

# **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION GUIDELINES**

Students who are enrolled in a Maya Angelou School are able to receive a certificate of completion by meeting the following criteria:

- 1. Students has mastered IEP goals.
- 2. Mastery of IEP goals must be confirmed by a letter from the Director of Special Education or the school principal.
- 3. The IEP team determines with the parent and/or the adult student that the student will receive a Certificate of Completion.
- 4. Student must attend for at least 4 academic years.
- 5. Student eligible for a Certificate of Completion may take courses, based on year of determination, from a few months to a few years. (A student deemed eligible in their fourth year may only need to complete the remaining courses in that year to graduate, based on the requirements).
- 6. Student must take classes in all required academic areas: English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Science, Career/College Readiness, Foreign Language, Arts/Humanities.
- 7. Students are eligible to participate in all senior activities unless otherwise forfeited due to violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
- 8. Students will not participate in the state's science assessment but will be given an alternate science assessment.
- 9. The community service requirement will be waived.

In addition, students will follow the suggested sequences and course listed on the following page.

#### Additional Notes for All Years

- Students' grades can fall within the traditional grading criteria (i.e. A-F) or Pass/Fail.
- In the event of detainment, the code of W-withdrawal equates to a grade of F or Fail.
- Students may receive any grade code as proof that class was scheduled and attended.
- Students who transferred from a GED track to a Diploma or Certificate of Completion track will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

# **SEQUENCE FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	

CORE: Completion required for years 1-4

#### **ELECTIVE:**

- Career Preparation I
- Career Preparation II
- Internship/Job Shadowing

#### **ENGLISH**

# English I - 1.0 Credit

Students read, synthesize, analyze, and respond to complex literary and informational texts that are thematically connected, exploring such themes as Coming of Age and Reflections: Past to Present. Genres studied include the novel and the autobiography, as well as shorter texts representative of diverse media and formats. Students examine rhetorical devices and the author's language as it is used to produce effective arguments and analytical papers. The development of effective speaking and listening skills is an integral part of the course and continued instruction in the effective and correct use of language.

#### English II - 1.0 Credit

Students explore the actions and reactions of individuals to the world in which they live and construct oral and written analytical responses to diverse text formats that are thematically connected, exploring such themes as Hopes and Fears and Individual and Society. Students continue their literary study of the novel and the play and examine memoir and poetry genres. Informational texts support the unit themes. Students construct explanatory and argument responses to various texts as critical readers and writers. Opportunities are provided for students to polish their spoken communication.

#### English III - 1.0 Credit

Inquiry into the American Experience encourages both teacher and student autonomy in order to provide for the kind of creative, authentic, and deep teaching and learning necessary to prepare all students for college and careers. The word "inquiry" in the course title emphasizes the search to make meaning, and the subject of that inquiry is the multitude of different ways that individuals experience life in this country. Teachers develop units based on broad themes and open-ended questions, engaging students with complex texts, ideas, and writing assignments. Throughout the course, teachers also encourage students to choose texts from diverse perspectives and time periods, research issues that interest them, and present their ideas in a variety of analytical and creative formats.

## English IV - 1.0 Credit

Inquiry into the Global Experience encourages students to consider multiple and complex points of view on universal themes and global issues. Students pursue questions that interest them and read a variety of texts that are diverse in terms of cultural experience, time period, and world view, including texts from non-Eurocentric perspectives The word "inquiry" in the course title emphasizes the search to make meaning and grapple with the big ideas and challenging issues of our increasingly global society. In

preparation for college and careers, students continue to develop skills for using language to understand a world that is changing rapidly in terms of how information is produced and shared.

#### Functional English 9 - 1.0 Credit

Functional English 9 includes the study of literature specifically through novels, short stories, and factual works. Reading skills, fluency, comprehension strategies, and vocabulary will be emphasized. The course will also focus on developing writing skills. Students will learn about sentence and paragraph development and write both formally and informally for a variety of purposes. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary will also be included to reinforce all writing skills.

# Functional English 10 - 1.0 Credit

Transitional preparation is a focus of this individualized class. Areas to be covered include basic oral and written language skills, self-advocacy, study skills, career exploration, vocational planning and assessment, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

# Functional English 11 - 1.0 Credit

Language skills used in daily living is the focus of this individualized class. Emphasis will be on using developed vocabulary, oral and written language, exploring career options and reading and discussing various novels.

# Functional English 12 - 1.0 Credit

Language skills used in independent living situations are the focus of this individualized class. Emphasis will be placed on decision making skills, life choices, career choices and oral and written language skills used in the workplace.

#### **MATH**

# Algebra 1 - 1.0 Credit

This course focuses on the mastery of five critical areas: (1) developing understanding and investigating relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations; (2) developing understanding and applying linear and exponential relationships; (3) performing arithmetic operations on polynomial expressions, solving equations, inequalities, and systems of equations; (4) using properties of rational and irrational numbers to develop an understanding of quadratic functions; and (5) investigating trends and modeling with descriptive statistics.

# **Geometry - 1.0 Credit**

This course formalizes and extends students' geometric experiences from the elementary and middle school grades. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their understanding of geometric relationships, progressing toward formal mathematical arguments. Instruction at this level will focus on the understanding and application of congruence as a basis for developing formal proofs; the relationships among similarity, trigonometry and triangles; the relationships between two- and three-dimensional objects and their measurements; exploration of geometric descriptions and equations for conic sections; and application of geometric concepts in modeling situations.

#### Algebra II & Trigonometry - 1.0 Credit

This course focuses on functions, polynomials, periodic phenomena, and collecting and analyzing data. Students will make connections between verbal, numeric, algebraic, and graphical representations of functions and apply this knowledge as they create equations and inequalities that can be used to model and solve mathematical and real-world problems. Practice standards and mathematical habits of mind are embedded throughout the course, as students solve novel problems, reason abstractly, and think critically. Trigonometry is designed for students that have successfully completed a second year of algebra and desire to improve their analytic math abilities and understanding of trigonometry. During this in-depth study of trigonometry, students will utilize their geometry and algebra skills. Students will be required to express understanding using qualitative, quantitative, algebraic, and graphing skills.

# Probability & Statistics - 1.0 Credit

This course is the study of descriptive and inferential statistics and probability. This class provides students with an understanding of how to collect, organize, summarize and present statistical information, and how to perform experiments on subject samples using sampling techniques. Also included are probability and knowledge of distribution to examine and make predictions about a population.

#### Pre-Calculus - 1.0 Credit

This course combines the study of Trigonometry Elementary Functions Analytic Geometry and Math Analysis topics as preparation for calculus Topics typically include the study of complex numbers polynomial logarithmic exponential rational right trigonometric and circular functions and their relations inverses and graphs trigonometric identities and equations solutions of right and oblique triangles vectors the polar coordinate system conic sections Boolean algebra and symbolic logic mathematical induction matrix algebra sequences and series and limits and continuity.

#### Practical Math - 1.0 Credit

Practical Math I provide students the opportunity to learn and obtain practical math computation skills and/or math problem solving skills at the student's instructional level. Students will be placed on their working level at the time of entry. Concepts will include addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This course will also develop competency in fractions, decimals, percents, measurement and pre-algebra. Successful completion of Level III competencies will prepare the student for Algebra.

#### Functional Math - 1.0 Credit

The purpose of this course is to teach academic skills aligned with each student's individual needs. Some or all of the following skills will be taught: survival reading (ex: Community signs, survival vocabulary, recipes, menus, grocery, etc.), time telling, calendar, daily schedule management, money management, spelling, basic math, and handwriting. Students work individually, in small or large groups, and on computers. Peer tutors assist students throughout the day.

#### Life and Employment Math - 1.0 Credit

Financial Planning introduces students to basic financial planning concepts and illustrates how these concepts apply to everyday life. Topics covered include career planning and development, goal setting, personal budgeting, cash flow analysis, financial statements, tax planning, use of credit, savings and investment programs, changes in housing situations, major consumer purchases, insurance needs and retirement and estate planning.

#### Life and Employment Math II - 1.0 Credit

The purpose of this course is to provide students the opportunity to implement Financial Planning basics and financial planning concepts learned to partly illustrate how these concepts apply to everyday life. Topics covered include career planning and development, goal setting, personal budgeting, cash flow analysis, financial statements, tax planning, use of credit, savings and investment programs, changes in housing situations, major consumer purchases, insurance needs and retirement and estate planning.

#### **SCIENCE**

#### Biology - 1.0 Credit

Students will build an understanding of: how organisms live and grow (structure and function, growth and development of organisms, and organization for matter and energy flow in organisms); how and why organisms interact with their environment and the effects of these interactions (interdependent relationships in ecosystems, cycles of matter and energy transfer in ecosystems, ecosystem dynamics, functioning, and resilience, and social interactions and group behavior); how characteristics of one generation are passed to the next and how individuals of the same species and even siblings can have different characteristics (inheritance of traits and variation of traits); and what evidence shows that different species are related (evidence of common ancestry and diversity, natural selection, adaptation, and biodiversity and humans). Engineering design is incorporated as students consider technological solutions to real-world problems. This course supports environmental literacy and features learning that supports the discipline of Life Science. Note: Animals may be dissected in this course. Alternatives to dissection are available.

#### **Environmental Science - 1.0 Credit**

This Next Generation Science Standard (NGSS) aligned course builds on the foundations of the earth, life, and physical sciences. It is designed for students to experience the interdisciplinary nature of environmental science. Students will use the Science and Engineering Practices to construct an understanding of the interdependence of organisms, populations, and natural resources; renewable and nonrenewable energy resources; and humans' impact on the environment. Students will participate in frequent descriptive and field investigations, service projects, and research related to environmental law. Students will also have the opportunity to explore environmental careers. This course features learning that supports the disciplines of Earth/Space Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. Note: Animals may be dissected in this course. Alternatives to dissection are available. This course does not include a lab component.

## **Chemistry - 1.0 Credit**

This course includes the study of the periodic table, bonding, gasses, solutions, organic molecules, and acids and bases. Students will engage in the practices of science and engineering to construct an understanding of the characteristics and quantitative relationships associated with matter. Technology is used extensively to collect and analyze data. Algebraic skills will be applied to solve problems. Principles of chemistry as they relate to our everyday lives will be emphasized.

# Physics - 1.0 Credit

This course develops student understanding of forces, motion, and gravity; energy and momentum; electricity and magnetism; and waves. Students will engage in the practices of science and engineering to construct their understanding of the conceptual and quantitative relationships associated with matter and energy. Technology will be used extensively to collect and analyze data. Students will apply concepts

from Algebra and Geometry to solve problems. Principles of physics as they relate to our everyday lives will be emphasized.

#### **Functional Science - 1.0 Credit**

This course develops a functional understanding of the sciences as they relate to everyday life. The practical aspects of human biology and physical and environmental sciences are explored through media presentations, lab experiments, and class discussions.

#### Life Science - 1.0 Credit

This course will emphasize practical applications of science to an ever-increasing technological society. It helps make students aware of some of the ways in which science and technology influence their daily lives and future careers. It covers the basic concepts of physical science, space, earth science, and life science.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

#### Civics - 1.0 Credit

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the workings of our democratic society. The focus will be placed on the three branches of our Federal government, the three levels of government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

## Social Problems - 1.0 Credit

Social Problems is designed to help high school students evaluate pertinent societal problems they have confronted or are likely to confront. Because these problems change, and new issues emerge, so do the problems studied. Examples of the issues studied are alcohol and other drug abuse, family, environment, population, racism, sexism, and current events. Books, outside readings, videos, guest speakers, class discussions, and written essays are utilized in this course. Due to the nature of the subject matter, books on the reading list may contain adult language or situations.

# **US History - 1.0 Credit**

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of our nation's history. The focus is placed on historical events and people who have helped to shape our nation. Emphasis will also be placed on contemporary problems and how they relate to our American past.

#### **ELECTIVES**

#### **Career Planning/Training I- 1.0 Credit**

This course introduces students to the world of work. Students will develop and explore interests, strengths, and career opportunities within community businesses. Students will practice job searches, interviewing, job retention skills, vocabulary, and the development of interpersonal relationships within the world of work.

#### **Career Preparation I - 2.0 Credits**

This course provides opportunities for students to participate in a work-based learning experience that combines classroom instruction with business and industry employment experiences. The employment experience should match the student program of study for endorsement completion. The goal is to prepare students with a variety of skills for a changing workplace. Career preparation is relevant and rigorous, supports student attainment of academic standards, and effectively prepares students for college and career success.

# **Career Preparation II - 2.0 Credits**

This course develops essential knowledge and skills through advanced classroom instruction with business and industry employment experiences. Career Preparation II maintains relevance and rigor, supports student attainment of academic standards, and effectively prepares students for college and career success.

## **Computer Applications - 1.0 Credit**

This course is an applications software course designed to provide students with fundamental principles, concepts, and procedures of Microsoft Word (word processing), Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet), and Microsoft PowerPoint (presentations) and Web Tools. Microsoft Office 2016 is the software found on most computer systems at home, post-secondary institutions, and in the business workplace. In addition to learning MS Word, MS Excel, and MS PowerPoint, and Web Tools students will study various aspects of the computer.

#### Life Skills I - 1.0 Credit

The purpose of this course is to teach skills according to each student's individual needs and interests wherein students participate in a variety of activities, including: community training, shopping, use of public services, street safety/hazards, cooking, health, nutrition, ethics, first aid, safety in the home and community, daily schedule/calendar training, use of telephone, completing forms and paperwork needed for the world of work, housekeeping skills, carrying ID and medical information/needs, travel training, and leisure/recreation skills.

## Life Skills II - 1.0 Credit

This course prepares students for family life, work life, and careers in family and consumer sciences by providing opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors needed for becoming responsible citizens and leaders in the family, community, and work; promoting optimal nutrition and wellness across the life span; managing resources to meet the material needs of individuals and families; balancing personal, home, family, and work lives; using critical and creative thinking skills to address problems in diverse family, community, and work environments; successful life management, employment, and career development; functioning effectively as providers and consumers of goods and services; appreciating human worth and accepting responsibility for one's actions; and success in family and work life.

# **Professional Communications - 1.0 Credit**

Students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research.