



# San Tan Charter High School

Course Description Book  
2015 – 2016



# San Tan Charter High School

## Core Course Offerings

### Graduation Requirements

<b>English</b>	4 credits	
<b>Math</b>	4 credits	Algebra I or higher
<b>Science</b>	3 credits	
<b>Social Studies</b>	3 credits	
<b>CTE/Fine Art</b>	1 credit	
<b>Electives</b>	7 credits	

**Total Credits: 22**

- English I** This course will integrate reading, writing, speaking, listening and language skills using a thematic based approach. All students are taught strategies to effectively read both fiction and nonfiction and respond through varied writing activities.
- English II** This course will emphasize narrative, expository, and functional writing. In addition, students are introduced to the persuasive essay. Students will be expected to complete assignments in speaking/.listening and viewing/presenting.
- English III** This course will emphasize poetry, short and long fiction, nonfiction and dramas from American Literature. In writing, students will master essay structure in narrative, expository, persuasive, research, and functional writing. Students will be expected to complete assignments in speaking/listening and viewing/presenting.
- English IV** Students will focus on the critical analysis and evaluation of literature including fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry. In writing, students will master creative, persuasive, narrative, expository and functional writing models and study corresponding vocabulary. Students will complete a research project. Students will be expected to complete assignments in speaking/listening and viewing/presenting.
- Algebra I** Students will focus on a study of sets of real numbers, solution of first and second-degree equations, graphing on the coordinate plane, applications of algebra to data analysis and probability, patterns and functions and their applications, measurement and discrete mathematics, and basic mathematical structures.
- Geometry** Students will study formal geometric proofs, polygons, circles, coordinate geometry, solution of right triangle trigonometry problems, Euclidean transformations, and mathematical structure and logic.
- Algebra II** Students will study solution techniques for polynomial equations, properties of functions, logarithms and exponents, coordinate geometry, complex numbers, elementary conic sections, matrices, arithmetic and geometric sequences, and an introduction of trigonometry and its applications. Technology will play a part in this course, especially the use of hand-held graphing calculators.

<b>Pre-Calculus</b>	Students will study topics such as angle measure, relations and graphs of trigonometric functions, coordinate and polar trigonometry, reduction formulae, fundamental triangle solutions and solutions of trigonometric equations, complex numbers, DeMoivres theorem, real number line, the plane functions, conics, polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, polar and parametric functions, sequences and series, limits and rates of change. Technology will play a large part in this course, especially the use of hand-held graphing calculators. This college preparatory math course is designed for students who seek to meet admission requirements for state universities.
<b>World History/ Geography</b>	Students will study the development of mankind through such topics as geography, early civilizations, Middle Ages, the Reformation and the modern world with an emphasis on Western Civilization. Discussions will include the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.
<b>American History</b>	Students will, with appropriate textbook and supplemental readings in the form of documents and essays, provides both chronological and thematic coverage of American History. Emphasis is placed on political history, foreign affairs, and economic and social development, including literary and cultural history.
<b>Economics</b>	Students will cover the economic conditions and policies that affect our daily lives. Issues such as inflation, recession, unemployment, the national debt, and personal economic decisions are discussed. The course provides an opportunity to compare other economic systems and how changes affect the global economy (i.e., trade).
<b>American Government and Politics</b>	Students will have an understanding of our constitutional principles as it relates to executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Students study such topics as political parties, law, citizens' liberties and responsibilities, federalism, media, and foreign affairs.
<b>Biology I</b>	Students will learn the general spectrum of biology. It includes laboratory procedures and investigations. An average of one day per week will be devoted to lab work. Students may be expected to complete one or more projects per quarter.
<b>Chemistry</b>	Students will use experiments to introduce the principles of chemistry. These experiments will introduce the principles of chemistry. Students will be required to keep a lab notebook and may be required to do several projects as part of the class. A minimum of one day per week will be devoted to laboratory studies.
<b>Physics</b>	Students will focus on the physical nature of our world. The class involves frequent labs with appropriate reports. Topics may include mechanics, electricity and magnetism, wave propagation, energy and modern physics. Research projects may be required.

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## Elective Course Offerings

- Spanish I** Introduces students to the basic vocabulary of the language and components of the culture of the countries in which the Spanish is spoken. Prepares students to begin to read, write, speak and understand the language.
- Computer Technology** This class will be an introduction into the world of computer technology. Through Windows Office Suite 2010, the students will explore relevant and emerging technologies, the role of computers in society, discussion of social and ethical issues related to personal computer. Students will explore careers related to the Information Technology field. This includes computer repair, web design and development, software development and video game development.
- Keyboarding** Keyboarding provides students with the skills necessary to use the computer as a problem-solving tool to complete a variety of projects. Students participate in team building activities that include both academic and business competencies. Basic touch keyboarding instruction is provided in the course as well as an introduction to software applications. Students will use these computer skills to complete cross-curricular activities.
- Introduction to Engineering** Introduction to Engineering that is appropriate for students who are interested in design and engineering. The major focus of the IED course is to expose students to design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards, and technical documentation. IED gives students the opportunity to develop skills and understanding of course concepts through activity-, project-, and problem-based (APPB) learning. Used in combination with a teaming approach, APPB-learning challenges students to continually hone their interpersonal skills, creative abilities and understanding of the design process. It also allows students to develop strategies to enable and direct their own learning, which is the ultimate goal of education. (Pre Requisite: STEM)
- Introduction to Entrepreneurship** In this course you will learn the basics needed to plan and launch your own business. Do you have what it takes to start a new business? Do you have an idea for a business but need the tools to get started? This course will provide you with the core skills you need to become successful. In this course you will study the characteristics of successful entrepreneurs. You will also learn about self-employment and basic economic concepts related to small businesses, such as competition and production. This course will also walk you through the steps of setting up a business, including developing a business plan, a mission and a vision, attracting investors, and marketing your company.
- Literary Arts: Journalism** Students learn basic publication and journalism skills focusing on writing articles and designing layouts for a newspaper, yearbook, and literary magazine.
- Physical Education** This class will incorporate some of the many ways to stay active and healthy. Team sports such as baseball, football, soccer, volleyball, badminton, and more are incorporated. Strength training, flexibility, and cardiovascular improvement are also emphasized. Quarterly Fitness Assessments will be administered to show the yearly progress.

<b>Beginning Instrumental Music</b>	Beginning Instrumental Music is a class for students with limited or no prior instrumental performance experience on one of the following instruments: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet/cornet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, violin, viola, cello, string bass. Percussionists will be expected to learn both pitched and non-pitched instruments. Basic fundamentals of music are stressed.
<b>Mixed Chorus</b>	Students will learn to improve their musical skills, sight-reading techniques, vocal techniques and stage presentation. Students will explore music history and vocal pedagogy through the performance of various genres of choral music. Students will participate in performances outside the classroom setting. Special concert attire may be worn.
<b>Symphonic Band</b>	Symphonic Band provides opportunities for the skilled band student to play a wide range of musical forms and styles. Emphasis is placed on improving individual reading and performance skills. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be other than during school hours. Special concert attire may be worn.
<b>Acting</b>	Introductory course to the theatre. Through pantomime, improvisation and short scenes, students gain an understanding of how to create believable characters and expressive bodies in productions. Designed to teach students the basic steps in building a character. Teaches students to overcome inhibitions involved in performing in front of others. Improvisation and short acting scenes help students realize a believable character.
<b>Art &amp; Design I</b>	This course is an introduction to art with the basic elements and principles of design. Students will learn drawing techniques emphasizing line, positive/negative space, perspective, value, texture, lettering, and portrait proportions. Students will also explore studies in color and advanced drawing and painting techniques.
<b>Family &amp; Consumer Science</b>	This course provides a foundation for managing individual, family, career, and community roles and responsibilities. Students apply problem solving and leadership skills as they explore areas such as personal goal achievement, responsibilities within the family, accountability for personal safety and health. Students learn skills related to financial management, clothing maintenance, food preparation, positive relationships with others, and self-assessment as related to career exploration. Mathematics, science, English, social sciences, fine arts, and technology are integrated throughout the course.
<b>Career Exploration</b>	This course will concentrate on career exploration and post high school planning in the areas of education, training, and employment. Students will participate in various career and personal interest assessments and explore career options for the future. By the end of the course, students will learn how to analyze their personal skills and strengths as they relate to current and future jobs, explore different careers through interviews and observations, and discover what it means to be successful at work.
<b>Peer Leadership Student Council</b>	This course will provide training to students to be sensitive listeners and to use communication skills to encourage positive problem solving and behavior. Peer counselors will act as role models, peer tutors, big brothers and sisters to elementary and junior high students, as well as encourage and monitor students with attendance problems. This course will also emphasize leadership skills. A major part of the course

will be performing the duties of Student Council. This course provides opportunities to study, practice and develop group and individual leadership and organizational skills. These skills include decision-making skills, problem-solving techniques, communication skills, leadership roles, human relation skills and understanding the need for civic responsibility. Students enrolled in the course will apply these skills in dealing with peers, school administration and the community. Students will demonstrate a hands-on, active learning approach to leadership.

The topics studied are:

1. The Structure of Leadership
2. Organization and Managerial Skills
3. Responsible Citizenship
4. Goal Setting
5. Group Process
6. Communication
7. Evaluation

## **STEM**

This course challenges students of all levels to develop higher order problem solving skills by stimulating creativity in a hands-on learning environment. Academic subject disciplines such as applied physics, algebra and geometry powerfully come alive as students design, build and test modern structure and vehicle prototypes. Students acquire 21st Century Skills through project based learning. (This class is only for students who have not previously taken a STEM class at the middle school level.)