

CONNECTED FOUNDATIONS COURSES

DIGITAL LITERACIES (DIG/IT)

DIG/IT: Provides students with skills essential to success in college and careers:

- Digital literacy—the ability to use the internet productively for all aspects of life, including education, work, and interpersonal relationships.
- Self-regulation and independence—the ability to practice time management, organization, self-monitoring, and persistence during independent work.
- Communication and collaboration—the ability to navigate today's workplaces, to work in groups and as a member of a team, and to communicate with others across a variety of mediums that require different styles and approaches.

ENGLISH

ELA 3/4 - Coming of Age: This introductory English course teaches basic reading and writing skills. Students move from writing four well-developed paragraphs in response to texts they read, to writing a comparative essay about coming-of-age themes in a novel or memoir and a movie. Then they research coming-of-age rituals around the world and produce an academic research project on the theme of how a specific culture deals with coming of age.

ELA 5/6 - Conformity--an Exploration in Literature: Why do we act as we do? What influences us? How are we influenced? Is it possible to be truly unique? Why do we match our attitudes and behaviors to group norms? Who defines us? Why do we respond to group pressures? How might authority influence our actions and behaviors? These are some of the questions this Regents Prep course explores. Students begin by studying various social psychology experiments through texts, videos, and podcasts. They then read short stories and watch films, analyzing themes of tradition, conformity, and obedience. The course will help students to develop high-school-level reading comprehension and writing skills, along with a sharper sense of who we are and why we act the way we do.

ELA 5/6 - What is a Hero? An Exploration through Literature: What makes heroes different from “ordinary” people? Are all heroes the same? Can heroes be completed? Can they be cruel? Can (or should) heroes ever fail? This Regents Prep course examines these issues through variety of thematic movies, poems, narratives and novels. Students will explore the steps in a hero’s journey, and annotate a heroic narrative. They will then analyze and evaluate “debatable” heroes, and write an argument essay. Finally, students will create their own narratives, using their understanding of heroes to create an engaging and purposeful hero story.

ELA 7/8 - College Explorations: This English course is designed for students who need a final English credit. The course presents a preview of the life of a first year college student and helps students prepare for the college application process. Students develop skills in research, reading comprehension, persuasive writing, vocabulary development, and critical thinking. Students will learn about how to showcase themselves for college applications, and will strengthen reading comprehension and study strategies necessary in their first year of college.

SCIENCE & HEALTH

Chemistry of Urban Life: This one-credit Chemistry course provides students with basic Chemistry-related knowledge and skills. Students explore chemical components in their bodies, in foods, and in the environment around them. The course introduces chemical reactions and balancing equations, as well as the basics of thermodynamics and bonding. The course culminates in a Capstone challenge in which students research an environmental issue in their neighborhood and use their knowledge of chemistry and chemical reactions to develop a possible solution.

Health: Students will explore 3 main aspects of their personal health: nutrition, emotional health, and sexual health. The course culminates in the students preparing for and facilitating a Socratic discussion around sexual health and HIV/AIDS. Students will also develop public service announcements (PSAs) on the theme of nutrition. The course introduces students to scientific inquiry and concepts they will encounter in biology and living environment courses.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Government 3/4: This Social Studies elective course will bolster student readiness for the US History and Government Regents. The course covers participatory citizenship and civics; federal, state, and local government; three branches of federal government and balance of power; Constitutional law and Supreme Court decisions. Students research, analyze, evaluate, and base arguments on local and state government, state and federal legislative processes, and Supreme Court decisions.

Global 3/4 - Conflicts and Revolutions: This Social Studies course is designed for students who will take the Global Regents exam in the coming year. It explores major conflicts and revolutions in human history. Students explore the causes, strategies employed, and outcomes of each event. They develop concrete strategies for responding to text-dependent questions, and tackling thematic essays like those found on Regents exams. Students build skills in reading comprehension, persuasive writing, using evidence to support a claim, using primary sources, and researching to find relevant information. In the culminating project, students plan their own revolution using the causes, strategies, and outcomes they have studied from historic revolutions.