

Early Light Academy

9th Grade Course Catalog 2024-2025

.5 = one semester or half a year course

1.0 = a full-year course

Social Science Requirement

World Geography (1.0) 9th

Geography is described as the study of the "why of where." This course will explore how to use geography as a tool to better understand the world in which we live. Students will learn to evaluate and question the why and where of spatial perceptions that are read, seen, and heard. The course standards follow geographic themes: location, place, movement, region, and human-environmental interaction. Geography is a year-long course, including map skills with physical and human geography essentials - beginning with North America, South America, Europe, and their connections to other world regions.

AP Human Geography (1.0) 9th

Prerequisite: Application required

Students must take the AP exam and pass in order to receive college credit. There is an AP test fee.

AP Human Geography introduces high school students to college-level human geography. The content is organized around the discipline's main subjects: economic geography, cultural geography, political geography, and urban geography. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. Historical information serves to enrich analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, colonialism, and human-environment relationships on places, regions, cultural landscapes, and patterns of interaction. This class is before school everyday from 7:15 am - 8:15 am. You sign up for A0 & B0 in your schedule.

Language Arts Requirement

Language Arts 9 (1.0) 9th

This course, based on the 9th grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed with world and U.S. Literature in mind to help deepen understanding of sentence fluency, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies for effective communication. This class will work closely with Geography and Biology to continue building and strengthening those scores.

Language Arts 9 Honors (1.0) 9th

Prerequisite: Application required

This course, based on the 9th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is

designed for students who qualify for more advanced instruction in reading comprehension, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies for effective communication. This class will work closely with Geography and Biology to continue building and strengthening those scores. Though very similar to the mainstream Language Arts 9 class, there will be more rigorous assignments and grading policies.

Language Arts 9 Basics (1.0) 9th (Placement Determined by Counselor)

This class provides specialized instruction and is based on the 9th grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards and is focused on building concrete writing skills with a focus on sentence fluency and type, reading comprehension, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies of effective communication. We will be reading a variety of literature from historical fiction and informational text to non-fiction.

Tier II Reading 9 (0.5 or 1.0) 9th (Placement Determined by Counselor)

This class is based on 9th grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards and focuses on building comprehension, inference, sequencing and vocabulary skills. A variety of texts are used including fiction, historical fiction, informational and nonfiction.

Reading Basics 9 (1.0) 9th (Placement Determined by Counselor)

This class provides specialized instruction and focuses on 9th grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) core standards and emphasizes comprehension, phonics, inferences, sequencing, vocabulary and editing written work. The text can include historical fiction, informational, nonfiction, or fiction.

Math Requirements (1 Math and 1 Lab)

Secondary Math I (1.0) 9th

The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, organized into units, 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. This course 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. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Secondary Math I Honors (1.0) 9th

Prerequisite: Application required

The fundamental purpose of Secondary Math I Honors is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, organized into units, 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. This course 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. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Secondary Math I Honors covers concepts in more depth than the Secondary Math I course and adds some additional concepts.

Secondary Math II or Secondary Math II Honors (1.0) 9th

Prerequisite: Secondary Math I or math placement test

This class will be taught online through [Mountain Heights Academy \(MHA\)](#).

The [MHA Course Catalog](#) gives information on the course

Registration is done on [the MHA website](#).

IMPORTANT: MHA has not posted their registration deadlines for the fall yet. Be sure to check frequently so you don't miss the deadline. They DO NOT accept late registrations.

NCAA Issues- The MHA website states "Mountain Heights Academy offers NCAA accredited online courses for all Utah students in grades 7–12." If this is a concern for you, please direct your questions to the MHA admissions department.

Secondary Math III (1.0) 9th

Prerequisite: Secondary Math II or placement test

This class will be taught online through [Mountain Heights Academy \(MHA\)](#).

The [MHA Course Catalog](#) gives information on the course

Registration is done on [the MHA website](#).

IMPORTANT: MHA has not posted their registration deadlines for the fall yet. Be sure to check frequently so you don't miss the deadline. They DO NOT accept late registrations.

NCAA Issues- The MHA website states "Mountain Heights Academy offers NCAA accredited online courses for all Utah students in grades 7–12." If this is a concern for you, please direct your questions to the MHA admissions department.

Math Lab (1.0) 9th

This is the companion class to the secondary math classes and allows students a deeper exploration of the curriculum. This class will run similarly to the secondary math classes as students will continue to work through Secondary Math I or II curriculum during this period.

Secondary Math Basics & Math Lab Basics (1.0) 9th (Placement Determined by Counselor)

This class provides specialized instruction. The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical

areas, organized into units, 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. This course 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. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. This class also focuses on basic skills for math, and how to use mathematical tools such as calculators.

Science Requirements (1 Science and 1 Lab)

Biology (1.0) 9th

Biology is the study of life and is meant to strengthen the student's ability to find patterns and cause/effect relationships amongst the living world. This course covers many aspects within the science of biology, including ecology, cell biology, genetics, organ and organ systems, as well as evolution. Students in this course are also required to take the Biology Lab companion course (see below).

Honors Biology (1.0) 9th

Prerequisite: Application required

9th grade Honors Biology is a **rigorous** course covering the many aspects of Biology and is meant to strengthen the student's ability to find patterns and cause/effect relationships amongst the living world. Students will cover topics varying from ecosystems, to cells and body systems, plant and animal adaptations, as well as evolution and genetics. Students in this course are also required to take the Biology Lab companion course (see below). Honors Biology is a foundational course for the future high school science courses and provides a stepping stone as students transition to high school. Come explore and discover the science of life - Biology!

Biology Lab (1.0) 9th

This is a lab-based class that builds upon the content from biology. It is the companion class to the regular biology class and provides the students with deeper exploration of the curriculum. Dissections, labs, and science fair participation are completed in this class, as students take part in a range of molecular-based lab experiments and get the opportunity to dissect a sheep heart, fetal pig, and stingray.

PHOENIX Advisory – Leadership/Homeroom Requirement

Phoenix Advisory (0.25) - 7th, 8th, 9th Both Days, All Year

\$ Fee required

Students will earn elective credit for this course. It covers character education and leadership. Some of the curriculum that may be used: Leader in Me, Love and Logic, Second Steps, and Resilience curriculum. This is a required course at ELA. Students will have the same Advisory

teacher from 7th through 9th grade.

Physical Education Requirement

PE 9 Participation Skills and Techniques (0.5) 9th

This semester course offers students instruction in lifetime activities and fulfills one P.E. requirement for high school graduation. Individual, dual, and team sports activities are included, with the emphasis on activities offering lifelong participation opportunities. Competency involves the ability to apply basic skills, strategies, and rules using standardized guidelines or rubrics. Course activities present an extension of or newer content than that presented in previous classes, and the curriculum provides enough diverse offerings to meet the individual needs of all students.

ELECTIVE COURSES

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

Tenor/Bass Choir I (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, 9th

\$ Fee required

Don't miss out on BOYS CHOIR! This course will be packed with energy and FUN! Yes, choir is FUN! We will sing songs from all over the world, from Bach to Rock! We will build powerful, amazing, healthy voices that can't be stopped! You will not have another class like it!

Soprano/Alto Choir I (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, 9th

\$ Fee required

Girls just wanna have fun? YES! We do! ELA's all-girls choir is an amazing opportunity for ELA girls to kick it up a notch! We will work to create amazing, strong, healthy voices and great musicianship! You are not going to want to miss signing up for this class!

Choir II Spotlight Singers (1.0) 8th & 9th Co-ed

Prerequisite: Preferred Choir I

\$ Fee required

If you want to be involved in an amazing advanced class, this is a must for your schedule! In Spotlight Singers we study the care and cultivation of a beautiful vocal tone, aesthetic sensitivity, increasing the ability to read music, building technical vocal skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits.

Advanced Theatre III: Productions (1.0) 9th

Must fill out [Theatre III Application](#)

\$ Fee required

Students will study the art of acting more rigorously by putting on Productions...thus the name! Get ready for Theatre Awesomeness!

Who? **Any** student entering the 9th grade.

What is Productions? You will be trained in more advanced theatre technique. Students will put on two class productions: Class musical (to be determined) and POW (Phoenix Original Works)! Production skills desired: Leaders - Trustworthy - Dependable - Hard Working - Creative - Team Players - Talent!

Intermediate Stage Crew (0.5) 8th & 9th

Prerequisite: Attend Tech Olympics the January of the school year prior.

\$ Fee required

In this course, you will learn the art of technical theatre (lights, sound, costumes, stage management, etc.). Prepare to work hard and have the time of your life! No after school hours are required for this class.

Advanced Running Crew (1.0 or 2.0) 8th & 9th

Prerequisite: Attend Tech Olympics the January of the school year prior.

\$ Fee required

In this class, you will continue to learn the art of technical theatre (lights, sound, costumes, stage management, etc.). ELA Crew will be running all technical events happening in the theatre areas of ELA. Part of your grade will be running crew outside of class. Prepare to work hard and have the time of your life! 10 hours of crewing outside of class are required each quarter for this class.

Orchestra I- Beginning (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

Are you ready to make some great music with your peers? This course is for students who are interested in playing the violin, viola, cello, or upright bass. You will learn to read music and play your instrument of choice with great technique. If you only take this class for half a year and are a beginner, sign up for Terms 1 & 2. There are four evening performances outside of class that are part of this course. Practice time outside of school is required. An instrument for use at home and school is required.

Orchestra II- Intermediate (1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

Prerequisite: Orchestra I

\$ Fee required

This ensemble is for students who have played the violin, viola, cello, or upright bass in Elementary Orchestra, Orchestra I or have studied privately for at least a year. **Entrance is determined by audition.** There are at least four evening performances outside of class that are part of this course. We will go on two or more field trips as part of the class. Practice time outside of school is required. An instrument for use at home and school is required.

Ukulele (0.5)-Semester 1 Only, 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

Want to learn an instrument that you can take almost anywhere? This course is for students who are interested in playing the ukulele. We will learn to play chords, various strumming

patterns, fingerstyle, ensemble playing, and how to accompany ourselves while we sing. Help is also given for those who want to write their own songs. Practice time outside of school is required. An instrument and tuner for use at home and school is required. This class can only be taken one time.

Guitar (0.5) Semester 2 Only, 8th & 9th

\$ Fee required

This class, created for beginning guitarists, invites you to come and stretch your budding musical talents! We will cover basic chords, strumming patterns, fingerstyle, ensemble playing, and how to accompany ourselves while we sing. Help is also given for those who want to write their own songs. This is a great next step after learning ukulele. Acoustic instruments only. Practice time outside of school is required. An instrument and tuner for use at home and school is required. This class can only be taken one time.

Drawing I (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This class will provide students with basic art skills and techniques across a variety of drawing media. It will also provide art experiences that will develop visual competence, expertise of skills in two-dimensional art in value and in color, and awareness of historical art movements.

Drawing II (0.5) 8th & 9th

Prerequisite: Drawing 1

\$ Fee required

This class will build upon the roots of Drawing I. Students will push the creative and technical components of making a drawing with emphasis on line, form, space, composition, value, color, and design. Students will widen their understanding of different mediums and begin to understand how they might be introduced into their own personal work. This class consists of drawing projects, class projects, class critiques, daily drawing and one on one direction.

Painting I (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This class is a basic studio course in the media and techniques of painting. Activity will emphasize the study of color, structure, creativity and aesthetic values in general. A command of techniques and materials, both traditional and experimental, will be taught.

Painting II (0.5) 8th & 9th

\$ Fee required

Prerequisite: Painting I

This class is an intermediate studio course focused on more creative expressions of acrylic and watercolor painting. Activity will emphasize career applicable painting prompts that demand the use of more advanced painting techniques that build on the content taught in painting 1. Experimentation with

mixed-media and oil painting techniques will also be explored and incorporated into the creation of a student portfolio that we create over the course of the semester.

Visual Arts 9 (1.0) 9th

Recommended Prerequisite: Drawing 1, Painting 1, or Drawing 2.

Visual Art 9 is a more advanced study of drawing and painting. There are no prerequisites; however, Drawing and Painting 1 is recommended. Students work in an expanded range of two-dimensional media. There will be concentration in areas of more advanced drawing, watercolor and acrylic painting, graphic design, digital media, and printmaking, as well as work in the artist's own personal sketchbook. This course enables the student to meet all the State Academic Standards for Visual Arts for high school credit. We will also observe college requirements for various art fields and art careers.

Photography I (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This course covers basic concepts and practice in digital photography. The course is designed around the use of cell phone photography. Access to a camera is required to complete the work inside and outside of class. There are no cameras available for check out. The course covers Composition Rules such as Leading Lines, Rule of Thirds, and Contrast. Students will also learn and experiment with several of the major photographic styles including: Portraiture, Still Life, Landscape, Abstract, and Documentary/Photojournalism. The last unit of the course is a brief introduction to the use of DSLR cameras and the use of manual camera controls. **No repeats.**

Photography II (0.5) 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

Prerequisite: Photography I

This course builds upon skills learned in Photography 1. The course is designed around the use of DSLR cameras. Access to a personal DSLR camera is strongly recommended. Limited cameras are available for check out. Students will learn basic Photoshop skills, differences in file formats, and will become proficient in manual camera controls. Students will use these skills to experiment and approach artistic problems creatively. Projects will focus on prompt based work so students can express their unique artistic voice. **No repeats.**

CTE/ DIGITAL TECH ELECTIVES

Photo III/Photojournalism (0.5 or 1.0) 8th & 9th

Prerequisite: Photography I and/or II

The course is designed around the use of DSLR cameras. Access to a personal DSLR camera is strongly recommended. Limited cameras are available for check out. Apply the photography skills you gained in Photography 1 and 2 to take portraits, landscapes, action photos, and macro shots for the yearbook. We will tell the story of ELA's students, athletics, events, and culture in stunning images. We will also complete advanced photography projects and create a portfolio of work. **This class is repeatable.**

Media Art/Phoenix Feed (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

In this course students will learn basic video production skills including script writing, video recording, studio lighting, and basic video editing, etc. They will use these skills to create the weekly school news video, The Phoenix Feed. **This class is repeatable.**

Computer Science Principles (1.0) 9th *Fulfills digital studies credit for graduation*

Prerequisite: Creative Coding

This course fulfills the digital studies graduation requirement. Computer Science Principles seeks to broaden participation in computing and computer science. The course places emphasis on the principles of computer science rather than just programming. Big ideas and concepts include: (1) Computing is a creative activity. (2) Abstraction reduces information and detail to facilitate relevant concepts. (3) Data and information facilitate the creation of knowledge. (4) Algorithms are used to develop and express solutions to computational problems. (5) Programming enables problem solving, human expression, and creation of knowledge. (6) The internet pervades modern computing. (7) Computing has global impacts. **No Repeats.**

Exploring Computer Science (0.5) 9th *Fulfills digital studies credit for graduation*

Exploring Computer Science is 1 semester course designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus the conceptual ideas of computing and help students to understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. The goal of Exploring Computer Science is to develop in students the computational thinking practices of algorithm development, problem solving and programming within the context of problems that are relevant to the lives of today's students. Students will also be introduced to topics such as interface design, limits of computers and societal and ethical issues.

Robotics Technology (0.5) 8th or 9th

\$ 10 Fee required: *Programming experience required.*

An introductory course focused on robotics technologies and what it means to be living in an automated world. Students will gain an understanding of how robotics impact the environment, society, and the economy. Students will develop a foundation in essential abilities and attitudes in connection with math and science skills that will in turn expand their opportunities in the world of automation. Students will be introduced to software design, coding structures and creating computer programs for a robot to perform physical tasks.

Other Physical Education Electives and Future Requirements

Fitness for Life (0.5) 9th

This class is a required class for graduation. Students will need to take this class during one of their four high school years. It is required of all students and there are no substitutions, including participation in athletics. Fitness for Life is an individualized, concepts-based,

one-semester course designed to give students the knowledge and skills necessary to self-assess, create, conduct, evaluate, and redesign personal fitness programs. The course is a combination of classroom and activity-based learning activities with a focus on proper nutrition and the mastery of skills and concepts necessary for students to become accomplished monitors of their personal lifetime fitness. Through participation, students learn to compare the fitness benefits in a variety of individual and team activities.

Group Sports (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

This course is designed to practice skills needed for a variety of sports which require group participation and cooperation. Some sports might include basketball, soccer, volleyball, hockey and many more. **No repeats in the same year.**

Total Body Fitness- Lifetime Activities (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

This class is a total body cardio endurance and strength conditioning workout. This HIIT (High Interval Intensity Training) class combines full-body strength training with high-intensity cardio bursts designed to tone your body, improve your endurance, and clear your mind! This class also includes stretching for a complete workout. All levels are welcome! **No repeats in the same year.**

Weight Training- Lifetime Activities (0.5) 8th & 9th

This course is designed as an introduction to proper weightlifting techniques and includes the development of individual programs that develop body tone, muscle strength, and physical conditioning. **No repeats in the same year.**

Yoga- Lifetime Activities (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

This class introduces foundational yoga postures, teaches you how to breathe, and helps you feel more comfortable in the yoga practice. Students will be introduced to yoga postures through step-by-step verbal description and demonstration. Emphasis is placed on student understanding, safety, and stability within each pose. This class will help you relax the physical body while helping to quiet the mind and calm the nervous system. Leave relaxed, content, and ready to take on the day! Open to students of all levels. **No repeats in the same year.**

Kickboxing (0.5) 7th, 8th & 9th

This course is designed as an introduction to proper weightlifting techniques and includes the development of individual programs that develop body tone, muscle strength, and physical conditioning. **No repeats in the same year.**

Beginning Tumbling (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

This course offers instruction in basic tumbling skills including: handstands, cartwheels and round-offs. Strength and flexibility will be emphasized. This is designed for a beginning level for students who haven't mastered these skills yet. **No Repeats in the same year.**

OTHER ELECTIVES

Creative Writing I (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

This course is designed as an introduction into the world of creative writing. We will discuss the different types of creative writing as well as what it takes to get published. Students will write multiple short stories and do other activities that promote creativity and fluency in writing. This class is for those who are interested in developing their writing skills as a creative outlet.

Creative Writing II (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

Prerequisite: Creative Writing I

This course is designed to build upon the foundational writing skills acquired in earlier years and deepen students' understanding of various forms of creative expression. Through a combination of writing exercises, workshops, and literary analysis, students will explore different genres, styles, and techniques in creative writing. The course will emphasize both the development of individual voice and the importance of revising and editing for clarity and impact.

Yearbook/Graphic Design (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th & 9th

Application/interview required

This course will teach students basic journalism skills such as but not limited to: note-taking, planning, interviewing, story writing, editing, etc. They will also learn team building and leadership skills while collaborating on various yearbook projects. Graphic Design skills will be taught in order to create a visually strong presentation of our school's memories. Students will learn basic principles of design, color theory, and digital calligraphy. Lastly, they will learn basic life skills such as meeting deadlines, writing skills, and social skills.

Spanish I (1.0) 8th & 9th

¡Bienvenidos a español! This is an introductory course focusing on reading, writing, speaking and comprehending Spanish. Students will experience the latin culture and language through interactive games, songs and cultural activities. Native Spanish speakers should register for Spanish II instead of this course.

Fashion Design Studio (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

This course explores how fashion influences everyday life and introduces students to the fashion industry. Topics covered include fashion fundamentals, elements and principles of design, textiles, consumerism and fashion related careers, with an emphasis on personal fashion application.

Study Skills (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

This course supports core academic study and teaches study skills. It also enhances students' ability to look at their grades, make short-term goals, and work on assignments they need to complete. This course is designed to provide academic support to students in their core content coursework.

Peer Mentor (0.5 or 1.0) 8th & 9th

Application and approval needed

Peer Mentoring is designed for students who wish to enrich their learning experience through the process of assisting other students in mastering course content. Students who apply for this course are

pre-screened according to their academic proficiency and attitudes toward the mentoring process. Additionally, students selected to participate in this course are expected to maintain a high level of conduct and develop/demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills, along with basic teaching strategies. Qualified students are assigned to a content specific class to help the teacher with tutoring services. Peer mentors will be fully trained on peer mentoring skills, rules and procedures, data collection, and other teaching skills.

Student Aide (0.5) 8th & 9th

Be a helper to a teacher or other staff member. Duties will vary including making copies, assisting other students, filing or any errands needed by teachers. Students must be patient, responsible, and kind. Students may have written reflections throughout their course, in addition to being an aide. This course only generates a P and F which does NOT count in the GPA. **Students are limited to being an aide for only one semester to allow them to explore our many electives.**

Release Time (Seminary) (No Credit. In schedule A1 or Early Morning)

Seminary is held at the church building on Grandville Ave., within walking distance of ELA. Students desiring to attend Seminary have the option of either “release time” during the A1 school period or early morning, A0 period which is every day at 7:15am (time subject to change). Students taking released time Seminary will only be able to select 2.0 elective credit choices instead of 3.0, since this class is not for school credit. You also must register with LDS Seminary which can be done at this website:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/si/seminary>.

Directed Studies (1.0) (Placement Determined by Counselor)

This class provides specialized instruction. It spends part of each class period learning social and life skills. The rest of the period the students work independently on classwork from other classes with the support of the teacher and aides. It helps students to learn study skills, and implement it into their daily class work.