

The NPA Curriculum

NPA's original curriculum was intended to model the International Baccalaureate program or IB. Course work for grades 7 through 12 is integrated, with one year laying the foundation for the next. Ideally, a student will enter NPA in seventh grade in order to reap the full benefits of the integrated curriculum. However, students with high academic achievement and motivation can successfully enter NPA in any grade and satisfactorily complete the high school program. Students are taught the tools, knowledge, and techniques for successful completion of each grade level.

In addition to the standard academic curriculum required by the State of Arizona, NPA offers a wide variety of elective courses in art, drama, journalism, music, and physical education, as well as extra-curricular activities that include athletic opportunities for young men and women.

The staff of NPA has been selected with the understanding that academic rigor is the norm. NPA is a school with high expectations for students and staff alike, and receives strong support from faculty, staff, students, and parents.

Academics

As a charter school, the NPA faculty, staff, and governing board must adhere closely to the stated goals of the charter, which calls for a highly academic college prep school. The school welcomes all applicants regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or economic status. No admission(s) tests are required; however, all students are expected to take at least five core courses a year, including English, a second language, math, science and history or social studies. Fine arts are an essential part of a well-rounded college prep program and students are encouraged to take art, music, and/or drama every year. NPA students complete a curriculum of five core classes each year – English, math, foreign language, social studies, and science – as well as a range of elective offerings. All NPA courses present students with academic rigor. Honors courses go beyond normal high school to achieve and prepare for upper level and Advanced Placement courses offered included Language, Literature, Calculus, US History, World History, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Studio Art 2-D Design, and Studio Art-Drawing. Registration for AP courses is by interest and consultation, but there are no exclusive policies preventing students from registering. Prior to the AP offerings commonly taken in Grades 10-12, Honors courses available in Grades 9 & 10 include Honors American Literature, Honors World Literature, Accelerated Biology, Accelerated Chemistry, and Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors.

Benefiting from student to teacher ratio of less than 14:1, NPA students are able to develop themselves academically, socially, and emotionally, becoming strong learners prepared not just to be admitted to college, but to excel once there.

Middle School

The middle school curriculum calls for maintaining exciting and dynamic classes that challenge students to perform at high levels of academic standards.

The curriculum, which exceeds the Arizona Academic Standards are designed to allow students to develop at their own rate both academically and socially. The curriculum is designed to be challenging for all students.

Typically, a 7th grade student will take six core courses (language arts, social studies, math, science, Latin, and English). Incoming students will be assessed prior to scheduling to determine the appropriate math placement for them.

High School

The high school program is designed to provide outstanding preparation for college. Students can choose from a range of electives; however, all students take five core courses: English, a second language, math, social studies/history, and science.

All high school and middle school classes are yearlong courses, and are worth ½ credit each semester.

If you have questions about the curriculum offered at NPA, or if you would like more information on our program, please visit our website at www.northlandprep.org.