



CURRICULUM GUIDE



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Our Philosophy & Approach

We meet our students where they are emotionally, socially, and academically. Our personalized student-centered approach cultivates demanding skills and precise content knowledge for each learner's journey — while showing students what it means to be a successful, thoughtful, and contributing member of a close-knit community, and society at large.

Academic Rigor

A focus on core academics provides a strong foundation for students to explore their interests and passions.

Real Learning

Students work with mentors to design and create personalized projects to inspire a lifetime love of learning and the skills to get things done!

Social Life

TREE students love school! The inviting, inclusive environment allows students to feel seen and accepted for who they are and contribute to this relationship-based community.

Authentic Expression

We celebrate self-discovery, diversity, creativity, intellectual inquiry, and academic achievement. We work to inspire our students to find their authentic voices, interests, and passions while exploring their role in a just society. We provide every student with enthusiastic encouragement, support, and guidance in discovering who they are and what they love.

Social Justice

TREE's mission includes creating a learning environment that celebrates and strives to reflect the diverse cultural and socio-economic world we live in. We designed the school to maximize cultural, racial, gender, and socioeconomic diversity. Social justice is a core tenet of our philosophy.

Prepared for Success

Every graduate who applied in the last three years was accepted to one of their top choice colleges. TREE also supports students who pursue alternative paths to their successful futures.

Our Model

Academic Tutorials

Every student meets with every one of their teachers every week and is provided with customized, individualized attention. These sessions enable students to build collaborative, trusting relationships with their teachers, who create personalized, differentiated, and accommodated learning to help each student establish goals, and set tasks for every course, every week.

Academic Seminars

Group learning happens 2/wk for each core subject in seminar-style meetings with ~ ten students. These sessions are a structured space for students to come together and work as a cohort to explore the content, themes, and skills needed to accomplish each course's goals each week for each core subject.

Learning Labs

Each student is provided with at least one Learning Lab session per core subject (4/wk) to complete their core course assignments with the support of teachers and peers. During Lab sessions, students work independently to complete coursework, pursue cross-disciplinary project-based work, dive deeper into passion projects, and pursue learning from electives.

Social Emotional Learning

We provide students upon their arrival each day with a welcome during Community Gathering that grounds them and sets an intention for the day. We offer time and guidance to build meaningful relationships in our community. We work with every student to further their curiosity, challenge assumptions, and celebrate differing perspectives. Students take a Life Skills course each year.

Community Service

We ask students to serve others. We help them to find volunteer opportunities that will make them feel connected to something larger than themselves while seeing how their actions positively impact others.

- Middle School students must complete 20 hours of community service each year.
- Upper School students must complete 30 hours of community service each year.

Parent-Teacher and Student-Led Conferences

Twice a year, families can meet individually with their child's teachers. We ask that students are part of these conferences because we want to empower them to take ownership of their learning. Students are in the room and contribute to the conversation about their academic, behavioral, and social progress and can collaborate

with their parents/guardians and teachers to create plans to best support them in their continued development.

Curriculum Overview

Our student's academic achievement is paramount. The philosophy of TREE's core curricula is rooted in: **respect, flexibility, collaboration, confidence, and balance.**

Respect

- Respect towards their learning, valuing the knowledge they acquire and their previous knowledge.
- Respect towards their classmates, supporting and helping them, and learning with them and from them.
- Respect towards teachers, appreciating their effort and dedication.
- Self-respect, valuing their work and progress, being kind to their mistakes, and celebrating their success.

Flexibility

- The teacher adapts to the individual needs of the student, being flexible in matters such as times and formats.
- The teacher understands and supports the student, considering their emotional, family, and academic background, and acting accordingly to make the student feel happy, comfortable, and successful.

Collaboration

- Students' work is oriented towards being helped by their peers and helping them back.
- Everyone's knowledge is a great asset that is appreciated and celebrated.
- The atmosphere in class is based on mutual support, friendship, and harmony. It is a space where the student understands that some of the bases of success are: sharing their knowledge, asking peers for help, and learning from others.

Confidence

- The student receives support from the teacher and their peers to feel confident.
- They can be sure that everyone in class does everything possible to learn, help and progress together.
- The student also has faith in their teachers. They understand their teachers' job is to help them become kind, principled, and confident learners.

Balance

- The basis of a positive learning experience is the adequate social-emotional state of the student. Teachers at TREE not only focus on academic matters, but on the student's well-being as well. They design a harmonious ambiance where all the aspects that may affect (positively or negatively) the student are considered for the students' academic and emotional progress.

We meet all A-G UC requirements, are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and are approved by the NCAA.

In addition to our academic instruction and programs, we provide classes in Life Skills to develop our students' Social and Emotional learning, as well as courses in Meditation and Yoga. We also offer a wide array of Elective Classes and support individual student interests with yearly Passion Projects. Our Community Service program provides students with opportunities to learn how they can be of service to others.

The Senior year at TREE is called the Senior Seminar. The essence of the seminar approach is to harness the student's knowledge collected in the previous years of study and apply them to today's world to explore both the challenges and opportunities. Additionally, we offer Political Science, Environmental Studies, and Economics courses to develop our students' awareness of how they can affect positive change in the world.

TRUNK

Upper School Graduation Requirements

To graduate, all 9th through 12th-grade students must complete at least the minimum number of courses below. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the entire curriculum and challenge themselves academically by going beyond these minimums. Every student must be enrolled in a minimum of five courses each semester.

<p>Humanities - English & Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Humanities 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Humanities 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Humanities 11 <input type="checkbox"/> English Literature (12th) <p>Senior Seminars (see below)</p>	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Biology <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Physics (recommended) <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science (recommended)
<p>Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra II <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Calc (recommended) <input type="checkbox"/> Calculus (recommended) 	<p>World Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 3 (recommended)
<p>Life Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Life Skills 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Life Skills 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Life Skills 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Life Skills 12 	<p>Physical Education/Yoga/Athletics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Year 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2 <p>Visual & Performing Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Year 1
<p>Community Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 9th Grade- 30 hours <input type="checkbox"/> 10th Grade- 30 hours <input type="checkbox"/> 11th Grade- 30 hours <input type="checkbox"/> 12th Grade- 30 hours 	<p>Senior Seminars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political Science <input type="checkbox"/> Economics <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Studies
<p><i>*Based on California Department of Education Graduation Requirements</i> https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ga/hs/hsgtable.asp</p>	

BRANCHES

Humanities

Department Overview

Our Humanities Language Arts approach supports and develops each student's understanding of texts in various formats with a primary focus on narratives from lesser-heard voices. We meet each student's reading, writing, and comprehension needs through creative activities that boost engagement and promote each student's unique voice while also exploring reflective practices that show how our biases interact with coursework and readings. With differentiated instruction, customized coursework, project-reinforced learning, and diverse texts, we can alter the way traditional education reinforces antiquated values. That change occurs when lesser-heard voices are finally recognized, appreciated, and, in turn, given credence in the curriculum we teach.

Our Humanities Social Science approach supports and develops each student's understanding of history and the social sciences through inquiry-based progressive learning instruction and authentic expression through an emphasis on social justice. Our courses are designed to develop critical historical skills through essential historical questions and by providing relevant primary and secondary sources for students to support their opinion and argument. We draw interest and engagement with students through historical themes along with culturally responsive content to demonstrate that history is not just in the past but here in the present. Instruction is facilitated with the individual student in mind, meeting the students where they are and providing proper scaffolding and accommodations students need to thrive. We are also committed to a data-centered approach to improve the development of our teachers and students, and to foster the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and citizenship that will benefit themselves and the world.

Course Offerings

Humanities 6/7	Humanities 10	<i>Literature Seminar (12th Grade)</i>
Humanities 7/8	Humanities 11	<i>Economics Seminar (12th Grade)</i>
Humanities 9	<i>Creative Writing (6th - 12th Elective)</i>	<i>Political Science Seminar (12th Grade)</i>

Literature Seminar with Dr. Paul Cummins

The Senior Literature Seminar at TREE Academy combines independent studies, with small group seminars twice-a-week, and a variety of the elements of traditional English grammar and rhetoric. As with all grade levels at TREE, there is a rich selection of readings — some assigned, some selected by students according to their interests.

Mathematics

Department Overview

We believe that all students are capable of succeeding in math if given the proper resources, scaffolding, and support. As a department, we promote understanding, and student engagement, as well as challenge students, to do mathematics in contexts that are new to them. Throughout their years at TREE, students will strengthen and develop logical and analytical thinking skills that will be useful throughout life. Our goal is twofold: we strive to prepare students whose love of math will carry them into careers that use these skills daily, and we want to engage all students in understanding the relevance of mathematics and how it will be important to their daily lives

Our department recognizes that all students learn at their own pace. Students are placed in their math courses based on their readiness for managing the workload, teacher recommendations, previous class performance, and previous placement scores. To be successful in each math level, students must have mastered the preceding courses.

Course Offerings

Math Concepts

Algebra I

Algebra II

Math Principles

Geometry

Pre-Calculus (recommended)

Calculus (recommended)

Science

Department Overview

The Science department's goal is to foster students' curiosity and allow them to provide explanations for phenomena in the natural world. We focus on developing the ability to understand how science explains everything they interact with. Our team uses a variety of teaching methods: scientific textbooks, experiments, demonstrations, and simulations. We also assess students on different abilities that go beyond the traditional pen-and-paper test. Students are expected to create models, presentations, and lab reports. We strive to provide formative feedback and allow students that don't get it right the first time to make corrections to their work.

Course Offerings

7th Grade - *Life Science*

Biology

Physics (recommended)

8th Grade - *Physical Science*

Chemistry

12th Grade - *Environmental
Science Seminar*

Senior Seminar in Environmental Science

Environmental Science is an inter-curricular course in which students explore ecological systems and the historical impact of human activity on the natural world. Students will consider the cultural, social, and scientific issues pertaining to the environment, and evaluate ways in which the connection between humanity and the rest of the living world has changed over time. The ultimate goal of the course will be to help students identify the most pressing environmental issues of our time and develop possible solutions to these challenges.

World Language - Spanish

Department Overview

Learning a world language is a dynamic, enjoyable, and fun journey. As language learners, students need to keep the language alive, this means they need to use the Spanish language to learn, make mistakes, and try to be successful. The world language class centers a happy, fun, empathic and benevolent environment. We are aware that learning based on these characteristics leads to successful progress at an academic and emotional level.

Course Offerings

Spanish Beginners

Spanish Grammar

Spanish 2

Spanish Intermediate

Spanish 1

Spanish 3 (recommended)

LEAVES

Core Electives

Culinary Art

TREE's Culinary Art class provides students an experiential understanding of the foundation of cooking and the interdependent relationship between food, health, and the environment. The students will be taught not only the process of food manipulation, e.g., flavoring, seasoning and preserving food, but will also incorporate the principles of physics and chemistry.

Every class is a hands-on exercise in creativity and the development of confidence through a subject we all love - food. The Culinary teacher is both a highly experienced Vegan (and non-Vegan) Chef who will teach advanced cooking techniques as well as explore the symbiotic relationships between our modern methods of food production/agriculture, nutrition, food source sustainability and climate change.

Life Skills

At TREE Academy, we believe meditation and yoga are essential life skills. All students at TREE are required to take Life Skills and optional yoga courses, offered by teachers with meditative practices and yoga teaching experiences.

Arts

Developing our students' creative and inventive talents and interests is an active, vital part of our curriculum and community.

Our class offerings include:

- Intro to Fine Art
- Ceramics 1 & 2
- Sculpture
- Photography
- Mural Arts
- Introduction to Watercolor
- Fashion

Music

TREE's music program allows students to explore their creativity both vocally and instrumentally. Our music instructors help students not only develop their talents, but also learn music production and recording in our on-campus studio.

- Music Discovery
- Music History & Pop Culture
- Intro to Guitar
- Intro to Drums
- Intro to Bass
- Beginner Rock Band
- Advanced Rock Band
- Playlist Curation

Additional Electives (offered

- Student Government
- Women's History: Diva Dive
- Comprehensive Sex Education: Based on the Planned Parenthood Curriculum
- Financial Literacy
- Sociology of Deviance
- Modern to Contemporary Art History
- City & Nature Exploration: Discovering Los Angeles
- Digital Literacy: Computer Science Principles
- Marine Biology
- Conversation Corner
- Maker's Lab
- Cake and Cupcake Decorating
- Scene Study

Athletic Programs

- Girls' Volleyball
- Cross Country (co-ed)
- Boys' Basketball
- Boys' Volleyball
- Yoga
- Physical Education

Student-Led Clubs

- Minecraft & Gamers
- Acting
- Scuba Diving
- Mental Health Awareness: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Poetry
- Black Student Union
- High School Gay Straight Alliance
- Middle School Gay Straight Alliance