*Throughout this catalog, courses that are marked with an asterisk are offered during the ANS Summer Program.\*

# Global Studies Recognition

These are the requirements for completion of the Global Studies Recognition.

Students must meet all of the regular requirements for graduation from ANS. Students must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in order to receive this recognition upon graduation from ANS. Students must participate in at least one academic international experience organized by ANS, and approved by Mrs. Lopez. Students must take six classes from the approved classes below, including a minimum of 3 of the AP classes listed. Students must earn the service cord by completing a minimum of 100 hours of approved community service by the end of 12th grade. Students must earn a mastery level completion of the Senior Capstone Project, in alignment to the core value of Global Awareness, as co-evaluated by the Global Studies coordinator.

Approved AP List		Approved Elective List	
STEAM TRACK	HUMANITIES TRACK	STEAM TRACK	HUMANITIES TRACK
AP Biology	AP English Literature	Strings Ensemble	Chinese III
AP Art & Design	AP Spanish Literature	Wind Ensemble	Chinese IV
AP CS50	AP US History	Intermediate Band	French III
AP Statistics	AP Macroeconomics	Architecture Design	French IV
AP Calculus	AP Comparative Politics & Government	Concert Band	
AP Physics	AP Human Geography	Design II	
AP Environmental Science	AP Chinese		
	AP French		
	AP World History		
	AP US Government & Politics		
	AP Psychology		
	AP Music Theory		

\* The Global Studies Coordinator reserves the right to update the course offering approved as upper- level electives on an annual basis.



# Visual & Performing Arts

ANS graduates must fulfill .5 credit of Fine Arts  
(Nicaraguan National Diploma candidates must complete 3 credits)

ART	MUSIC
Discover Art	Discover Music
Principles of Art	Beginner Band
Art I	Beginner Strings Ensembles
Architectural Design	Intermediate Band
Painting	Strings Ensemble
Illustration	Concert Band
Mixed Media	Guitar
Advanced Drawing	Wind Ensemble
Art History	
Digital Art	
AP Art & Design	
Chinese Art & Culture	
French Art & Culture	

## Art

### Discover Art (0392) - 0.5 credit 6th Grade

This course introduces The Elements of Art to students, as they develop more vocabulary to describe artwork, they will continually use the elements of art to create pieces that express an intended idea and explore with different mediums. Students will also be introduced to Color theory.

### Principles of Art (0057) - 0.5 credit 7th

This course introduces The Principles of Design to students. It will prepare students to analyze artwork and to create more complex compositions. Students will also learn to train their brains to create accurate drawings from observation.

## Art

### Chinese Culture & Art (1191) - 0.5 credit 7th Grade

Course content includes: Chinese sports, eating habits, Chinese chess, and Chinese festivals. The focus of the study is to understand how Chinese people view individuals and interpersonal relationships from the activities of daily life. Introduction to basic Chinese script and communication is facilitated through a focus on expression of arts and culture.

### French Culture & Art (0069) - 0.5 credit 7th Grade

In this course, students will discover traditions expressive of cultural richness, in which painting, sculpture, music, dance, architecture, photography and cinema are essential elements of French culture. Introduction to basic French communication is facilitated through a focus on expression of arts and culture.

### Art I (0009) - 1 credit 8th-12th Grade

Prerequisites: None  
We begin Art I focusing on drawing skills. Because students enter the class with a broad range of abilities, each student is encouraged to build on what he or she already knows. We also explore color theory, composition, abstraction, collage and other contemporary art practices. Throughout the semester, time is dedicated to making art intuitively and building creativity.

### Digital Art (0446) – 0.5 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

This course introduces students to basic design theories applied in visual arts while exploring the use of computer programs for project design. Students will focus on aesthetics, composition, color theory, psychology, and functionality to create innovative projects.

### Illustration - (0386) – 0.5 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

In this class, students will cultivate their unique styles to convey emotions, ideas and information across diverse media. Illustration features the critical thinking and visual problem-solving skills needed to create compelling images and build technical proficiency.

# Art

## Mixed Media (0385)- 0.5 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

Mixed Media Art class invites students to explore their creativity by combining diverse materials and techniques. Through hands-on projects, students will experiment with textures, layers, and unconventional materials to develop their artistic voice.

## Art History (0383)- 0.5 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

This hands-on Art History class engages students in exploring the world's most iconic art movements, civilizations and masterpieces through creative projects. Students will actively learn by recreating techniques, styles, and concepts from historical periods and art movements.

## Architectural Design (0500)– 1.0 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

This immersive architectural design course introduces students to the principles and practices of creating spaces that inspire and innovate, while taking into consideration the needs of potential users. Emphasizing both on creative expression and technical precision, students will learn to develop architectural designs using various tools and techniques.

## Advanced Drawing (0388)- 1.0 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Art I

This course is designed for high school students ready to refine their skills and understanding of artistic techniques. Students will dig deeper in complex concepts such as perspective, anatomy, texture, and composition while working with mediums like graphite, charcoal, ink, and pastel.

## Painting - 1.0 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Art I

This intensive course immerses students in the diverse world of painting, focusing on acrylic, watercolor, and oil mediums. By the course's end, students will have developed a comprehensive understanding of painting techniques and materials, empowering them to create expressive and dynamic works of art.

# Art

## AP Art & Design (0387) - 1 credit

10th-12th Grade Prerequisites: Art I and two semester-long studio-based art elective classes

AP Art & Design is for students with significant interest in art, particularly those who wish to pursue an art related career. In alignment with the College Board requirements, students must select a focus for their portfolio: 2-D Design or Drawing (analog & digital). Commitment to meeting deadlines for portfolio curation is essential to the reflective process embedded in this course. Students may choose to complete the AP art portfolio over the course of two years with sustained enrollment in this course.

# Music

## Discover Music (1150) - 0.5 credit

6th Grade

Discover Music is a general music course where students experience leaning to play an instrument both individually (the piano) and as part of an ensemble (drum line). The course also includes some singing of songs from different cultures and some analytical listening activities where students explore what music is and how it’s organized. This knowledge is later applied in basic composition.

## Beginner Band (0494) - 0.5 credit

7th Grade

This course is the entry point to our band program. Students choose one of seven different wind instruments supplied by the school and learn the skills necessary to play melodies on it alone and as part of the ensemble. Students also learn to compose music for the instrument they chose.

## Intermediate Band (0495) - 1.0 credit

8th Grade and Invitational

This course is an opportunity for students to dig deeper into the wind instrument they studied in the beginner course and develop the skills necessary to play more interesting and complex music. Instruments for this course are provided by the school. As the course progresses more time is spent playing arrangements together as a band, some of which are chosen by the students

## Strings Ensemble (0497) - 1.0 credit

8th-12th Grade

This course is an opportunity for students who already have basic skills on an orchestral stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello or double bass) to further develop their skills and experience playing arrangements together in a group. Violins for this course are supplied by the school but students who play other instruments need to bring their own.

## Guitar (0465) - 1 credit

8th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

Guitar is a multilevel course that covers the basic skills and knowledge needed to play different genres of music on the instrument. Students also develop the skills to be able to learn independently so they can pursue their own musical interests.

# Music

## Concert Band (0473) – 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: Completion of Instrumental Music 2 or teacher recommendation

Concert band is a performing ensemble open to students who have already developed the skills necessary to play intermediate level music on a wind instrument. Most class time will be devoted to learning repertoire, which we will perform on and off campus.

## Wind Ensemble (0499) - 1.0 credit

Admission to this course is by invitation only.

Wind Ensemble is for students who have completed Concert Band and demonstrated advanced instrumental skills, the ability to learn parts quickly and independently, and a willingness to put in time outside of class to practice and rehearsal. This group will perform regularly at special school events as well as off campus.

# Design Thinking

Technology	
Coding & Programming	AP CS50
Introduction to Entrepreneurship	
Entrepreneurship & International Mindedness	

**Coding & Programming (1189) - 1 Credit 8th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None**

This course is ideal for students who enjoy problem-solving and want to develop interpersonal skills by working in a collaborative team setting while coding and programming solutions to overcome challenges. These are valuable skills that are applicable to a wide range of fields. Some technology that is implemented in this course are: Arduino, Scratch, Makey Makey, Micro:bit and Ev3 Mindstorms.

**AP CS50 (0478) – 1 credit**

9th -12th Grade Prerequisite: Algebra 1 standards met; AP Criteria

This course, designed by Harvard University, is meant for students who want to take the AP Computer Science Principles test. It covers all the contents from CS50 in which a variety of programming languages are used (C, Python, SQL, Java, CSS, HTML), and where the main takeaway is using strategic thinking to create, within a symbolic language. Problem sets are inspired by real-world domains of biology, cryptography, finance, forensics, and gaming. Students will prepare a digital portfolio for submission to College Board to demonstrate their learning as one component of the AP exam.

**Introduction to Entrepreneurship .5 credit (0492)**

10th – 12th Grades Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will learn the main concepts and activities that carries on the creation of a new venture; for each of these activities students will use basic business tools to help them select the best decision; also, self-assessment will be implemented to maximize their own potential and possibilities to make a better impact into a business venture.

**Entrepreneurship & International Mindedness .5 credit (0496)**

10th – 12th Grades Prerequisite: Introduction to Entrepreneurship

In this course, students learn about and apply the design drivers that maximize a business venture for global impact.



# Modern Languages

Chinese and French are offered as elective courses

Chinese	French
Chinese Culture & Art	French Culture & Art
Chinese I	French I
Chinese II	French II
Chinese III	French III
Chinese IV or AP	French IV or AP

## Chinese

### Chinese Art & Culture (1191) – 0.5 credit

7th Grades Prerequisite: None

Course content includes: Chinese sports, eating habits, Chinese chess, and Chinese festivals. The focus of the study is to understand how Chinese people view individuals and interpersonal relationships from the activities of daily life. Introduction to basic Chinese script and communication is facilitated through a focus on expression of arts and culture. This course is intended to offer students an opportunity to determine their interest in pursuing advanced studies of Chinese language.

### Chinese I (0051) - 1 credit

8th-11th Grade Prerequisites: None

This class begins learning the pinyin writing system, as students master 350 words for listening and speaking and over 170 characters for reading and 100 characters for writing. Students will be able to use simple sentences and ask questions.

### Chinese II (0052) - 1 credit

8th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Chinese I Standards Met and/or Mastery of Intro to Chinese

This class learns more than 360 basic words for listening and speaking, and about two-thirds of the oral language vocabulary for reading and half of it for writing, adjustable depending upon the students’ learning pace. They continue learning more basic sentences and questions.

### Chinese III (0053) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Chinese II Standards Met

Students will continue expanding their Chinese by 600 words and 137 grammatical sentences. The course content focuses on campus activities and daily life and situational dialogue practice. Students will do essay writing practice.

### Chinese IV (0054) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Chinese III Standards Met

Students will continue expanding their Chinese by 600 words for listening and speaking. They will also have a simple understanding of Chinese culture, including social, historical, and geographical. They will use situational dialogue practice and essay writing practice.

### AP Chinese (0055) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Chinese IV Standards Met or Chinese III Standards Mastered and Teacher Recommendation

In AP Chinese, students will add 625 words and 119 grammatical sentences to their repertoire. They will also have a thorough understanding of Chinese culture, including social, historical, geographical, ways of the world. They will have practice in both situational dialogue and essay writing.

## French

### French Art & Culture (0069) – 0.5 credit

7th Grade Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will discover traditions expressive of cultural richness, in which painting, sculpture, music, dance, architecture, photography and cinema are essential elements of French culture. Introduction to basic French communication is facilitated through a focus on expression of arts and culture.

### French I (0060) - 1 credit

8th-12th Grade Prerequisite: None

In this introductory level, students learn basic conversational skills, including vocabulary on topics such as: likes and dislikes, family, friends and school. Students work on four competences: speaking, listening, reading and writing. A secondary emphasis is placed on cultural learning. Students learn about the French speaking world and participate in the Francophonie celebration held in March.

**French II (0061) - 1 credit**

8th-12th Grade Prerequisite: French I Standards Met and/or Mastery of Intro to French

In this level students are able to better apply and deepen what they have learned in level 1. They are encouraged to have conversations about what they do, what they have done and what they will do; employing different verb tenses. In level 2 we continue to work in the 4 competences, with a larger focus on verbal expression. Students participate in the Francophonie celebration held in March. Anchor course materials are the Bien Dit! Level 2 and authentic realia, such as poems, songs, video and short novels.

**French III (0062) - 1 credit**

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: French II Standards Met

Students learn to talk about abstract concepts like love and friendship and to tell anecdotes about everyday life. They read and write original short stories. They also have debates about current events and the news. Students participate in the Francophonie celebration held in March.

**French IV (0064) - 1 credit**

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: French III Standards Met

In this level students polish their knowledge of French to engage in advanced language activities. They are able to argue and debate, write essays and interpret authentic realia such as radio shows and French movies, newspaper articles and novels. Students help lead and design the Francophonie celebration held in March.

**AP French Language (0063) - 1 credit**

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: French IV Standards Met or French III Standards Mastered and Teacher Recommendation

This course prepares students to pursue a college-level of reading comprehension, writing, and listening and speaking skills in French. Upon the completion of this course, students are prepared for success on the corresponding AP examination that is administered in May.

# Spanish

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of Spanish at the High School level.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Spanish Language Arts 6	Spanish Language Arts 7	Spanish Language Arts 8	Spanish Literature 9	Spanish Literature 10	Latin American Literature	Spanish Literature 12
					AP Spanish Literature & Culture	

The **AP Spanish Language & Culture Exam** is open for registration to students who are not enrolled in the course, but are enrolled in Spanish Literature courses. ANS students are strongly recommended to register for the College Board's Spanish Language & Culture exam, which is announced in August by the Counseling Department.

## Spanish Language Arts

**Spanish Language Arts 6 (1050) - 1 credit**

Prerequisites: None

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through formal strategies of close reading and student-led discussion. Students will develop and demonstrate those grammar and usage conventions that are unique to the Spanish language, like accents and certain punctuation. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

**Spanish Language Arts 7 (1051) - 1 credit**

Prerequisites: None

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through formal strategies of close reading and presentational skills. Students will develop and demonstrate reading comprehension and conventions of writing through individual conferences. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

**Spanish Language Arts 8 (0094) - 1 credit**

Prerequisites: None

This course will target students’ growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through formal strategies of close reading and presentational skills. Students will develop and demonstrate reading comprehension and conventions of writing through individual conferences. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

**Spanish Literature 9 (0097) - 1 credit**

9th Graders

This course will foster an in-depth analysis of some of the most significant literary expressions in Spain. Students will identify the contributions and characteristics of literary movements in relation to cultural identity from Medieval literature to Neoclassicism, consolidating in these the most important aspects of the language in oral and written expression.

**Spanish Literature 10 (0092) - 1 credit**

10th Graders

The course is focused on the study of literature by Spanish authors during the 19th and 20th centuries; starting with romanticism and ending with contemporary literature. To foster transfer of learning, reading workshops, writing practices and oral expression are carried out in different communicative situations in order to achieve greater fluency in the language.

**Latin American Literature (0089) - 1 credit**

11th Graders

The course intends to apply research techniques, critically approaching the literature of Latin American writers, from the Pre-Columbian stage to the Contemporary. In this we will review a selection of authors and works considered by the critical tradition, as the most significant in Latin America; focusing on narrative and lyrical discourses. The analysis of these authors and works will be carried out taking into account the cultural, political and social processes that affected the countries of the region during this period.

**AP Spanish Literature & Culture (0074) - 1 credit**

11th Graders Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

This course offers students a broad survey of different literary movements, authors, and literary works written in Spanish from Spain, Latin America and the United States. Students develop and demonstrate literary analysis skills in reading and writing.

**Spanish Literature 12 (0073) - 1 credit**

12th Graders

This course deepens students’ development of language skills (speaking, reading, writing and listening), making use of grammatical structures (coherence, cohesion, adequacy, contextualization), syntax and spelling (accentual, literal, punctual), and vocabulary (standard, formal, technical) to allow for a professional handle of the language across multiple contexts (speeches and stories, oral, advertising, journalistic, research, among others).

**Spanish Language Learners**

A progression of explicit language instruction to full immersion is provided to students, based on their level of language proficiency. Students who are at beginning WIDA levels (1-3) of Spanish language development will be enrolled in a specialized Spanish Language Development class, which is taught, assessed and evaluated in alignment to the WIDA Language standards. These students are part of the SLL specialized language instruction program. All Spanish Language Learners will receive a narrative progress report on their language development.

Students who have achieved an advanced level of language proficiency (targeted levels 4 or 5 on WIDA descriptors or language skills advanced enough to access a Literary content immersion coursework) will be enrolled in a sheltered Spanish Literacy class, designed for differentiation by grade and language level. This Spanish Literacy class will be taught, assessed and evaluated in alignment to the Spanish Language Arts standards. High school age students who achieve a language proficiency of level 4 or above are encouraged to take the AP Spanish Language & Culture exam. This class is a transitional program with scaffolded language support and is part of the embedded language learning curriculum of ANS.

**1-Entering, 2-Beginning, 3-Developing, 4-Expanding, 5-Bridging, and 6-Reaching (WIDA Levels of Language Proficiency)**

# English Language Arts

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of English Language Arts at the high school level. All ELA courses seek to prepare students for the highest level of rigor.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Humanities 6	ELA 7	ELA 8	ELA 9	ELA 10	ELA 11	British Literature
					AP English Language Composition	AP English Literature & Composition
						AP English Language & Composition

## Humanities 6 (0113) - 1 credit

This course is an interdisciplinary approach to English Language Arts and Social Studies. Paired with a two-hour weekly minimum commitment to independent reading, outside of class, the course will explore strategies of character analysis, nonfiction text exploration, book clubs and research skills. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

A chronological focus during some of the units will be on the time period between the emergence of the first civilizations (10,000BC) through the Empires of the East during the Middle Ages (1300). Students will develop and demonstrate understanding of this era through evidence-based historical thinking, geographical reasoning skills, and an exploration of the economic foundations and civic participation worldwide across these time periods. Those social studies skills will be embedded in their Readers & Writers Workshop which allows for reading & writing across genres and supports their ability to develop questions, apply disciplinary tools and concepts, evaluate resources and use evidence to communicate conclusions and propose a way to take action.

## English Language Arts 7 (1021) - 1 credit

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking through formal strategies of close reading and student-led discussion. Students will develop and demonstrate reading comprehension through individual conferences; they are expected to maintain a two-hour minimum independent reading outside of class. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

## English Language Arts 8 (1025 ) - 1 credit

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking through formal strategies of close reading and student-led discussion. Students will explore independent reading choices based on peer and teacher recommendations, broadening their interests and understanding; they are expected to maintain a two-hour minimum commitment to independent reading outside of class. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres

## English Language Arts 9 (0104) - 1 credit

Students will explore literature from different cultures and eras, identifying the many factors that affect the final product and reader. Students will consider literary works in relation to their own lives and experience. Students must demonstrate mastery of grammar and usage and will develop their written and spoken vocabularies.

## English Language Arts 10 (0105) - 1 credit

In direct alignment to the course expectations for the AP Language & Composition and AP Literature & Composition courses, students are expected to interpret, analyze, evaluate and critique texts to show their understanding of literature and essay. While the breadth of literature is subject to change, it invites student choice and collaborative discussion through Book Clubs and Inquiry Circles. Students are expected to demonstrate these skills through the 4 modalities of language: speaking, listening, reading and writing. To do so, students must practice time management skills to keep up with independent reading and to prepare for Socratic Seminars, Literature Circles and other collaborative learning engagements.

## English Language Arts 11 (0099) - 1 credit

This course facilitates the development of sophisticated level of inferencing across text types and the development of varied styles in informative, narrative and argumentative writing and speaking. A balance of future readiness with individual voice and choice are valued in this course.

## AP English Language and Composition (0122 ) – 1 credit

11th and 12th Grades Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

AP English Language and Composition is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style.



**AP English Literature and Composition (0123) - 1 credit**

12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Students cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works.

**British Literature (0103) - 1 credit**

12th Graders

This course is a study of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon era to modern times in a variety of genres including poetry, short stories, novels and plays. Students are required to approach studies in a more analytical manner in preparation for college. Writing practices include the reflective or “college” essay, the cause and effect essay and expound upon several upper-level literary analysis skills.

# Mathematics

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of mathematics at the HS level.

Students are encouraged to consider taking additional math courses, providing that they meet the necessary prerequisites.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus
					Statistics	Statistics
		Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus
					AP Statistics	AP Statistics

**Math 6 (1000) - 1 credit**

Prerequisite: None

This course explores foundational math concepts building increasing sophistication across the eight math practices. Math 6 emphasizes development of concepts such as unit rates and ratios, multiplying and dividing fractions, expanding the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; writing and interpreting algebraic expressions and the developing understanding of statistical thinking by examining data sets and distributions.

**Math 7 (1009) - 1 credit**

Prerequisite: Math 6

This course continues to build students skills across the eight math practices. Math 7 emphasizes development of concepts such as expression, equations and inequalities using variables to determine a possible solution. Math 7th also covers in depth the developing understanding of and application of proportional ratios to determine if a drawing can be a scale copy, problem solving techniques to solve geometric constructions, two- and three-dimensional shapes and circles and starts the study of probability and inference about population based on samples.

**Math 8 (1008) - 1 credit**

Prerequisite: Math 7

This course refines student abilities across the eight math practices. Math 8 introduces the basic algebraic concept of a linear equation with two variables, as well as finding solutions to systems of equations. Functions and graphing on the coordinate plane are covered, along with an introduction to slope. Students will work with positive and negative exponents, and cover the geometric topics of transformations on the coordinate plane and the Pythagorean Theorem.

**Algebra 1 (0150) - 1 credit**

Prerequisite: Standards of Math 8 Met

This course builds on the concept of linear relationships introduced in Grade 8, and goes on to develop algebraic fluency and modeling with linear equations and inequalities, and systems of linear equations and inequalities. This course thoroughly explores and dives into three main types of functions: linear, exponential and quadratic functions. Great emphasis is placed on connecting different representations of these functions, analyzing their features, and using them to model and analyze real-world phenomena. Students will also learn about sequences, build fluency with rational exponents, and learn how to represent and analyze univariate and bivariate data.

Students are required to have a scientific calculator; a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family is recommended.

**Geometry (0151) - 1 credit**

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course formalizes and extends students’ geometric experiences from the middle grades. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments in pure and applied contexts. Students are required to have a scientific calculator; a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family is recommended.



**Algebra 2 (0152) - 1 credit**

Prerequisite: Algebra I Standards Met; Geometry standards met or in- progress.

This course builds on the concepts of linear, exponential and quadratic equations and functions developed in Algebra 1, and goes on to explore polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Great emphasis is placed on representing these functions graphically through the use of transformations, analyzing their features, connecting their different representations, and using them to model real-world and mathematical situations. Furthermore, students will develop fluency operating with polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic expressions, and solving equations that involve them. They will also be introduced to complex numbers, work with inverse functions, and develop understanding of normal distributions and statistical inferences.

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

**Precalculus (0153) - 1 credit**

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Algebra 2 Standards Met

Precalculus lays the groundwork for advanced math courses students may take in their college studies such as Calculus and Linear Algebra. This course puts special emphasis on developing students’ analytical and critical thinking skills through progressively challenging problem solving tasks, and aims to strengthen students’ ability to make connections between geometric and algebraic representations of mathematical concepts. Students begin Precalculus by taking an in-depth look at functions by studying transformations, inverses and composition of functions with the functions they studied in Algebra 2, while adding on the study of rational and inverse trigonometric functions. Around a third of the course is devoted to trigonometry,

taking special interest in the proving of trigonometric identities and laws. Throughout the rest of the course, students are formally introduced to the complex number system, the conic sections, matrices and vectors.

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

**Statistics (0155) - 1 credit**

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Geometry Standards Met

In this course, students will learn to be data explorers with project-based units, through which they will develop their understanding of data collection, data analysis, sampling, correlation/causation, bias and uncertainty, probability, and modeling with data. Through this understanding, they will learn how to make and evaluate data-based arguments, and see the power of data in society! Students will use web tools such as Google Sheets and StatsMedic applications.

**AP Statistics (0175) – 1 credit**

11th-12th Grade  
Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or Statistics Standards Met; See AP Criteria

AP Statistics is the high school equivalent of a one semester, introductory college statistics course. In this class, students develop strategies for collecting, organizing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students design, administer, and interpret results from surveys and experiments. Probability and simulations aid students in constructing models for random behavior. Sampling distributions provide the underlying logic for confidence intervals and significance tests. Students use a graphing calculator and online applets to analyze data, investigate statistical concepts, and perform inference. Use of statistical software is demonstrated and examples of output from statistical software are provided for students to interpret throughout the course. Students are required to prepare frequent written and oral analyses of real data to develop effective statistical communication. Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

**AP Calculus AB (0173)**

11th - 12th Graders Prerequisite: Precalculus Standards Met; See AP Criteria

This course stresses an intuitive approach as well as problem-solving techniques. Major topics include limits, derivatives and integrals of algebraic and trigonometric functions, and applications. Emphasis is placed on being able to solve problems with and without a graphing calculator.

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

**AP Calculus BC (0174)**

12th Graders Prerequisite: Precalculus Standards Mastered; See AP Criteria

AP Calculus BC is an advanced math course that covers topics such as sequences, series, integration techniques, differential equations, and parametric functions. It builds upon the foundation laid by AP Calculus AB and prepares students for college-level mathematics. AP Calculus BC is particularly beneficial for students planning to major in fields such as pure mathematics, applied mathematics, physics, engineering, computer science, economics, and other STEM disciplines. Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

# Science

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of science at the High School level.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Earth & Space Science	Life Science	Physical Science	Environmental Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics AP Physics

Electives
AP Biology
AP Environmental Science
Astronomy & Astrophysics

Note: The Science Department offers all 9-12th HS Science Core classes (Environmental Sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics) with the NGSS (Next Generation of Science Standards) 3D framework, which encompasses Science Practices/Skills, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Cross cutting concepts. The use of technology, math and data spreadsheets are also prevalent. All courses are delivered with inquiry and phenomena based learning which allow students to explore the natural world.

## Earth & Space Science (1040) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

In this course we will study the dynamic processes that shape our planet Earth as well as investigate our place in our universe. Through the lens of inquiry, students will explore the scientific method, structure and models of the Earth, atmospheric forces affecting climate and weather, the geologic processes that have changed the Earth’s surface, as well as the night sky as it relates to our solar system. This year will be filled with a variety of venues to challenge and support the student through a combination of lab investigations, modeling, reading and data interpretation. This is an exciting science with many interesting and practical applications designed to develop and solidify a passion for the scientific world.

## Life Science (1041) – 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course invites students to investigate the world of living things—at levels both large and small— through reading, observing, and experimenting with all aspects of life on earth. Students will explore an amazing variety of organisms, the complex workings of the cell, the relationship between living things and their environments, and discoveries in the world of modern genetics. Through practical, hands-on lesson activities students will develop the skills necessary to make scientific observations, keep records of their observations, analyze the data they collect, and illustrate relationships in charts and graphs to explore more than one way to interpret their findings.

## Physical Science (1042) - 1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Physical Science is the in-depth study of matter and energy. In this course, students will describe and model the atomic and molecular structure of substances, investigate how chemical reactions involve energy and lead to changes in properties of substances, model different kinds of forces and the effect they have on the motion of objects, apply concepts of electricity and magnetism to explain how motors, generators, and electromagnets work, and discuss energy transformations in objects and systems, including how heat flows between objects that are at different temperatures. Students who are interested in problem solving, and critical thinking are engaged through real-world interactive labs and field work through the process of scientific inquiry.

## Environmental Science (0249) - 1 credit

9th Grade Prerequisites: None

The aim of this course is to ensure that students develop a fundamental understanding of past and present relationships among air, water, rocks, minerals and biota. The emphasis is on the interactions between humans and the environment. Students are introduced to designing investigations, data collection, processing, and analyzing data using Statistical Analysis (correlation, histograms, box plots, and t-testing) on Google Sheets. Students are required to make deeper connections with the course content, applying and drawing connections with: patterns, cause/effect, scales/proportions, structures/functions, stability/change, energy/matter, and systems and system models. Students will communicate their results using evidence based arguments.

**Biology (0250) - 1 credit**

10th Grade Prerequisites: Environmental Science

Biology is the study of life. Students will develop an understanding of fundamental principles and mechanisms of all living organisms. Students will study the following topics: Structures and Functions, Interdependent Relationships with Organisms and Ecosystems, Genetics, Natural Selection and Evolution, Energy and Matter of organisms and ecosystems. Students will carry out investigations, data collection, processing, and analyzing data using Statistical Analysis (correlation, histograms, box plots, and t-testing) on Google Sheets. Students are required to make deeper connections with the course content, applying and drawing connections with: patterns, cause/effect, scales/proportions, structures/functions, stability/change, energy/matter, and systems and system models. Students will communicate their results using evidence based arguments.

**Chemistry (0251) - 1 credit**

11th Grade Prerequisites: Biology and Algebra I

Chemistry is the study of matter. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of: chemical compositions and concentrations, chemical reactions, chemical properties, stoichiometry, organic and inorganic substances, various forms of matter, applications and uses of chemistry in society, the environment, industry, and research. Students will carry out investigations, data collection, processing, and analyzing data using Statistical Analysis (correlation, histograms, box plots, and t- testing) on Google Sheets. Students are required to make deeper connections with the course content, applying and drawing connections with: patterns, cause/effect, scales/proportions, structures/functions, stability/change, energy/matter, and systems and system models. Students will communicate their results using evidence based arguments. Emphasis is given to algebraic thinking.

**Physics (0252) - 1 Credit**

12th Grade Prerequisite: Chemistry

Physics is the study of matter, its motion and behavior through space and time. Students will learn Newtonian Mechanics, Structure and Properties of Matter, Conservation of Energy and Energy transfer, Electromagnetic Radiation, Forces, and Waves . Students will carry out investigations, data collection, processing, and analyzing data using Statistical Analysis (correlation, histograms, box plots, and t-testing) on Google Sheets. Students are required to make deeper connections with the course content, applying and drawing connections with: patterns, cause/effect, scales/ proportions, structures/ functions, stability/change, energy/matter, and systems and system models. Students will communicate their results using evidence based arguments. Emphasis is given to algebraic thinking.

**AP Physics (Algebra-based)(0254)**

12th Prerequisite: Chemistry; Algebra II standards met; See AP Criteria

The AP Physics 1 course is designed to enable students to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, in the exploration of Newtonian mechanics; work, energy and power, mechanical waves and sound; and simple circuits. Hands-on laboratory work to investigate phenomena fosters transferable skills of interpreting representations and models, formulating scientific questions and hypotheses, designing experiments to answer those questions or test those hypotheses. Fluency with algebra-based mathematics is critical for course readiness.

**Science Electives**

**AP Environmental (0261) 10th-12th Grade**

Prerequisite: Environmental Science; Algebra I standards met

The AP Environmental course is designed to engage enthusiastic students with the interrelationships of the natural world and the analysis of environmental problems, both natural and human-made. Laboratory investigations and field work are foundational to this course. Fluency with algebra concepts is critical to readiness for this course. The AP Environmental course is equivalent to a one-semester college introductory course in environmental science and has been endorsed enthusiastically by higher education officials.

**AP Biology (0256) 11th-12th Grade**

Prerequisite: Biology Standards Met; 11th Chemistry Met or in-progress

The AP Biology course is designed to enable students to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts in and across domains. The result will be readiness for the study of advanced topics in subsequent college courses — a goal of every AP course. AP Biology course is equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course and has been endorsed enthusiastically by higher education officials.

**Astronomy & Astrophysics 10th - 12th Grades (0163)**

This introductory course takes students on a journey through the cosmos, exploring the fundamental principles that govern the universe and the methods used to unravel its mysteries. Topics covered include: a historical perspective of astronomy, telescopes, our solar system and planetary systems in general, stellar formation and development, the nature and development of the Milky Way galaxy and galaxies in general, non-planetary bodies, orbital mechanics, and the space race. Students engage with the nature of the scientific method, and gained an introductory understanding of basic astronomical concepts and principles. Students will use basic algebra and geometry concepts to work through astronomy principles, such as the motions of bodies in space.

# Social Studies

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of social studies at the High School level.  
\*Throughout this catalog, courses that are marked with an asterisk are offered during the ANS Summer Program.\*

				Please see the Civics/Creciendo en Valores credit aligned to the Wellness Program.		
6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Humanities	Nicaraguan Geography I*	US History	World History - OR - AP Human Geography	Modern World History - OR - AP World History	US History OR - AP US History	Economics - OR- AP Economics
	Nicaraguan History I*	Latin American Geography II*				
	Civics/ Creciendo en Valores is covered in Community Values (see section on The Wellness Program)	Latin American History II*	Nicaraguan Geography III*			
		Civics/Creciendo en Valores	Civics/Creciendo en Valores			

Electives
AP Comparative Government & Politics*
AP Human Geography
Philosophy*
Sociology*
AP U.S. Government**

*\*\*AP Psychology and AP United States Government & Politics are offered during alternating years, depending on enrollment.*

## Humanities (0114) - 1 credit 6th Grade

This course is an interdisciplinary approach to English Language Arts and Social Studies. Paired with a two-hour weekly minimum commitment to independent reading, outside of class, the course will explore strategies of character analysis, nonfiction text exploration, book clubs and research skills. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

A chronological focus during some of the units will be on the time period between the emergence of the first civilizations (10,000BC) through the Empires of the East during the Middle Ages (1300). Students will develop and demonstrate understanding of this era through evidence-based historical thinking, geographical reasoning skills, and an exploration of the economic foundations and civic participation worldwide across these time periods. Those social studies skills will be embedded in their Readers & Writers Workshop which allows for reading & writing across genres and supports their ability to develop questions, apply disciplinary tools and concepts, evaluate resources and use evidence to communicate conclusions and propose a way to take action.

## Nicaraguan Geography I – 0.5 credit

7th Grade

This course explores Nicaragua’s land assets, population trends and economic activities related to natural resources. Students will develop and demonstrate geographical reasoning skills and the intersection of economic foundations with human geography.

## History of Nicaragua I – 0.5 credit

7th Grade

This course constructs a timeline of social, economic and political history, beginning with the indigenous fabric of Nicaraguan society through the modern day Nicaraguan state. Students will develop and demonstrate historical thinking skills and an understanding of civic participation within these contexts.

## U.S History (1032) - 1 credit

8th Grade

This course constructs a timeline of social, economic and political history of the United States, beginning with the indigenous cultural fabric that preceded the colonization of North America and eventual establishment of the United States. The focus is on the turn of the 16th century through the Civil War. Students will develop, and be required to demonstrate evidence-based writing skills for historical analysis, geographic reasoning, understanding of economic factors and awareness of civic mindedness. Outside of class time, students are responsible for keeping up with independent reading and preparing to participate in and perform on: collaborative learning engagements, in-class document based essays and Socratic Seminars.



**Latin America Geography II\* (0343) – 0.5 credit**

8th Grade Prerequisite: None

This course explores the vast and varied land assets, population trends and economic activities related to natural resources across the Americas. Students will develop and demonstrate geographical reasoning skills and will deepen their exposure to human geography.

**Latin American History II\* (0344) – 0.5 credit**

8th Grade Prerequisite: None

This course constructs a timeline, highlighting those commonalities and differences across the Americas, beginning with the rich legacy of indigenous societies through the nationalist tendencies of the late 20th century. Students will develop and demonstrate historical thinking skills and an understanding of civic participation across these contexts. This course covers the study of Civics II, which is recognized in the Nicaraguan National Curriculum as Creciendo en Valores.

**World History (0300) - 1 credit**

9th Grade Prerequisite: None

This course constructs the historical period from the 14th century (Polynesian waves of migration) through the 18th century (Haitian Revolution). Students will develop and demonstrate understanding of this era through evidence-based historical thinking, geographical reasoning skills, an exploration of the economic foundations, and application of political/civic participation worldwide across these time periods. Students are responsible for keeping up with content and preparing to participate in: collaborative learning engagements, in-class document based essays and Socratic Seminars.

**Nicaraguan Geography III\* (0311) - 0.5 credit**

9th Grade Prerequisite: None

This is the third level of Geography in which students deepen their geographical reasoning with respect to Nicaragua’s location and resources. Issues of resource conservation and consequences of economic activities offer students an introduction to human geography within this particular context.

**Civics III\* - 0.5 credit**

9th Grade Prerequisite: None

This semester-long Civics course focuses on the following national curriculum standards (as translated from Spanish): Our National Identity, Our Magna Carta, Road Safety, Responsible Consumption and Tax Payment, My Rights and Responsibilities and Constructing Our Democracy.

**AP Human Geography (0307) - 1 credit**

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

In this course we will study a systematic approach of human geography to understand the use of spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human organization of space and the spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global. We will develop the ability to interpret maps, data sets, and geographic models using atlases, graphs, and charts.

**AP World History (0333) - 1 credit**

10th Grade Core Course (11th – 12th Elective) Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

AP World History is a rigorous study taught in a year course to highly capable and motivated students. The course will cover the development of human societies over the centuries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe, focusing on the dynamics of continuity and change. Through extensive analysis of primary source documents, the textbook and study guides, students will acquire information, identify viewpoints, and examine central themes. The five overarching themes include humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation. The course is divided into nine major units, starting from c. 1200 CE to the present. Students are expected to understand major developments both regionally and worldwide, as well as make comparisons between cultures and time periods.

**Modern World History (0301) - 1 credit**

10th Grade Prerequisite: World History

This class constructs the recent history of our contemporary world (from the Congress of Vienna through September 11, 2001. Students will develop and demonstrate understanding of this era through evidence-based historical thinking, geographical reasoning skills, and an exploration of the economic foundations and civic participation worldwide across these time periods. Outside of class time, students are responsible for keeping up with independent reading and preparing to participate in and perform on: collaborative learning engagements, in-class document based essays and Socratic Seminars.



**U.S. History (0302) - 1 credit**

11th Grade Prerequisite: Modern World History

This course constructs the recent history of the United States, from 1878 to today. Students will develop, and be required to demonstrate evidence-based writing skills for historical analysis, geographic reasoning, an understanding of economic factors and awareness of civic mindedness. Outside of class time, students are responsible for keeping up with independent reading and preparing to participate in and perform on: collaborative learning engagements, in-class document based essays and Socratic Seminars.

**AP U.S. History (0336) - 1 credit**

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

This college-level course is offered to all high school juniors/ seniors who meet high levels of previous class achievement. AP U.S. History is a challenging review of American History in preparation for the AP Exam.

**AP U.S. Government & Politics\* (0336) – 1 credit**

11th or 12th Grade Elective Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

\*This course is offered in alternating years. Not offered in 2024-25; next offered in 2025-26.

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, and interactions that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions. This course will provide students with the political knowledge and reasoning processes to participate in meaningful discussions and debates that shape American politics and society. The primary outcome is that students will be active political scientists who will be able to analyze current and historical political events and develop factually accurate, well-reasoned, thoughtful arguments. A secondary and immediate outcome is the students will pass the AP exam.

**Economics (0303) - 1 credit**

12th Grade

Economics is the study of how people attempt to satisfy their unlimited wants and needs through the use of limited resources. Upon completion of the class, students will have an understanding of basic economic concepts, microeconomic concepts and theories, macroeconomic policies, and international trade. In addition, students will learn how to analyze economic data, and make economic projections. Students will also learn how to use economic reasoning when making non-economic choices. Most importantly, they will come to understand that their lives are affected by decisions made by others, and vice versa.

**AP Macroeconomics (0298) - 1 credit**

12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

AP Economics provides students with an in-depth study of fundamental economic concepts that will enable them to understand how the economy as a whole functions. This course includes a study of economic performance and growth, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and international trade.

**Social Studies Electives**

**AP Comparative Government & Politics (0308) - 1 credit**

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

APCG is a course that covers with in-depth analysis the “AP 6” core countries UK, Russia, China, Iran, Mexico, and Nigeria. To this backdrop is added an emphasis on world societal issues, particularly the change-developments over time, as well as the “thematic focus” on Sovereignty, Authority, and Power; Political Institutions; Citizens, Society, and the State; Political and Economic Change; Public Policy. APCG is a challenging college-level introductory course in preparation for the AP exam.

**Philosophy (0314)\* - 0.5 credit**

10th-12th Grade (preference given to seniors) Prerequisite: None

This class examines what has largely been considered the most fundamental questions of human existence. Relying on our rational and logical skills, we will study what many philosophers believe to be the answers to these deeply puzzling issues.

**Sociology (0313)\* - 0.5 credit**

10th-12th Grade (preference given to seniors) Prerequisite: None

Sociology is the scientific study of human interaction and human group behavior in modern societies. This course covers the following concepts which are basic to sociology: (1) culture and social structure (2) the individual in society, (3) social inequality, (4) social institutions, and (5) changing social world, as related to sociology.

**AP Psychology (0476) – 1.0 credit**

11th-12th Graders (Limited Capacity) Grade Prerequisite: See AP Criteria  
Offered in alternating years. AP Psychology was offered in 2024-25 and will be offered in 2026-27.

This course is an introduction to the fundamental principles of psychology and to the major subjects of psychological inquiry. It has been designed to not only provide the tools necessary for the study of psychology but to present a sampling of the major areas of psychology research. The course begins with a short overview of how psychology developed as an academic discipline and an introduction to a number of the principal methodologies most commonly used in its study. The subsequent units are arranged around broad areas of research, including emotion, development, memory, and personality traits. There is a focus on well-substantiated research and current trends within each of these categories.

# Physical Education

Graduates must fulfill 2 credits.

**MS Health & Fitness (1064) - 1 credit**

6th - 8th Grades

During the Health & Fitness class, students develop gross and fine motor skills including; flag football, basketball, soccer, track and field, volleyball, ping pong and badminton. They develop physical literacy and take leadership of their own health and fitness goals. Students will be assessed in accordance with the SHAPE standards.

**HS Health & Fitness (0218) - 1 credit**

9th-12th Grades

During the Health & Fitness class, students develop gross and fine motor skills including; flag football, basketball, soccer, track and field, volleyball, ping pong and badminton. They develop physical literacy and take leadership of their own health and fitness goals. Students will be assessed in accordance with the SHAPE standards.

**Athletic Period - 1 credit**

Qualifying and Approved Athletes 8th – 12th Grades (Review criteria)

Athletic period is a privilege designed to afford varsity athletes time to practice during school hours, thereby allowing them to maintain their status as committed, determined and collaborative ANS student athletes across their academic subjects. Continued enrollment in athletic period is contingent upon a student’s good standing on the varsity team.

**Sports Science (0268) - 1.0 credit**

10th - 12th Grades

This course is designed to expose students to the components of the sport sciences, including anatomy and kinesiology, biomechanics, sport medicine, and sport technology as they relate to both sports and life, and the variables of physical fitness, health and wellness. Classroom-based theory rather than active-based learning is the format.

**Fitness Goals (0223) - 1.0 credit**

10th - 12th Grades; Classroom-based instruction

This course is designed to engage students with to the components of the sport sciences, including anatomy and kinesiology, biomechanics, sport medicine, and sport technology as they relate to both sports and life, and the variables of physical fitness, health and wellness.

## The Ethical Leadership Program

The Ethical Leadership Program consists of five main units: Healthy Eating and Fitness; Personal Safety and Injury Prevention; Substance Use, Addictions and Related Behaviors; Human Development and Sexual Health, and Women’s Rights. This program continues the study of community values and fosters the development of those standards described in the Nicaraguan national curriculum as Creciendo en Valores and Derecho y Dignidad de las Mujeres.

The Ethical Leadership Program is delivered by guidance counselors and invited specialists in 8th - 12th grades during CLAW, and through the Community Values courses, with invited specialists in 6th-7th grades.

### Community Values - 1 credit 6 & 7th Graders

(Fulfills Civics 7th Grade credit)

The Community Values courses are designed to develop self-led learners as they cross the threshold into the Secondary program and further define for themselves what it means to be a critical thinker and ethical individual capable of realizing their leadership potential by making meaningful contributions to society. This is a time for sixth graders to consider their application of ANS core values in the world -- individually, as a family member, as an ANS community member, within the local Managua community and globally as a citizen of the world. As this course is facilitated to support students as they gain more confidence and tools to lead their own learning, it is graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Invited specialists co-facilitate the Wellness Units (see above), including Women’s Rights (Derecho y dignidad de las mujeres), and teachers facilitate ongoing development of social emotional learning. In addition to these standards, students develop original passion projects, foster connections with younger and older ANS students, and get acquainted with the structures distinct to the Secondary program.

# Personalized Pathways

### Senior Capstone - 1 credit

12th Grade

The Senior Capstone provides seniors the unique opportunity to pursue an area of interest, learn more about that issue/ topic, and share that information with the ANS community.

Capstone affords students the chance to demonstrate their abilities to, among others: plan strategically; problem solve; think critically and creatively; articulate ideas both verbally and in writing; communicate with and educate others; and manage their time effectively – all skills students have, theoretically, developed during their time at ANS. Capstone is, in short, the culmination of all of the skills that high school seniors have acquired during their academic careers thus far. Capstone, if done well, will provide students an illustration of both their academic abilities and their academic/ professional interests in support of their applications to colleges/ universities. Most importantly, these transferable skills are also the keys to success at the college/ university level and beyond, regardless of the field of study.

### Off-Campus Internship – 0.5 - 1 credit

11th Prerequisite: Approved Proposal

Students may submit a formal application for permission to complete an internship for credit. This proposal must include the mentorship of a professional in the field of study of the internship, clearly articulated role and responsibilities and the student’s portfolio that demonstrates a level of mastery commensurate with preparation for field experience. Under these conditions, a proposal for internship may be considered for a for-credit experience. An approved internship in 12th grade fulfills the Capstone requirement.

[Internship Application Guide](#)

### On-Campus Internship – 0.5 - 1 credit

10th – 11th Graders Prerequisite: Approved Application

Students may submit a formal application for permission to complete an internship for credit. This proposal must include the mentorship of a professional in the field of study of the internship, clearly articulated role and responsibilities and the student’s portfolio that demonstrates a level of mastery commensurate with preparation for field experience. Under these conditions, a proposal for internship may be considered for a for-credit experience. An approved internship in 12th grade fulfills the Capstone requirement.

[Internship Application Guide](#)

**Online Course – 0.5 - 1 credit**

10th – 12th Grades: [Approved Proposal](#)

In order to pursue an online course and receive credit towards the ANS Diploma, must be approved before including the course in a student’s schedule. Online courses may not be used for courses already offered at ANS. Send online course application form (see link above) to your counselor to be considered for approval.

# Advanced Placement Criteria

**Advanced Placement (AP) Enrollment**

*If a student meets the first criterion, then they may register for the AP class. If a student does not meet the first criterion, they must meet both the second and third criteria.*

1. Students must meet AP Potential according to scores from the PSAT for the AP course(s) that they are selecting. Students wishing to enroll in an AP class in 10th grade must score “above grade level” on his/her MAP tests from 9th grade.
2. Students must earn a grade of at least 90% in the current core class (non-AP) or at least 80% in the current core class (AP) for the subject area(s) in which they would like to enroll.
3. Vía PlusPortal, the teacher recommendation must be submitted by the student’s current core teacher for the subject area which he/she would like to enroll for the next year. In order to complete the application, teachers may require a diagnostic test for Math & Science AP courses and a writing assessment for Language and Social Studies courses. These are scheduled after school in a proctored environment.

**From the Counseling Department**

When students consider multiple Advanced Placement courses, it is important to recognize a healthy approach to time management and well-roundedness. There can be such a thing as too many AP courses. Considering the fact that a full load of courses in college is five courses, it is important to keep in mind that along with the number of AP courses a student may choose, they are still required to take their additional courses. For example, if a student enrolls in three AP courses, they still are taking 5 additional non-AP courses. For some students, that is a lot of coursework to manage. A high rigor course load that is similar in time management, for a very committed student is 2-3 AP courses, with high-interest electives amongst the non-AP courses.

# Accelerate Your Learning

## Summer Courses (In-person and Online)

### Credits

Each course listed is equivalent to a semester-long course. The courses are perfect for our students to engage in a year's worth of credit.

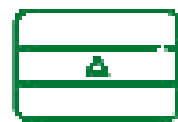
The benefit to enrolling in summer time courses is to expand options for electives during the school year. In this way, a student may fulfill all of the courses that are uniquely required for the national diploma by taking a total of courses each summer. The semester is compressed into a 40-hour course completed within 4 weeks.

### Schedule



#### Geografía II Historia II

(Generally an 8th grade core course)



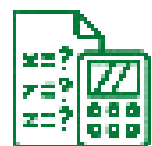
#### Geografía III Cívica III

(Generally an 8th grade core course)



#### Sociology Philosophy

(Generally completed in 10th-12th Grades)



#### Accelerated Math 8

0.5 credit  
(Initiation only)



#### Intermediate Algebra

1.0 credit (1 year)  
(Initiation only  
(credit recovery))



#### Photography Film\*

Fulfills 5 - 10 art credits

## Summer Courses

### Geografía II (0.5 credit): Rising 8th Graders

This course is conducted in Spanish. This course explores the vast and varied land assets, population trends and economic activities related to natural resources across the Americas. Students will develop and demonstrate geographical reasoning skills and will deepen their exposure to human geography.

### Historia II (0.5 credit): Rising 8th Graders

This course is conducted in Spanish. This course constructs a timeline, highlighting those commonalities and differences across the Americas, beginning with the rich legacy of indigenous societies through the nationalist tendencies of the late 20th century. Students will develop and demonstrate historical thinking skills and an understanding of civic participation across these contexts.

### Geografía III (0.5 credit): Rising 9th Graders (prerequisite: Geografía e Historia II)

This course is conducted in Spanish. Civics III focuses on the following national curriculum standards (as translated from Spanish): Our National Identity, Our Magna Carta, Road Safety, Responsible Consumption and Tax Payment, My Rights and Responsibilities and Constructing Our Democracy.

### Cívica III (0.5 credit): Rising 9th Graders (prerequisite: Geografía e Historia II)

This course is conducted in Spanish. Civics III focuses on the following national curriculum standards (as translated from Spanish): Our National Identity, Our Magna Carta, Road Safety, Responsible Consumption and Tax Payment, My Rights and Responsibilities and Constructing Our Democracy.

### Sociología (0.5 credit): Rising 10th - 12th Graders

This course is conducted in Spanish. El presente curso propone el análisis y comprensión del surgimiento y desarrollo de la sociología, su importancia científica, así como los aportes de los principales representantes de esta ciencia. Se reflexiona sobre la importancia de la estructura social y sus diversas manifestaciones. Posteriormente se estudia, compara y contrasta el desarrollo de las sociedades en el transcurso de la historia. Finalmente se realiza el estudio de la cultura nacional y política en la sociedad nicaragüense promoviendo así las acciones que fortalecen y promocionan la identidad cultural, el respeto a los diversos grupos que conforman nuestra sociedad, su sistema político y el rol de los poderes del estado.



**Filosofia (0.5 credit): Rising 10th - 12th Graders**

This course is conducted in Spanish. El presente curso introduce al estudiante en el pensamiento y los conocimientos filosóficos en la interpretación y función liberadora de la Filosofía como ciencia, para una mejor comprensión de la realidad que le permita la búsqueda y solución a los problemas que enfrenta en su vida diaria. Se reflexiona e interpreta con una actitud crítica y reflexiva, los diferentes ámbitos y campos de estudio de la filosofía, a partir de la comprensión de la realidad. Posteriormente se conduce al razonamiento filosófico y el método científico en la búsqueda y adquisición de nuevos saberes al enfrentar diversas situaciones de la vida cotidiana. Finalmente se estudian los comportamientos y acciones responsables frente a los problemas éticos, morales y estéticos al contribuir al mejoramiento en la vida personal, familiar y comunitaria.

**Photography (0.5 credit): Rising 8th - 12th Graders**

Students will learn the basics of photography, which include: using multiple angles and composition techniques, editing and gaining a clear understanding of the pre-production, production and post-production process in photography. Engaging in photography through a distance-based cohort will create the opportunity to share our spaces, views and perspectives from afar and create a sense of connection through art.

**Film (0.5 credit): Rising 8th - 12th Graders**

They will learn the basics of filmmaking, which include: scripting/storyboarding, using multiple angles and composition techniques, editing and gaining a clear understanding of the pre- production, production and post-production process in movie making. Engaging in filmmaking through a distance-based cohort will create the opportunity to share our stories, views and perspectives from afar and create a sense of connection through a dynamic medium.

**Accelerated Math 8 (0.5 credit): Rising 8th Grade (invitation-only)**

The Accelerated Math 8 Summer Course is a 4-week long program that covers the foundational concepts and skills necessary to succeed in Algebra 1. This course will focus on developing understanding of linear relationships, building fluency in solving linear equations and systems, and using linear models to analyze and solve real-world problems. Furthermore, students will be introduced to the concept of a function, learn the properties of integer exponents, and explore essential geometry concepts such as congruence, similarity and the Pythagorean theorem.

**Intermediate Algebra (0.5 credit): Rising 8th - 12th Graders**

Intermediate Algebra is a 4-week long course dedicated to the strengthening of foundational concepts and skills learned in Algebra 1 and necessary to succeed in Algebra 2 or an applied statistics course. The course will dive deep into the study of linear, quadratic and exponential functions, emphasizing the use of different representations of these functions to model real-world phenomena and solve problems. Furthermore, students will develop fluency in solving linear and quadratic equations, applying properties of exponents, and performing operations with polynomials using strategies built on their conceptual understanding.



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