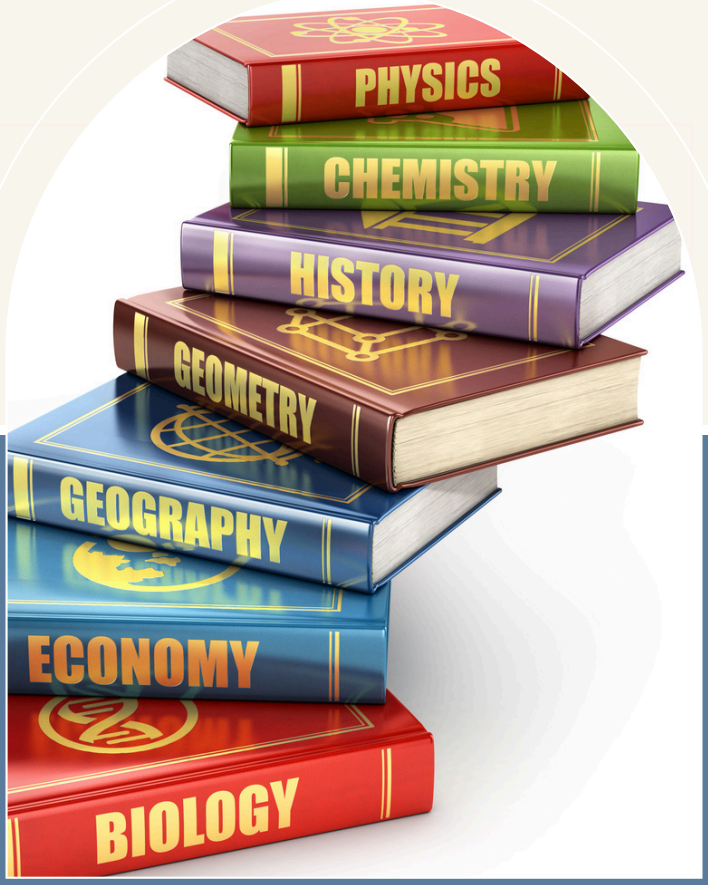
NORTH SHORE
HEBREW ACADEMY
ישיבת חוף הצפון



NINTH GRADE

ACADEMIC PROGRAM COURSE GUIDE

2026-2027

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NINTH GRADE

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

COURSE GUIDE

2026-2027

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CORE AND ELECTIVES
9 TH GRADE

Judaic Studies

Judaic Studies Core

Talmud

Tanach

Halacha / Machshava

Hebrew

Hebrew Language

General Studies Core

English

History

Mathematics

Science

Computer Science

Physical Education

Electives

World Languages

Engineering

ALL COURSES

ALL FRESHMEN ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE :

4 Judaic Studies classes
Talmud
Tanach
Halacha- Machshava or Beit Midrash
Hebrew Language

5 General Studies Core classes
History - Global Studies
Mathematics - Geometry
English
Science - Biology
Computer Essentials

1 Physical Education class

1 Elective class

NSHA

JUDAIC STUDIES

- TALMUD
- TANACH
- HALACHA / MACHSHAVA
- HEBREW LANGUAGE

JUDAIC STUDIES REQUIREMENTS

All Students are required to take **4 Judaic Studies classes**

Students who choose *Beit Midrash* Program:
take two daily periods dedicated to Talmud instead of one.
This program replaces the Halacha/Machshava requirement.

Students who choose Beit Midrash take
Double Talmud (2 periods a day)
1 Tanach
1 Hebrew Language

Students who do not choose Beit Midrash take:
1 Talmud
1 Tanach
1 Halacha / Machshava
1 Hebrew Language

TALMUD

Enrollment requires administrative and departmental approval.

MASHECHET SUKKAH: DOUBLE TALMUD / BEIT MIDRASH

In this course, you will learn sugyot from the second and third chapters of Masechet Sukkah in depth and with real focus (iyun). You will explore the mitzvah of sukkah, its laws, underlying principles, and the larger ideas it raises about the role of Hashem in your life. Along the way, you will also think more broadly about mitzvot and how they shape and deepen your relationship with Hashem. At the same time, you will learn additional parts of the masechet at a faster pace (bekiyut), giving you exposure to a wide range of topics and helping you build fluency and confidence across many dapim. With the added time of the Beit Midrash program, you will be part of a learning environment that is serious and challenging, while also being relaxed and enjoyable. The goal is for you to grow as a learner, deepen your connection to Torah, and be part of a group that builds real friendships along the way.

MASHECHET SUKKAH (SINGLE PERIOD)

In this course, you will study topics from the second and third chapters of Masechet Sukkah in depth. You will explore the mitzvah of sukkah, its laws, underlying principles, and the larger questions it raises about the role of Hashem in your life. You will also consider the broader role of mitzvot and the ways they shape and deepen your relationship with Hashem. Through careful analysis of the ideas and principles behind these mitzvot, you will experience the depth of Torah learning and develop a stronger appreciation for the richness and seriousness of halachic thought.

TANACH

SEFER DEVARIM / YIRMIYAHU

SEFER DEVARIM (FALL)

Sefer Devarim (literally "words" or "speeches") presents the speeches of Moshe in the fortieth year in the desert, as the nation stands on the threshold of entering the land of Israel. In this sefer, you will encounter a historical speech retelling the exodus and the wanderings in the desert, as well as a lengthy speech of mitzvot.

Although much of the sefer is a historical and legal recap—which gave it the name "Mishne Torah," a retelling of the Torah—it is not a simple recap. You will see that the sefer contains many of the most important principles of Judaism, such as free will, teshuva, and redemption. The great national institutions are established, including the Judiciary and the Kingship. Laws of war and peace are presented, and a blueprint for a sovereign nation in the land of Israel is laid out. The sefer sets forth a positive charge to move forward into the land of Israel with a framework for national identity. It facilitates the transition from being "led" to becoming "leaders" of your own national destiny.

As you stand on your own "threshold" of independence, Sefer Devarim challenges you to consider what it means to move from being a passive recipient of guidance to an active architect of your own life. The sefer has the power to shape your thinking around themes of communal and national service and responsibility. Ultimately, Devarim invites you to find your own voice within our shared history, empowering you to step into the future with both a clear memory of your roots and a courageous blueprint for your own contribution to the Jewish story.

SEFER YIRMIYAHU (SPRING)

Sefer Yirmiyahu captures the turbulent period surrounding the destruction of the First Beit HaMikdash, serving as a chronicle of a nation in spiritual and political decline. Spanning over forty years of prophecy, athe sefer follows Yirmiyahu as he delivers difficult truths to a people and leadership resistant to change.

As you learn this sefer, you will encounter not only words of rebuke, but also a vital thread of hope and nechama woven throughout. Yirmiyahu guides you through the experience of a faith that endures even in the face of destruction. The sefer provides a blueprint for Jewish survival in the Diaspora and holds out the promise of eventual return.

HALACHA/ MACHSHAVA

Three days a week, students will study the laws of Tefillah, anchoring their understanding in text and tradition. On Thursdays, Vaad will provide a complementary space to engage with the Shemoneh Esrei, blending social-emotional reflection with text study

HILCHOT TEFILLAH (MONDAY-WEDNESDAY)

This course explores the *halacha* of *Tefillah*—not just to learn how to pray, but to understand what it means to pray within a halachic framework. Students will gain the tools to pray with greater intention, deepen their halachic understanding, and uncover new meaning in one of Judaism's most foundational practices.

Students will study texts from *Tanach* through the *Talmud, Rishonim, and Shulchan Aruch*, up to contemporary *poskim*—learning to think both analytically and halachically. Topics include the *mitzvah* of *Tefillah*, the laws and meaning of *kavanah* (intention), the structure and timing of daily prayers, the role of communal davening, *Semichat Geulah LeTefillah*, women's obligations in prayer, and what to do when a *Tefillah* is missed—alongside many other real-life halachic cases and applications.

But this course goes beyond mechanics. Alongside classic halachic texts, students will wrestle with deeper questions: What does halacha demand of us when we stand before God? How do we preserve sincerity within structure? Can obligation foster intimacy? And how can halacha serve not as a constraint, but as a path to deeper connection, discipline, and spiritual growth?

This is more than a course on halacha. It's an invitation to think deeply, pray meaningfully, and see *Tefillah* a new—as a conversation shaped by law, sustained by tradition, and open to the soul.

VAAD (THURSDAY)

Each week, one bracha will be unpacked, challenging students to think deeply about the structure, meaning, and personal relevance of the bracha. Together, the Halacha course and the Vaad form a cohesive, challenging course, where academic rigor and religious meaning meet in a warm, growth-oriented environment.

HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

עברית וספרות

Four years of Hebrew language and literature is a requirement. Students in the ninth grade are initially placed by ability level measured by personal interviews and formal placement tests.
Once placed, students may advance according to the following standard sequence:

- ***Preparatory Level - מכינה***
- ***Foundations***
- ***Grade Level***
- ***Advanced Level - בחינה***

A student may begin his or her Hebrew Language study in the beginner's level and proceed to the intermediate level during the course of the ninth grade. In every grade there are class sections to accommodate the varying needs of each student. Students are placed in homogeneous classes with their peers at the precise level that will ensure they will be challenged to improve their language skills.

GENERAL STUDIES

- ENGLISH
- HISTORY
- MATHEMATHICS
- SCIENCE
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ENGLISH

All ninth grade students are required to take English. Students may be placed in particular sections based on their performance on placement tests given to admitted students.

AMERICAN VOICES

Freshmen develop their language and communication skills by reading, discussing and writing about texts that focus on the experiences of diverse cultural groups whose members have made their homes in the United States. Students will make connections and discover that our country is a mixture of people who might seem very different, but who all wish for the same things—prosperity for themselves and opportunity for their children. Reading about different groups will help our studentsunderstand the shared human emotions that lie underneath various different traditions and develop empathy for members of cultural groups that might at first seem to be strange or foreign. Bias and stereotypical thinking are addressed; this is a first step towards cultural literacy, an important skill in navigating our increasingly multicultural world. Students will participate in class activities that foster writing skills, vocabulary development and cooperative learning. Supplementary materials include short stories and poetry that align with thematic issues identified.

This course develops each student's effective writing skills to compose structured expository essays that develop a complex and focused thesis. Students are asked to write analytic essays, as well as well as persuasive and argumentative essays. Students learn to develop logically organized paragraphs that support the main thesis. Writing assignments encourage each student to discover his or her own voice and to write with clarity and grace.

HISTORY

All ninth graders are required to take Global Studies.

GLOBAL STUDIES I

This course is the first year of a two-year program in global history. It is a cross-cultural study of history from prehistory through the early-18th century. Topics include, but are not limited to, the history, geography, politics, economics, and societies of various regions of the globe, with Jewish history woven throughout to highlight its place within the broader global story.

In addition to the history and geography curriculum, the course will develop and enhance student skills. Special focus is directed at student reading, writing, note taking, and critical thinking skills that are so vital for their success.

MATHEMATICS

All ninth graders are required to take geometry.
Placements will be determined by the department and the results of the placement test given to incoming freshmen.

GEOMETRY 9: ACCELERATED

Students in the Advanced Geometry course learn all the basic concepts of the grade level Geometry course related to lines, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, logical reasoning, congruence and similarity, polygons, right triangle trigonometry, circles, area, and volume. In this level of Geometry, the pace is quicker. Advanced problems and additional topics are introduced daily and are related to the lesson of the day. This course encourages the use of higher-level reasoning and advanced analytic thinking. Compass constructions are more advanced and challenging. Projects related to class topics require a more advanced understanding of the concepts of Geometry. Many of the theorems presented in the grade level course are proven in the advanced course. The primary objective of the Accelerated track is to cultivate a rigorous mathematical maturity. Beyond simple application, students are expected to engage in the formal proof of theorems, fostering a deep understanding of the "why" behind geometric laws. The benefits include enhanced problem-solving stamina and the development of high-level analytical thinking skills that are essential for future success in Honors-level STEM courses.

This course is structured as a fast-paced, inquiry-based exploration of Euclidean geometry. It bridges the gap between basic spatial awareness and formal mathematical theory through a heavy emphasis on proof and derivation. Lessons are designed to introduce a core concept and immediately pivot to advanced applications, complex compass constructions, and integrated projects that challenge students to apply geometry in non-routine contexts. The first year Algebra course is a prerequisite for the Accelerated track.

GEOMETRY 9

This course is designed for students in the 9th grade who are beginning their high school mathematics course of study. Students will study various Geometry topics, including basic geometric objects such as points, lines, and planes, followed by features such as length, distance, midpoint, and angle measure. Students study compass constructions, properties of several types of triangles, and special segments related to triangles. An understanding of inductive and deductive reasoning leads to students' ability to apply logical reasoning to complete formal geometric proofs. Exploration of congruent and similar figures is supported by an understanding of the role of the four basic transformations of geometric shapes. Students further explore plane geometry and coordinate geometry through quadrilaterals and circles. With a solid foundation in triangles, students have an introduction to right triangle trigonometry. Real-world applications of Geometry are further included in the study of the area of two-dimensional shapes and the volume of three-dimensional figures. The study of Geometry sharpens the student's ability to reason and arrive at logical conclusions to problem situations. By engaging with both abstract theory and practical application, students develop a rigorous mathematical mindset.

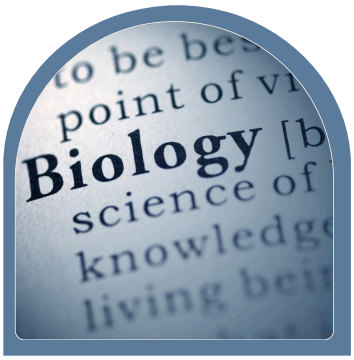
This course provides the essential framework for high school mathematics, bridging the gap between algebraic manipulation and spatial logic. The course is structured to move from the fundamental building blocks of geometry—points, lines, and planes—toward complex systems and proofs. The curriculum balances hands-on exploration, such as compass constructions, with formal deductive reasoning. Each unit is designed to build upon the previous one, ensuring that students have the necessary foundation in triangles and transformations before moving into advanced trigonometry and coordinate geometry.

GEOMETRY 9: FOUNDATIONS

Students in the Geometry 9: Foundations course learn all the principles of Geometry related to lines, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, logical reasoning, congruence and similarity, polygons, right triangle trigonometry, circles, area, and volume. The daily lessons are refined to highlight the most essential and basic concepts which lay a good foundation for student understanding of plane and solid Geometry. There is considerable practice included daily in class and in homework assignments. The overriding message in the Geometry course is that Geometry is everywhere in the student's world, and their classroom exposure to many facts and theorems is directly applicable to problem situations encountered outside the classroom. The study of Geometry sharpens the student's ability to reason and arrive at logical conclusions to problem situations. The goal for the Foundations students in the 9th grade is to gain knowledge and skills in order to progress to the grade level course.

This course is structured to teach students the essential and basic concepts of Geometry and to bridge the gap between basic spatial intuition and formal mathematical reasoning. Daily classwork is paired with reinforcing homework to allow students to master the skills to advance to the next grade level.

SCIENCE



All ninth graders are required to take Biology

BIOLOGY 9: ADVANCED

The Advanced Biology course presents a comprehensive, modern view of life science. While it covers the same base material as the biology course, it moves at a faster pace and goes into more depth on each topic. There is also more time spent on exploring newer and more complicated types of biological research. The main topics covered include ecology, biochemistry, cell biology, comparative anatomy, biological energetics, adaptation with respect to physiological functions, perpetuation of life through reproduction and development, Mendelian and modern genetics, and evolution as a unifying principle. Lesson aims are taught through planned lecture, discussion, demonstration, note-taking, and follow-up exercises, but more emphasis is placed on individual responsibility and self-directed learning. Engaging skills oriented laboratory activities reinforce and/or extend these lesson aims and topic areas. Throughout the course, students will be taught the scientific method and the classic experiments biologists have performed to construct the knowledge base of biology. Many of the lab activities provide opportunities to both discover and apply biological concepts as well as to use current technology.

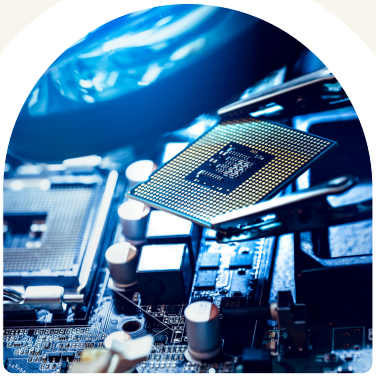
BIOLOGY 9

The Introduction to Biology course presents a comprehensive, modern view of life science. The main topics covered include ecology, biochemistry, cell biology, comparative anatomy, biological energetics, adaptation with respect to physiological functions, perpetuation of life through reproduction and development, Mendelian and modern genetics, and evolution as a unifying principle. Lesson aims are taught through planned lecture, discussion, demonstration, note-taking, and follow-up exercises. A series of formal laboratory activities reinforce and/or extend these lesson aims and topic areas. At both the onset and throughout the course, students will be taught the scientific method and the classic experiments biologists have performed to construct the knowledge base of biology. Many of the lab activities provide opportunities to both discover and apply biological concepts as well as to use current technology.

BIOLOGY 9: FOUNDATIONS

As with our Biology course, the Foundations course presents a comprehensive, modern view of life science. While it covers the same base material as the biology course, it moves at a slower pace and goes into less depth on each topic. The main topics covered include ecology, biochemistry, cell biology, comparative anatomy, biological energetics, adaptation with respect to physiological functions, perpetuation of life through reproduction and development, Mendelian and modern genetics, and evolution as a unifying principle. Lesson aims are taught through planned lecture, discussion, demonstration, note-taking, and follow-up exercises, but more time is spent with hands-on activities. Engaging skills oriented laboratory activities reinforce and/or extend these lesson aims and topic areas. At both the onset and throughout the course, students will be taught the scientific method and the classic experiments biologists have performed to construct the knowledge base of biology.

COMPUTER SCIENCE



All ninth graders are required to take Computer Essentials.

COMPUTER SCIENCE ESSENTIALS

Computer Science Essentials is a required course for all Freshmen, teaching them valuable skills including problem solving, critical & computational thinking, collaboration, digital citizenship and solution building.

There are several units of study in computer science essentials gradually building students up to a level of comfort that they too can create and develop sophisticated computing innovations and computational artifacts. The topics include: Your Digital Life, Computer Science For All, Introduction to Web Development, Introduction to App Development, Graphics & Animation with Python and Data Science.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All ninth graders are required to take physical education

Students are encouraged to meet their physical, emotional, and competitive needs through games, teams, and sports. Instruction will include units covering physical fitness, health, nutrition, flag football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, and team handball.

ELECTIVES

Students in the ninth grade select one elective course.

- WORLD LANGUAGES
- ENGINEERING

WORLD LANGUAGES

Students are encouraged to pursue their study of foreign language if they have completed advanced levels in previous years. Teacher recommendation and administrative approval are required.

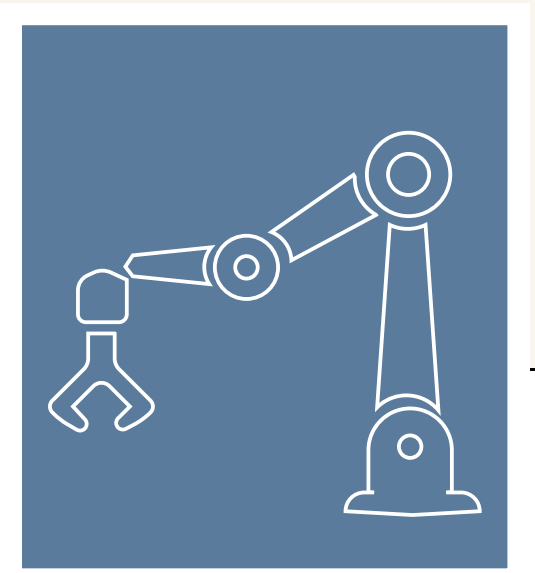
SPANISH I

Students in Spanish I begin to develop proficiency in listening and speaking the Spanish language. Proper pronunciation is emphasized, and students engage in simple conversations. There is extensive emphasis on vocabulary acquisition. Basic grammatical structures are learned and gradually, with the use of authentic materials, they develop the necessary skills for effective and accurate written communication. The culture and civilization of the Spanish-speaking world is explored.

FRENCH I

Students in French I begin to develop proficiency in listening and speaking the French language. Proper pronunciation is emphasized, and students engage in simple conversations. There is extensive emphasis on vocabulary acquisition. Basic grammatical structures are learned and gradually, with the use of authentic materials, they develop the necessary skills for effective and accurate written communication. The culture and civilization of the French-speaking world is explored.

ENGINEERING



All courses in the engineering department are electives. Teacher recommendation and administrative approval are required.

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING

This course assigns students to teams which work to creatively solve world problems in science and engineering. Students will discover the full potential of the engineering design process as they learn to build and improve upon current technology. In the future, self-driving cars and 3D printed organs will be as commonplace as tablet computers are today. The first major assignment of the semester will require students to convert their classroom into a smart home environment. Next, students will explore simple machines while studying how imagination, creativity, and persistence aided David HaMelech in his quest to build the Old City of Jerusalem. For the last few months of the school year, students will write a proposal, build a working prototype, and present their project in front of an audience.

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