

ENGLISH/READING

English Fundamentals

English Fundamentals is a small-group, instructional class focused on developing reading and writing skills. In addition, listening and speaking skills are addressed. Vocabulary, reading fluency and comprehension are some of the aspects addressed and supported through instruction and technology. Curriculum provides models of various genres. Writing instruction focuses on sentence structure, essays, outlining, and editing literature responses. Instruction is differentiated based on students' needs. Enrollment in this class is made through the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) process.

Reading Fundamentals

Reading Fundamentals is a small group instruction course focusing on strategies to build reading comprehension. Texts are differentiated for skill or interest levels using whole group, small group, and individualized instruction. Reading skills highlight vocabulary, fluency, and even phonemic awareness. Instructors consult the structure of programs that may include but are not limited to other double-period English programs, silent sustained reading, REWARDS, GREAT LEAPS, or even READ 180. In addition to reading skills, students practice basic grammar and spelling by brainstorming, outlining, and editing written responses to text. Accommodations are provided in-class as much as possible for students to grow in confidence and independence of basic skills. Enrollment in this class is through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. As determined in the IEP meeting, freshman enrolled in Reading Fundamentals I or II also take English Fundamentals I or II.

SCIENCE

Chemistry Fundamentals

Chemistry is the study of the materials that make up the world around us. Topics of this course include gases, the nature of matter, reaction types, stoichiometry, solutions and chemical bonding. A familiarity with algebra is important for success in this course. Students learn the chemistry topics through laboratory experiences, writing reports, problem solving, guided practice, reading, discussion, and the use of technology. With structured support, students develop skills to independently read, write, problem solve, and analyze data. There are appropriate accommodations made to meet the needs of various learning styles and mathematical abilities. Enrollment in this class is made through the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) process.

Environmental Science Fundamentals

This course is for students with a strong interest in the science of the environment. The content, oriented toward environmental issues, draws from the fields of ecology, chemistry, earth science, biology and physics. Laboratory work, fieldwork and projects are components of the curriculum. Student projects include lab work, journaling, making observations, building models, reporting on current issues and researching. The course content includes the natural history of Illinois, earth systems and cycles, population dynamics, pollution, water chemistry, ecosystems, resource use and environmental monitoring. There are appropriate accommodations made to meet the needs of various learning styles and mathematical abilities. Enrollment in this class is made through the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) process.

Biology Fundamentals

In this course students will learn the unifying themes of biology including ecology, evolution, microbiology and genetics. Students learn through projects, cooperative learning, differentiated instruction, weekly laboratory experiments, and guided analysis and processing. The class focuses on strengthening the students' understanding of the relationships found within biology and application of these concepts to the world around them. Some independent reading and writing outside of class time will be required. There are appropriate accommodations made to meet the needs of various learning styles and mathematical abilities. Enrollment in this class is made through the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) process.

Physics Fundamentals

TBA. This class is in the process of being designed. Phys/Chem Fundamentals will not be offered after this year.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Cultures Fundamentals

World Cultures Fundamentals is a small group instructional class which introduces students to various social science disciplines through the study of modern lifestyles, attitudes, and beliefs of people living in selected regions of the world. This class teaches students to understand and appreciate the web of relationships between people, places, and the environment. Students learn to identify connections between geography, culture, and the economy in regions and countries in the world. Awareness skills and the impact of student's decision-making as future community members and voting citizens are also addressed. Throughout the year, skills such as map and graph reading, reading comprehension, and note taking are developed and reinforced. The textbook readings and homework assignments are adapted to the individualized needs of the students. Enrollment in this class is made through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process.

United States History Fundamentals

U.S. History Fundamentals is a small group instructional class that is taught thematically. Students connect watershed events in history with various themes and attempt to connect these themes to their own lives. Emphasis is placed on the content objectives of U.S. History, as well as skill building in reading comprehension and written expression. The textbook readings and homework assignments are adapted to the individualized needs of the students. Enrollment in this class is made through the IEP process.

MATH

Pre-Algebra Fundamentals

Pre-Algebra Fundamentals is a small group instructional class that focuses on the study of decimals, fractions, and percent's, ratios, proportions, and graphs. Students develop the content knowledge and problem solving skills needed for success in daily life and careers. Students increase their ability to explore and solve mathematical problems, think critically, work cooperatively with others, and communicate ideas clearly. Students will receive additional support within the classroom, not limited to, one on one instruction, language and vocabulary support, and workload modification. Enrollment in this class is through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process.

Algebra Fundamentals I, II

Algebra Fundamentals are small group instructional classes. In this course, students study integers, rational numbers, equations, inequalities, exponents, polynomials, factoring, and graphing of equations. Students develop the content knowledge and problem solving skills needed for success in daily life and careers. Students increase their abilities to explore and solve mathematical problems, think critically, work cooperatively with others, and communicate ideas clearly. Students will receive additional support within the classroom, not limited to, one on one instruction, language and vocabulary support, and workload modification. Enrollment in this class is through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process.

Algebra Fundamentals III

Algebra Fundamentals are small group instructional classes. In this course, students study equations, inequalities, functions, systems, matrices, determinants, the quadratic function and polynomials. Students develop the content knowledge and problem solving skills needed for success in daily life and careers. Students increase their abilities to explore and solve mathematical problems, think critically, work cooperatively with others, and communicate ideas clearly. Students will receive additional support within the classroom, not limited to, one on one instruction, language and vocabulary support, and workload modification. Enrollment in this class is made through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process.

Geometry Fundamentals I, II

Geometry Fundamentals are small group classes where students study the properties of geometric figures, including angles, parallels, triangles, quadrilaterals, proportions, similarity, polygon, circles and area. Surface area, volume, right triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem and Trigonometry are areas also presented. Students develop the content knowledge and problem solving skills needed for success in daily life and careers. Students increase their abilities to explore and solve mathematical problems, think critically, work cooperatively with others, and communicate ideas clearly. Students will receive additional support within the classroom, not limited to, one on one instruction, language and vocabulary support, and workload modification. Enrollment in this class is made through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process.

Business Math/Intro to Business Fundamentals

Business Math/Intro to Business is a small group instructional class taught by a special education teacher. This course gives an overview of many aspects of business. It provides students with an opportunity to understand their role as a consumer, producer, and citizen so they will become more competent and efficient individuals in society. Business and math principles are incorporated in every unit. Major areas of study include money management, credit, banking, business organization, insurance, investing, and labor. The use of computers as a business tool is integrated into the curriculum, including the Internet Stock Market Game. Students take part in a career internship during second semester. Enrollment in this class is made through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process. As determined in the IEP meeting, this class may fulfill math, applied art, and/ or consumer education credit.

CAREERS

Career Development Fundamentals

Career Development Fundamentals is a small group instructional course where students learn to plan for life after high school. Students will identify their career interests', aptitudes, and abilities as they relate these findings to exploring career options. The focus of this course will be on the development of vocational skills including: completing job applications, conducting mock interviews, and resume writing. The class will also touch on topics such as budgeting and money management. Both applying to college and funding for college will also be addressed. Instructional methods include cooperative learning, class projects, and the use of technology. Enrollment in this class is made through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process.

Work Study Fundamentals

Work Study Fundamentals is a small group instructional course focused on the identification and development of attributes and skills leading to success in securing integrated employment. The emphasis is to develop a practical understanding of appropriate work place safety and social behaviors. Students also learn various methods of work place compensation. Computer skills are practiced along with resume writing and other office and clerical skills. Private sector and public sector employment opportunities are discussed. Career interest and personality inventories are completed to assist students in determining their personal strengths, career interests and preferences. Budgeting, banking, functioning as a consumer, comparison shopping, investing, insurance, saving, taxation, retirement planning and personal residence options are also taught.

Work Station

Work Station is an instructional course designed to connect classroom activities to work place experiences. This experience provides students with an opportunity to acquire and practice marketable career skills. The emphasis is on developing employability skills and learning the technical language associated with related occupations and professions. Networking strategies are identified, developed, and practiced. Students spend time performing daily tasks assigned to them at job sites either in the school or in the community. Students learn to take initiative and practice executive function skills. Student evaluations are completed by the work-site supervisor. Enrollment in this class is through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process.