



**Rancho Mirage High School**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives Course Descriptions**



**French I:** This course satisfies one year of the UC “E” requirement for a Language Other than English. This course covers the basic skills of communication in French by developing listening and speaking skills. It is intended to develop conversation at a beginning level, with an emphasis on vocabulary and simple grammatical structures. The geography and culture of France will be interwoven throughout the course.

**Spanish I:** This course satisfies one year of the UC “E” requirement for a Language Other than English. This course develops students’ abilities to speak, comprehend, read, and write sentences in the present, past and future tenses. Emphasis will be placed on proper pronunciation and oral communication. This class is appropriate for students with little or no experience.

**Spanish for Spanish Speakers:** This course satisfies the UC “E” requirement for a Language Other than English. This course is taught to heritage speakers of the Spanish language. The goal is increased literacy and fluency of expression and understanding. The student gains literacy through practice in reading culturally relevant stories, writing and discussion of related themes. Within this literature-based curriculum review of all major grammatical structures are presented. Through practice in reading and writing the student will develop mastery over the language they already know as heritage speakers of Spanish.

**Art I:** In this beginning art class the student will be introduced to the basic element and principles of design. Students will develop artistic perception by processing, analyzing and responding to sensory information through the language of fine art. This student will be creating, performing and participating, responding to, analyzing, and making critical assessment about works in a given art form. The student will use various drawing and painting media to interpret his/her environment visually and to express himself creatively. The student will also develop a vocabulary of art terms with which to discuss their work and that of other artists.

**Theater I:** This course satisfies the UC “F” requirement for a Visual and Performing Arts. This course is designed to introduce the art of theater through acting, production, and performance. Through reading of the textbook and scripts, writing essays and scripts, design, acting, and lecture, students will have beginning understanding of the history of drama and the dramatic profession. Students will develop and perform improvisations, monologues from well-known contemporary plays, exercises in pantomime, and learn to interpret the literature of the theater.

**Chorale:** Students will be exposed to the four components that make up the performing arts: artistic perception, creative expressions, historical and cultural context, and aesthetic valuing. Students will need to listen carefully, perceive patterns, and understand the use of musical elements in performing and creating music. Students will be exposed to the areas of music appreciation, music history, music theory, and performance practice. **Daily music sight-singing exercises will be assessed on Fridays and students are required to participate in THREE concerts (on the HGPAC MAINSTAGE) during event hours as graded assessments.**

**Concert Band:** This course satisfies the UC “F” requirement for a Visual and Performing Arts. The Marching Band entails the wind instrumentalists, flags, pit section, and drum line. The primary goal and function of the Marching Band is to perform halftime shows at football games, represent our school at community performances, parades, and competitions. The Concert Band is a performance-oriented ensemble for all new and returning students to the band program. The primary goal and function of the Concert Band is to introduce students to the performance experience. Students work on fundamental exercises such as scales, articulation, and intervallic drills, developing musicianship and ear training techniques, as well as rehearsing quality wind literature. Students are required to participate in daily and weekend rehearsal, along with the August Band Camp.

**Music I:** This course is designed to be a survey of music course. In this course, students will learn the basic elements that go into making music, as well as learn to identify musical instruments and their sounds. Students will also cover music history from early music through Jazz, The American Musical (Broadway), and Rock & Roll. Some beginning music theory may be taught as well.

**Dance I:** Satisfies 9th grade or second year PE requirement. This course provides a basic knowledge of all dance skills while developing strength, flexibility, and coordination. Students will learn stage directions, dance terminology, and basic dance technique. Students will be required to apply these skills into stage performances in front of a live crowd.

**PE Core:** This physical education program emphasizes physical development through daily exercise and sports activities. Skill development includes participation in all types of team sports, individual sports, and rhythmic activities. Physical fitness testing is also included in the program.

**Food and Nutrition/Introduction to Culinary Academy:** This course is designed for the selection, preparation and storage of food. Techniques in food preparation are developed. Food components and their specific nature and behavior during preparation are introduced, along with the recognition and evaluation of quality in food products. Basic kitchen utensils and equipment will be covered.

**Yearbook:** Students will learn and practice the skills needed to produce a quality yearbook documenting the events and activities of the school year. These skills include photography, layout design, copy and headline writing, development of themes and advertising campaigns. Students should be self-motivated and take responsibility for individual deadlines. They must be willing to work after school, evenings, and on weekends in order to meet deadlines. Parent support and student dedication is essential for the completion of a quality yearbook.

**Pre-Leadership:** The main objective of this course is to improve the character and leadership skills of students. Students will be immersed in the study of 18 commonly-valued traits to get them to read about, write about, and think about these traits on a daily basis. It is only through this intentional study that emotional, cognitive, and behavioral change occurs. While the primary goal is to improve character and leadership traits, students will also be challenged to improve reading, writing, public speaking, high-order thinking, and emotional IQ. This course is also a prerequisite for any student who would like to apply for the ASB elective.

**AVID (Application required):** The AVID Program is designed to help students “in the middle” with academic potential to prepare for admission to a four-year college or university and success in college coursework. Students are required to enroll in rigorous curriculum, maintain an organized binder with daily notes in all classes, commit to nightly homework, participate in AVID events, and take college admissions tests on a prescribed schedule. Curriculum for the AVID elective class includes the AVID writing program and strategies for success, peer tutoring, and exposure to the worlds of college and post-college work through guest speakers and other activities. Extensive parent support and participation at AVID meetings and functions are required.

***Additional course outline information is available at [ranchomiragehighschool.org](http://ranchomiragehighschool.org). Select the “Student Resources” tab, “Counseling” tab, and then click on “Course Request Information”.***