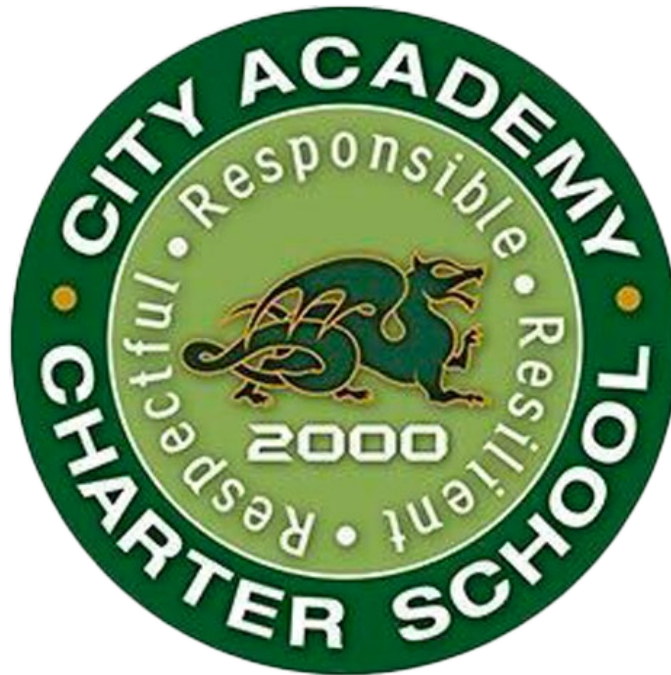


City Academy Charter School

Course Description Guide

2026



Arts: Performing and Visual

INTRO TO VOCAL TECHNIQUE:

This is an introductory level course designed to give students their first opportunities with solo singing and performing. This course focuses on the fundamentals of music reading, vocal technique, and repertoire learning and memorization. Students will learn and perform a wide variety of music over the course of the year. Most importantly, students will learn to share their voices and love of music with others as they build the confidence to solo in public performances.

BEGINNING CHOIR

This is an introductory level course that allows students to sing in a choir as part of a group. Choral singing is a very different art from solo singing, and this course helps students develop their choral music craft. Like all music classes, students will focus on the fundamentals of music reading and vocal technique. Additionally, students will build choral skills such as harmony singing, blending their voices with others, and singing with choral tones and vowels. Students will have several opportunities throughout the year to showcase their progress in public performances.

INTERMEDIATE VOCAL TECHNIQUE

This intermediate level course helps students solidify and habitualize the skills they learned in their introductory level courses. This includes individual vocal technique, musicality and performance habits, and sight singing. Students in this course also develop a basic understanding of music theory. Students will provide a wide variety of songs in public performances throughout the year, with a focus on applying vocal and performance techniques across different genres and styles. **PRE-REQUISITE:** Intro to Vocal Technique, OR Teacher Sign-in.

ADVANCED VOCAL TECHNIQUE

This is an advanced course for students who seek to refine their technique as solo singers in a variety of musical settings. Building on the skills students learned in introductory courses and prior music experiences, this course focuses on advanced music reading skills, a deeper mastery of vocal technique, and helping students diversify their skill sets by singing in a variety of musical styles. Students in this course received individual vocal coaching designed to help them meet their own musical goals, and have many public performance opportunities. **TEACHER SIGN IN REQUIRED.**

ACADEMY SINGERS

Academy Singers is an audition-only, performance based capstone class designed to give students the opportunity to put together all the skills they have learned in previous music classes and create high level musical art. Students in Academy Singers perform as soloists, in duets and trios, and all together in choral arrangements. Students learn a high volume of repertoire from a wide variety of sources, and have many performance opportunities for the school, the community, and in travel. **CO-REQUISITE:** Advanced Vocal Technique

INTRO TO MUSICAL THEATRE

This course is designed to give students a chance to dip their toes into the waters of musical theatre and theatrical performance. This course will focus on the three core elements of musical theatre - singing, dancing, and acting. Students will receive basic technique training in each of these areas, and then have an opportunity to develop and showcase their own creative abilities in mini-performances focused on each area. No prior experience or special skills are required - only a willingness to try something new and have some fun doing it!

MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to choose, audition for, and perform a full length musical. Students in the course work together to choose the musical for the year, then audition. All students in the class become the cast of the musical, and spend the year rehearsing vocal music, blocking, and choreography. Students then work together to assemble costumes, props, sets, and technical elements. At the end of the year students perform their musical for the community as a chance to show what they have created.

THEATRE FOUNDATIONS

Learn the basics of acting and improvisation while improving your communication skills and confidence. We'll also read and analyze plays, learn theatre terminology, and explore production roles. This class emphasizes creativity and collaboration with a focus on ensemble theatre techniques. Most of your grade comes from class participation so good attendance is essential.

College and Career Awareness(CCA)

College & Career Awareness (CCA)

CCA is designed to help students discover the right career path for their future. This class isn't about mastering one subject—it's about exploration. We'll spend 2–3 weeks diving into different career areas such as Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Agriculture, Arts and Design, Business and Entrepreneurship, Construction, Digital Technology, Education, Energy, Financial Services, Healthcare, Hospitality, Marketing, Public Service, and Transportation. Each unit includes hands-on projects that help you understand what people in those fields actually do. By the end of the year, you'll have a better sense of your interests, strengths, and possible career goals for high school and beyond.

Computer Science and Technology

Computer Science A

In Computer Science, we start by learning the fundamentals of **Python programming**. You'll create your own game from the beginning of the year and improve it week by week as you learn new coding skills. This means you'll not only learn how to code but also how to think like a programmer—solving problems, fixing errors, and designing interactive experiences. Midway through the semester, we explore **emerging technologies**, beginning with drones to see how programming and engineering work together. Toward the end of the course, we'll dive into **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**—how it works, where it's used, and how it's shaping the world you're growing up in.

Computer Science B

In Computer Science B, students dive into game development using **Unreal Engine 5** and visual scripting (#1 Used Game Engine). Instead of writing traditional code, students will build logic through **node-based** systems to create a game from the ground up. By the end of the course, students will have a playable game that includes a moving character and enemies that can chase or shoot at the player.

Digital Media

Digital Media is a creative, hands-on course where you'll learn to use professional tools from the **Adobe Creative Suite**. We begin with **Photoshop**, where you'll learn how to delete unwanted objects, swap faces, change colors, and create digital art. After that, we move into **Illustrator**, where you'll design your own logo and learn the basics of vector art. From there, we head into **video editing** with **Premiere Pro** and explore motion graphics and effects using **After Effects**. If time allows, we'll even explore **Substance Painter** to create textures for 3D models. By the end of the semester, you'll have built a creative portfolio showing off your design, editing, and animation skills.

Game Design

Game Design is a full-year course where you learn how to bring your ideas to life through 3D art, animation, and programming. We start by creating **3D models from scratch**, learning the tools and techniques used in the gaming industry. Once your models are ready, we animate them so they can move and interact naturally.

Throughout the year, we'll import everything into **Unreal Engine**, where you'll slowly build your own playable world. Later in the year, we'll add **visual effects** like fire, water, and lighting to make your game more dynamic, and finally we'll dive into **programming** to make your characters and gameplay come alive. By the end of the course, you'll have a working 3D game built entirely by you.

3D Printing Essentials

This class is all about bringing your ideas to life—literally. We start by learning the basics of **3D modeling** using programs like **Maya**, focusing on how to create accurate shapes and designs that can actually be printed. Once you understand the fundamentals, we'll move into **digital sculpting**, where you'll learn how to model more organic forms such as **creatures, characters, and soft-body designs**. As your skills grow, you'll design and print your own **tabletop miniatures** and creative projects that combine art and engineering.

Along the way, you'll also learn the **inner workings of a 3D printer**—how it's built, how it functions, and how to maintain it. We'll explore the **different types of 3D printers** (like resin and filament printers) and compare how each one works best for certain materials and designs. By the end of the semester, you'll understand the full process from concept to creation—designing, slicing, and printing your own 3D models from start to finish.

English

English 7/8- This course will prepare students for high school coursework. Students will analyze literature and identify its applications to their lives and the world. In addition to developing reading skills, students will engage in activities and assignments that will hone their writing skills. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and activities in addition to completing reading and writing assignments.

English 9/10- This course will cover multiple genres of literature including fiction (short stories and novel), poetry, and drama. Students will analyze literature and identify its applications to their lives and the world. In addition to developing reading skills, students will engage in activities and assignments that will hone their writing skills. Students will learn the Six Traits of Effective Writing and compose essays in various rhetorical contexts including Narrative, Expository, and Persuasive. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and activities in addition to completing reading and writing assignments.

English 11/12- This course will cover multiple genres of literature including fiction (short stories and novel), poetry, and drama. Students will analyze literature and identify its applications to their lives and the world. In addition to strengthening reading skills, students will engage in activities and assignments that will hone their writing skills. Students will review the Six Traits of Effective Writing and compose essays in various rhetorical contexts including Narrative, Expository, and Argumentative. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and activities in addition to completing reading and writing assignments.

Honors (Pre-AP) English- This course will prepare students for Advanced Placement Literature. Students will think critically about prose, drama, and poetry while engaging in textual analysis and discussion. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and activities in addition to completing reading and writing assignments.

- Honors 1- This course builds the foundation for Honors 2. Students will review and practice literary devices in depth in order to complete analysis. In addition, students will practice thesis statements, essay outlines, and essay formatting.
- Honors 2- In this course, students will hone their analytical and essay writing skills, applying all they learned in Honors 1.

AP English Literature and Composition- This engaging and rigorous course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam in May. The AP English Literature and Composition exam assesses students' ability to analyze and interpret literary texts, understand literary elements, and construct well-supported arguments. The multiple-choice questions focus on close reading and analytical skills, while the essays require students to synthesize their understanding and present their interpretations in a clear and persuasive manner. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and activities in addition to completing reading and writing assignments.

AP English Language and Composition- This is an introductory college-level composition course which will prepare students for the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Exam in May. The course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts from a range of disciplines and historical periods.

Film as Literature- Throughout this course, students will focus on effective storytelling and its impact. Although short story analysis is part of the class, the majority of the course “texts” will be films. Students will look at films analytically and complete several written assignments discussing technique, genre, and historical significance. As a culminating project, students will create their own short films, applying their understanding of filmmaking techniques to storytelling.

Speech and Debate- This course introduces students to the art of effective communication, critical thinking, and public speaking. Students will develop skills in research, argumentation, persuasion, and performance through a variety of activities, including prepared speeches, impromptu speaking, and structured debates. Emphasis is placed on audience awareness, clarity, organization, and confidence. Students will also learn to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of their own presentations and those of others.

Intro to Playwriting- This is an introductory course for students interested in playwriting. Students will learn about effective playwriting techniques and put those skills into practice as they write adaptations and original works. The course culminates in a playwriting showcase – staged readings of students’ original works. Throughout the year, students will work in collaboration with Plan-B Theatre. In addition to weekly visits from Plan-B educators in the classroom, guest lecturers—including actors, set designers, and creative directors—will be an integral part of the course. Students will also attend field trips to view live theatrical performances.

Advanced Playwriting- This course is an upper-level course designed for students who have a strong interest in dramatic writing and a foundational understanding of theatrical structure. In this class, students deepen their craft by exploring advanced techniques in character development, dialogue, scene construction, pacing, and thematic cohesion. Students will analyze scenes from a range of modern and contemporary plays to understand what makes compelling and dramatic storytelling. They will draft multiple short scripts, adaptations, and scenes. The course culminates in a staged reading event showcasing student work.

*Students must have successfully completed Intro to Playwriting in order to take this class.

Creative Writing- In this course, students will explore their creativity through storytelling. They will practice essential writing skills while experimenting with characters, settings, dialogue, and structure. Through guided exercises, reading short mentor texts, and sharing their work in a supportive environment, students will develop confidence in their voice and learn how to revise their writing effectively. By the end of the course, students will have a collection of original pieces that showcase their creativity and growth as writers.

Math

Math 7: In Grade 7, you will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Math 8: In Grade 8, you will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Math Sec I: The critical areas of Secondary I deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Secondary Mathematics I uses properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. The final unit in the course ties together the algebraic and geometric ideas studied.

Math Sec II: THE FOCUS OF SECONDARY MATHEMATICS II is on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions and on comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear and exponential relationships from Secondary Mathematics I. The need for extending the set of rational numbers arises, and real and complex numbers are introduced so that all quadratic equations can be solved. The link between probability and data is explored through conditional probability and counting methods, including their use in making and evaluating decisions. The study of similarity leads to an understanding of right triangle trigonometry and connects to quadratics through Pythagorean relationships. Circles, with their quadratic algebraic representations, round out the course.

Math Sec III: IN SECONDARY MATHEMATICS III students pull together and apply the accumulation of learning that they have from their previous courses, with content grouped into four critical areas. They apply methods from probability and statistics to draw inferences and conclusions from data. Students expand their repertoire of functions to include polynomial, rational, and radical functions. They expand their study of right triangle trigonometry to include general triangles. And, finally, students bring together all of their experience with functions and geometry to create models and solve contextual problems.

Pre-Calculus: IN PRE-CALCULUS students will explore topics which include an introduction to calculus with functions, graphs, limits, area under a curve, and rates of change. On a daily basis, students work collaboratively with others as they use problem-solving strategies, complete investigations, gather evidence, critically analyze results, and communicate clear and effective arguments while justifying their

thinking. The course is well balanced among procedural fluency, deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence, and adaptive reasoning.

Health and Physical Education

Physical Education: Students will pursue personal fitness goals for lifelong health class will assist students in knowing how to be responsible for their own fitness. It offers students instruction in lifetime activities, individual, and team sports. With an emphasis on activities offering lifelong participation opportunities

Health I (Middle School) & Health II (High School): This class will assist students with knowledge in the health curriculum for the state of Utah. Students are expected to develop competency in the health curriculum. Students will receive instruction on Utah state core curriculum health topics. Students will receive instruction to guide them through a successful outcome both in class and through use of homework

Strength & Conditioning: This course is designed to introduce students to the principles and practices of strength and conditioning. With an emphasis on activities offering lifelong participation opportunities. Students will learn proper techniques for a variety of exercises, develop personalized fitness plans, and explore the relationship between physical fitness and overall health. The goal is to build strength, endurance, flexibility, and agility while emphasizing safety and lifelong fitness habits.

Outdoor Recreation (Middle School Elective)

Science

AP Biology: AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics like evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetic information transfer, ecology, and interactions.

Biology: Biology is an introductory high school-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics like evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetic information transfer, ecology, and interactions.

Chemistry: Chemistry is a course that studies the fundamental building blocks of matter like atoms and the periodic table, chemical bonding, and the different types of reactions. It also studies related concepts such as stoichiometry, gas laws, acids and bases, and the principles of energy and equilibrium in chemical systems.

Environmental Science: Environmental science studies the natural systems and human impact on the environment, covering topics like ecology, biogeochemical cycles, and energy resources, as well as pollution, climate change, and sustainability

Zoology: Zoology explores the study of animal life, covering animal classification, anatomy, physiology, behavior, and evolution. The curriculum typically includes in-depth study of major animal groups like invertebrates and vertebrates, with hands-on laboratory experiences and discussions on topics such as conservation, animal adaptations, and the human impact on animal populations.

Anatomy: Anatomy studies the structure and function of the human body's organ systems, including the skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems. You also study how these systems work together, covering topics like disease and aging, and often complete hands-on activities like labs

Social Studies

Utah Studies

Seventh grade students investigate a wide ranging of thought-provoking issues that connect Utah's past, present and future, including:

- Should a nuclear power plant be built in Utah?
- Should Lake Powell be drained?
- How easy is traveling in Utah without a car?
- Are new buildings in Salt Lake City being built for the right uses in the right places?

Students develop skills in gathering and analyzing evidence and in presenting their extended thinking and conclusions. The course is rich in field work.

US History 1

From the footprints of the first prehistoric peoples to inhabit what became the Americas through to the reconstruction of the Union after the Civil War, this course takes an investigative approach to the origins and development of the United States through to 1880. Working with a great variety of historical evidence and learning to assess the interpretations of historians, students push beyond facts alone to consider significance and weigh up controversies.

Geography

This thematic and issue-based course investigates issues of both physical and human geography and includes depth studies from around the globe tackling questions such as:

- Do poorer or wealthier countries suffer worse from natural disasters?
- Can we feed the world?
- Why are birth rates soaring in some areas and plunging in others?

The course is rich in field work and uses the internet for virtual visits and international conversations and sharing of perspectives.

World History

To make history much more engaging and meaningful than “one more thing after another”, this course strikes an excellent balance between breadth of study and depth of investigation, stoking interest and provoking thinking through driving questions such as:

- How civilized *were* ancient civilizations?
- Have empires been great?
- How far did totalitarian regimes achieve total control of their peoples?

Students improve skills in evaluating evidence, analyzing reasons and results and assessing historians' interpretations.

US History 2

This course uses thematic investigations and rich depth studies to explore the developments in American politics and society from the end of the Civil War to 9/11. Students develop their skills in evaluating historical evidence, assessing historians' interpretations and constructing arguments that justify the conclusions that they have formed. The course includes virtual and in-person field work.

Civics This course will cover the full high school curriculum in illustrative and engaging ways so that each student can better understand and connect with the principles and functions of the United States government.

The course will begin with an overview of the foundations of American democracy, including the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the roles of the three branches of government. It will conclude with an exploration of civic participation, current events, and the responsibilities of citizenship. We will examine the major concepts and themes of these topics.

General Financial Literacy

The objective of this class is that each student will improve their personal relationship with money. This is accomplished by understanding where money comes from, how to earn money, and how money can help them achieve their goals while living their values.

Advanced Placement US History (APUSH) This course is designed to provide students with a college-level understanding of United States history from pre-Columbian societies to the present. We will follow the Advanced Placement U.S. History framework, focusing on historical reasoning skills, analysis of primary and secondary sources, and connections across time periods. Students will explore key political, social, cultural, and economic developments while learning to evaluate historical evidence and construct persuasive arguments. The course will move chronologically through nine historical periods as defined by the College Board, with an emphasis on preparing for the AP U.S. History Exam in May. Students are expected to arrive prepared, participate actively in discussions, and complete readings and assignments in a timely manner. Instruction will be engaging, rigorous, and designed to help students succeed both on the exam and in future academic work.

World Languages

Spanish 1

We will be exploring the Spanish language and as many cultures that speak it as we can! With an emphasis on day-to-day speech, we will be learning how to converse in everyday Spanish so you can survive in a Spanish speaking world. We will be exploring a variety of topics to deep dive into Latin culture and what makes it so rich and vibrant. As part of that, we will be having various cultures' foods throughout the year i.e rosca de reyes, pan de puerto, all building up to being able to order food in the Spring. We will also be learning various songs throughout the year and exploring the importance of music to Spanish and how we can use it to help us learn. These songs will take months to learn and we will be using them to learn a lot of the sentence structure and grammatical rules to Spanish. Spanish is an amazing language and the cultures that speak it are equally amazing and my hope is that you leave my class feeling the same.