

# GJHS ACADEMY AND ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## 9<sup>th</sup> grade courses for 2023-2024 School year

### GEICO ACADEMY OF ADVANCED BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

This academy's program completion will see students graduating with business, finance and technology skills that directly relate to personal, employment and college success. Students can earn a variety of professional industry certifications and may qualify for college course credits.

**Digital Information Technology:** The foundation for all business and technology programs, DIT students will learn word processing, internet basics, spreadsheets and presentation applications using software that meets industry standards. Students will have the opportunity to earn professional level certifications in Microsoft Office software. (Practical/Performing Art)

**Business Entrepreneurship Principles Honors:** This course is designed to provide an introduction to basic principles of entrepreneurship including the role of the entrepreneur, entrepreneurship as a career, ethics in business, and the principles of marketing, financing, and managing a business. This course also covers personal finance, teaching students how to manage personal finances, to stay out of debt, the realities of student loans, consumerism and the foundations of financial success. Students must know computer basics and business programs. Prerequisite: Digital Information Technology (DIT)

### JROTC

The GJHS JROTC Eagle Battalion prepares students for entry into any leadership program. The JROTC leadership includes citizenship, management, finance, technical and production skills. Two credits in JROTC (1 & 2) waive the HOPE and Practical/Performing Arts credits for graduation.

**Leadership Education Training:** These courses provide instruction in the rights, responsibilities, privileges, and freedoms that underlie good citizenship. Other subject areas include techniques of communication; physical fitness, health and appearance; United States and military history; military style drill and ceremonies; basic first aid; substance abuse; and goal setting.

### ACADEMY OF DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The Academy of Design & Technology is a four-year information technology career and professional academy, offering industry certification and specific career pathways. Course tracks include Digital Design and Digital Video Production. This will prepare students for careers in the high growth, high salary fields of Digital Assistant Designers and/or Digital Video Production Operators. Students have the opportunity to earn dual enrollment credits with Polk State College and participate in paid internships during their junior and senior year. Available certifications: Adobe Certified Associate – Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, After Effects, Dreamweaver, Premiere Pro Final Cut Pro X

**Digital Design:** This program offers a sequence of courses that provide coherent and rigorous content that align with academic standards. The content includes, but is not limited to, enhanced practical experiences in computer-generated art and text, graphic design, graphic production, digital design skills, preparation of digital layouts and illustrations, scanning, and the development of specialized multimedia presentations. Course offerings – Digital Design 1, Digital Design 2 Honors, Digital Design 3 Honors, Digital Design 4 Honors (Practical/Performing Art)

**Digital Video:** This program teaches student the skills needed to produce high quality videos using the same skills as professionals in the journalism, film, and television industry. Topics include pre-production, production and postproduction of a variety of genres in the journalism, film, and television industries, introduction to industry related careers, research and writing skills used by industry professionals, and hands on experience with current videography equipment and computer programs. Course offering – Digital Video Tech Honors 1-4 (Practical/Performing Art)

### **ACADEMY OF LEGAL STUDIES**

This academy provides students career and college opportunities in the field of law. Students have the opportunity to earn 2 industry certifications and dual enrollment credits with Polk State College.

**Legal Office Technology Honors:** Students will learn legal terminology, perform specialized legal office procedures, prepare legal documents, maintain and utilize a legal reference library, use legal and ethical procedures in the legal office, use specialized legal software, and perform records management functions specific to the legal field. Students will learn the basics of legal research and writing, including sources of law and legal citations. Students are introduced to trial preparation through mock trials in the first level. Mock trials will become more complex in level 2. Students will develop complete cases from start to finish in level 3. Certifications available: NALS – The Accredited Legal Professional

### **ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING**

This academy provides relevant and comprehensive training in the field of Engineering and Manufacturing. Students may earn industry certifications.

**Engineering Honors:** This course helps students understand the field of engineering/engineering technology and prepares them for postsecondary engineering programs by developing a more in-depth mastery of the associated mathematics, science, and technology knowledge and skills. The course also includes essential concepts of technology and design, as well as concerns about the social and political implications of technological change. Available certifications: Inventor Certified User, Certified Solidworks Associate, Fusion 360 (Practical/Performing Art)

**Robotics Honors:** This course provides students with a foundation in content and skills associated with robotics and automation, including artificial intelligence, electronics, physics, and principles of engineering. Certifications available: Inventor Certified User (Practical/Performing Art)

### **ACADEMY OF CYBERSECURITY**

**IT Fundamentals:** Introductory course in the Cybersecurity program. The content includes but is not limited to foundational knowledge and skills in computer and network security. Industry certifications are available.

## **MEDICAL ACADEMY**

This academy provides necessary skills and certifications for employment or continued education in the health care industry. Students have the opportunity to complete clinical experiences within the industry.

**Medical Skills:** This introductory level course offers students insight into health careers and develops basic medical skills. Students will begin developing competencies in various areas such as consumer health management, employability skills, basic first aid and CPR skills, stress management, disease transmission, communication skills, grief issues and legal and ethical issues.

**Health Science Anatomy & Physiology Honors:** This level 2 course is designed to give students an introduction to the human body as it relates to wellness and disease. Students will explore each of the body systems through a variety of learning experiences, including lectures, labs, case studies and real-world presentations from health care workers in field. This class will serve as the foundation for all other Medical Academy classes.

## **ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE**

This academy is designed to prepare students for post-secondary education in Veterinary Sciences, as well as direct entry into a related veterinary career. Other courses available within the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources field prepare students for further education and careers in this high demand industry. Students have the opportunity to earn industry certification in AEST Animal Science certification, AEST Agritechnology certification, and Veterinary Assisting certification, FVMA, among several others.

**Vet Assisting Honors:** This 4 year program is designed to develop competencies in areas such as the history of the animal industry, careers, breed identification, animal care, basic first aid, tools and equipment, functions of systems, animal digestive systems, animal control, animal overpopulation, animal related laws, welfare and rights, research, record keeping, and disease and parasites. The 4<sup>th</sup> year concludes with an internship at a veterinary clinic. Students are able to earn their Veterinary Assisting Certification.

**Agriscience Foundations:** This preliminary course gives students a basic understanding of the uses of facilities, land, water, and labor in production of plants, and animal breeding, livestock, harvesting, disease control, record keeping, machinery operation and maintenance. This is the prerequisite course for all other Agriscience courses.

## **ACADEMY OF CULINARY ARTS**

This academy introduces students to a set of skills that combine both cooking techniques and business skills. Students learn what it takes to begin a career in this field and will learn about the many career paths that are possible in this industry. Students may take industry certification exams.

**Culinary Arts 1:** Course integrates introduction to safety, leadership, employability skills, mathematics and food science information, as well as hands-on labs. Certification offered: Safestaff

**Culinary Arts 2:** Is the second of a sequential pathway that focuses on a wide variety of topics. These might include appetizers, garnishes, soups, salads, cake decorating, pastry crusts, and meal planning. Industry safety and sanitation standards are stressed with all food labs. Certification offered: Safestaff (Practical/Performing Art, teacher approval required)

## **PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS**

This program provides options to explore the arts and expand creative talents. Technical proficiency and competency-based learning contribute to the experiences.

**2-D Studio Art 1:** This entry level visual arts course is for the beginning art student. It includes the hands-on study of design at a beginner level and explores a variety of media and artists.  
(Practical/Performing Art)

**2D Studio Art 2:** This course is for experiences artists who have completed 2-D Studio Art 1.  
(Practical/Performing Art)

**3-D Studio Art:** This first level year long course includes exploration of various sculpting materials, such as paper sculpture, found objects, and ceramic pottery. Students will develop skills in conceptualizing 3-D forms, manipulating materials, and expressing their own creativity in the variety of mediums and themes. No previous experience required. (Practical/Performing Art)

**Beginning Band I:** This course provides students with no prior instrument experience the opportunity to develop fundamental skills in instrument techniques and musical literacy. Students will have the opportunity to learn flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. (Practical/Performing Art)

**Band III-IV:** This course provides students with band/wind instrument experience focusing on advanced playing techniques and high-end literature. Content will include advanced development in tone production, band performance techniques, musical literacy, and marching fundamentals. The course requires mandatory after-school rehearsals & performances ranging from marching at football games to spring concerts and assessments. Students will have numerous opportunities to be involved in leadership roles, as well as countless performance-based events. Course is by audition only and placement is at the director's discretion. Honors Band - levels 5 & 6 (Practical/Performing Art)

**Jazz Band:** This course provides students with jazz fundamentals as well as jazz history in varying jazz styles. The course requires some after-school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year. Course is by audition only, must be taken with a band course, and placement is at the director's discretion. Honors Jazz Band – level 4 (Practical/Performing Art)

**Eurhythmics:** This course is by audition only and is a flag-oriented “guard” class with some dance. The students involved are directly part of the band/marching ensemble. It is designed to develop movement to music incorporating dance, flag, saber, rifle, and props After-school rehearsals and performances are required. Participants will be involved with marching at football games, parades, as well as separate events including the Winter Guard ensembles. (Practical/Performing Art)

**Orchestra I:** This course provides students with musical ensemble experience on orchestral instruments. Content will include the development of fundamental skills in tone production, orchestral performance techniques, musical literacy, and music appreciation. The course requires after-school rehearsals and performances and requires an audition. Honors Orchestra – levels 5 & 6 (Practical/Performing Art)

**Chorus I:** An entry level ensemble open to any student who wishes to learn to sing in a choral setting or for any student with limited choral experience. No audition is required. This chorus will perform in the Winter and Spring Concerts and focuses on contemporary/pop literature.  
(Practical/Performing Art)

**Chorus III-VI:** Men's and Women's Chorus is a TTBB men's ensemble and Women's Chorus is an SSAA women's ensemble. The choir is intermediate levels with Chorus experience. This choir will perform in the Winter and Spring Concerts and focuses on contemporary/pop literature as well as choral literature for the male/female voice. Audition required. Honors Chorus – levels 5 & 6 (Practical/Performing Art)

**Music Theory I:** A beginning music theory course that covers the basic elements of music rhythms, meter notation, key signatures, scales, intervals, triads and cadence types as well as some popular music forms. The fundamentals covered apply to a broad range of styles: classical music from about 1600 to 1900, some jazz, and popular music. (Practical/Performing Art)

**Theatre:** This course is designed for students with little or no theatre experience. Classwork focuses on the exploration of theatre literature, performance, historical and cultural connections, and technical requirements. Students will be introduced to acting and character development, as well as a variety of forms of music, dance, visual arts. (Practical/Performing Art)

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**HOPE:** This course's content includes knowledge of the importance of physical fitness, assessment of health related components of fitness, application of biomechanical and physiological principles to improve and maintain overall good health. Students also explore stress management, sound nutritional practices, improving fitness levels and other wellness issues.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES and ACADEMIC ELECTIVES**

**Spanish 1:** Spanish I introduces students to the Spanish language through a variety of real-life topics. The focus for this course is to develop basic communication skills and cross cultural understanding.

**Spanish 2 Honors:** Spanish II reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by students in Spanish I, by further exploring the intricacies of the language as the focus shifts more to presentational speaking and writing.

**Spanish 3 Honors:** Spanish III is a course that uses all concepts in Spanish I and II to develop higher levels of proficiency. Students will be expected to speak in Spanish, read short stories, deliver oral presentations and develop short essays about a variety of topics.

**Chinese 1:** To enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Chinese through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.

**Chinese 2:** Chinese II reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by students in Chinese I. The course develops increased listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as cultural awareness.

**Creative Writing 1/2:** This course develops the writing and language skills students need for individual expression in literary forms. Emphasis is placed on writing short stories, creating poetry, journaling, reflecting on life events, analyzing songs and movies, creating portfolios.

**Law Studies:** This elective course focuses on the legislative branch of government. Students draft their own bills and then debate using parliamentary procedure. Students learn public speaking skills and discuss current events in an interactive and engaging class.

**AP Human Geography:** Explore how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of the Earth. You'll use the tools and thinking processes of geographers to examine patterns of human population, migrations, and land use.

**AP Environmental Science:** The equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in Environmental Science. Students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

## **EDUCATION SUPPORT**

**Intensive Reading:** Required course when students score a level 1 or 2 on the FSA English Language Arts assessment which indicates a student is reading below grade level. Instruction is individualized based on diagnostic data and focuses on reading skills needed for the FSA English Language Assessment along with the SAT and ACT.

**Peer Counseling:** The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop executive functioning skills, including time management, study skills, conflict resolution. It is typically for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**ESOL Development Language:** The purpose of this course is to enable high school students who are native speakers of languages other than English to accelerate the development of communication and literacy skills that will promote English proficiency. This course will strengthen English listening, speaking, reading and writing skills so that students are able to successfully comprehend high school grade-level text independently, as well as communicate for social and instructional purposes within the school setting. Instruction will emphasize reading comprehension, writing fluency, and academic vocabulary through various levels of complexity.

***Courses requiring teacher approval – teacher approval will be confirmed after course registration is completed. If a student selects a course that is not approved by the teacher, the next elective choice will be applied.***