A.3.2 Course Offerings and Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements and Course Credits

To graduate from The Rising School, students must earn at least 24 credits by passing the following courses with a grade of D- or better. The minimum requirements in each subject are as follows:

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of math (which must include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus or Statistics)
- 4 credits of science
- 4 credits of social science (which must include U.S. History, World History, ½ credit of Government, and ½ credit of Economics)
- 3 credits of foreign language
- 1 credit of fine arts
- 4 other credits (including electives)
- Recommended by not required: 1 or more credits of physical education

These graduation requirements are more rigorous than those mandated by the Arizona Department of Education (www.azed.gov/state-board-education/high-school-graduation-requirements). They also exceed the admissions entrance requirements for the University of Arizona (http://admissions.arizona.edu/freshmen/entrance-requirements-and-guidelines) and other competitive four-year colleges and universities.

Criteria for Awarding Credit

The Rising School will have the following multi-step process for promotion/retention:

- Teachers will assess of a student's "mastery" of each relevant standard from the College and Career Readiness Standards (Common Core Standards + 2010 Arizona Additions) and AP-based standards for some high-school courses, with "mastery" defined as scoring 80% or higher on an assessment of that standard;
- Teachers will use student mastery of standards plus student performance on other relevant academic factors (homework, projects, in-class participation, etc.) to compute for each student a percentage score for the course; this percentage score will result in the Interim Course Grade;
- This Interim Course Grade is the Final Course Grade for courses that do *not* have an aligned state standardized assessment (AIMS currently; PARCC or other assessment in the future);
- For courses (math, Humanities, English Composition, and science) with an aligned state standardized assessment (Math, Reading, Writing, and Science), the student's Interim Course Grade is combined with the student's performance on the state standardized assessment to result in the Final Course Grade;
- The Final Course Grade must be D- or higher to earn promotion (for grades 6-8) or credit (for high school).

Mastery of Standards

The Rising School criteria for promotion/retention begin with standards: the College and Career Readiness Standards (Common Core Standards + 2010 Arizona Additions) and AP-based standards for some courses. Students will be assessed on each relevant standard. To demonstrate "mastery" of a single standard, a student must score 80% or higher on an assessment of that single standard.

Interim Course Grade

Teachers will use student mastery of standards (see above) plus student performance on other relevant academic factors (homework, projects, in-class participation, etc.) to compute for each student a percentage score for the course; this percentage score will result in the Interim Course Grade, which will be available at the end of the school year. The following shows the conversion of percentage of total standards mastered into Interim Course Grade: 97-100 (A+), 93-96 (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-86 (B), 80-82 (B-), 77-79 (C+), 73-76 (C), 70-72 (C-), 67-69 (D+), 63-66 (D), 60-62 (D-), below 60 (F).

Final Course Grade

In courses that do *not* have an aligned state-standardized assessment, the Interim Course Grade is the Final Course Grade. In these courses, consequently, students will know their Final Course Grade at the end of the school year.

For courses (math, Humanities, English Composition, and science) with an aligned state standardized assessment (Math, Reading, Writing, and Science), the student's Interim Course Grade is combined with the student's performance on the state standardized assessment to result in the Final Course Grade (see table below for a description of how this is done). For 10th grade, the student's performance on the state Math assessment will be incorporated into the student's Final Course Grade for his/her math class, the student's performance on the state Reading assessment will be incorporated into the student's Final Course Grade for his/her English class, and the student's performance on the state Science assessment will incorporated into the student's Final Course Grade for his/her Science class.

In these courses, a student's individual state standardized assessment scores will be incorporated into the student's final grade through the following grade-conversion matrix:

Interim Course Grade	**Exceeds**	**Meets**	**Approaches**	**Falling Far Below**
A+	A+	A+	B+	C+
A	A+	A	B	C
A-	A+	A-	B-	C-
B+	A	A-	C+	D+
B	A	B+	C	D
B-	A-	B+	C-	D-
C+	A-	B	D+	F
C	B+	B	D	F
C-	B+	B-	D-	F
D+	B	C+	F	F
D	B	C	F	F
D-	B-	C-	F	F
F	C	D	F	F

Incorporating state standardized assessment scores into students' Final Course Grade will incentivize teachers and students to focus throughout the entire school year on student mastery of the standards from the College and Career Readiness Standards (Common Core Standards + 2010 Arizona Additions) and AP-based standards for some high-school courses. Moreover, comparing a student's teacher-given grades with that students' performance on the state assessment will give the school valuable insight and data on possible gaps (and strengths) in the curriculum and/or in the teacher's instructional performance. Additionally, incorporating state standardized assessment scores into a student's Final Course Grade will also encourage all students to take seriously the state standardized assessment;

currently, only a few students—those in high school--have any concrete incentive to perform well on state assessments.

Criteria for Awarding Credit

Promotion/retention will depend on the student's Final Course Grade (see above). Students must score D- or higher to pass a course. In grades 9-12, a student who fails a course that is required for graduation must retake and pass that course (or its equivalent) to graduate. Equivalent courses include, but are not limited to, summer-school, community-college, or university courses. Consequently, some students in courses aligned to a standardized state assessment will not know their grade in these courses—and, therefore, whether they passed—until the state has released the scores. As a result, these students may not know whether they passed until July. While this late notification is unusual, it is not unprecedented. As mentioned above, the BASIS group of charter schools incorporates AP scores, which are not released until July, into its final course grades.

Menu of Course Offerings

6th Grade Courses

- Math: Aligned to College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) for math:
    - Connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems
    - Completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers;
    - Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations
    - Developing understanding of statistical thinking
- English Composition: Aligned to CCRS for writing
- Humanities (Literature and World History & Geography)
    - Aligned to CCRS for reading and to state standards for social science
- Science (Life, Physical, Earth, and Space)
    - Aligned to state standards for science
- Fine Arts (Studio Art or Music) or Physical Education
    - Aligned to state standards for fine arts and physical education
- Intervention (Math Foundations or English Foundations) or Enrichment
    - Bottom quartile in math, reading, or writing must take Intervention course
- Study Skills: 2 times per week, 130 minutes total
- Advisory: 1 time per week, 40 minutes

7th Grade Courses

- Math: Aligned to College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) for math:
    - Developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships
    - Developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations
    - Solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume
    - Drawing inferences about populations based on samples
- English Composition: Aligned to CCRS for writing
- Humanities (Literature and U.S. History)
    - Aligned to CCRS for reading and state standards for social science

- Science (Life, Physical, Earth, and Space)
    - Aligned to state standards for science
- Fine Arts (Studio Art or Music) or Physical Education
    - Aligned to state standards for fine arts and physical education
- Intervention (Math Foundations or English Foundations) or Enrichment
    - Bottom quartile in math, reading, or writing must take Intervention course
- Study Skills: 2 times per week, 130 minutes total
- Advisory: 1 time per week, 40 minutes

8th Grade Courses

- Math: Aligned to College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) for math
    - Formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations
    - Grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships
    - Analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem
- English Composition: Aligned to CCRS for writing
- Humanities (Literature and Civics, Government, & Economics)
    - Aligned to CCRS for reading and state standards for social science
- Science (Life, Physical, Earth, and Space)
    - Aligned to state standards for science
- Fine Arts (Studio Art or Music) or Physical Education
    - Aligned to state standards for fine arts and physical education
- Intervention (Math Foundations or English Foundations) or Enrichment
    - Bottom quartile in math, reading, or writing must take Intervention course
- Study Skills: 2 times per week, 130 minutes total
- Advisory: 1 time per week, 40 minutes

9th Grade Courses

All 9th grade students take six courses: five core courses and one intervention or elective course.
9th Grade Core Courses:

- Math: Honors Algebra 1/Geometry 1 or Honors Algebra 2/Geometry 2
- English: Honors World Literature
    - This course, in conjunction with Honors/AP World History, teaches students about major social, religious, philosophical, and cultural issues and themes.
- English: Honors English Composition
    - This course focuses on further developing students' writing and is aligned with Common Core writing standards for 9-10 grades.
- Social Studies: Honors World History or AP World History:
    - Honors World History and AP World History are based on the same core concepts and methodologies. AP World History includes more content than Honors World History.
- Science: Honors Biology or AP Biology
    - Honors Biology and AP Biology are based on the same core concepts and methodologies. AP Biology includes more content than Honors Biology.

9th Grade Intervention or Elective Courses:

- Students in lowest quartile in math, reading, or writing must take one of the following:
    - Math Essentials 1 or English Essentials 1

- Students not in the lowest quartile in math, reading, or writing must take one elective:
    - Physical Education, Fine Arts, Computer Science, Media Arts, Conversational Spanish, Creative Writing/Journalism, AP electives, or others

9th Grade Courses: Other:

- Study Skills: 2 times per week, 130 minutes total
- Advisory: 1 time per week, 40 minutes

10th Grade Courses

All 10th-graders take six courses: five core courses and one intervention or elective course.

10th Grade Core Courses:

- Math: Algebra 2/Geometry 2 or Pre-Calculus
    - Pre-Calculus: This course extends and refines advanced algebraic and trigonometric concepts and will introduce concepts in probability, statistics, vectors, and parametrics.
- English: Honors or AP English Language
    - Honors English Language and AP English Language are based on the same core concepts and methodologies. AP English Language includes more content and writing than Honors English Language..
- Social Studies: Honors U.S. History or AP U.S. History
    - Honors U.S. History and AP U.S. History are based on the same core concepts and methodologies. AP U.S. History includes more content than Honors U.S. History.
- Science: Honors Chemistry or AP Chemistry
    - Honors Chemistry and AP Chemistry are based on the same core concepts and methodologies. AP Chemistry includes more content than Honors Chemistry.
- Foreign Language: Spanish 1 or 2 (determined by assessment), French 1, or Mandarin 1

10th Grade Intervention or Elective Courses:

- Students in lowest quartile in math, reading, or writing must take one of the following:
    - Math Essentials 2 or Reading Essentials 2
- Students not in the lowest quartile in math, reading, or writing must take one elective:
    - Physical Education, Fine Arts, Computer Science, Media Arts, Creative Writing/Journalism, AP electives, or others

10th Grade Courses: Other:

- Study Skills: 2 times per week, 130 minutes total
- Advisory: 1 time per week, 40 minutes

11th Grade Courses

All 11th graders take six courses: five core courses and one intervention or elective course.

11th Grade Core Courses

- Math: Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus AB
    - Pre-Calculus: See above.
    - AP Calculus AB: Aligned with AP Calculus AB, it is designed to prepare students for the AP Calculus AB exam and for higher-level college courses in mathematics. The major topics covered in this course are: Functions, Graphs, and Limits; Derivatives; and Integrals.
- English: Honors or AP English Literature (both aligned to AP English Literature)
    - Honors English Literature and AP English Literature are based on the same core concepts and methodologies. AP English Literature includes more content and writing than Honors English Literature..
- Social Science: One-semester course: Honors U.S. Government or AP U.S. Government

    - Honors U.S. Government and AP U.S. Government are based on the same core concepts and methodologies. AP U.S. Government includes more content than Honors U.S. Government.
- Social Science: One-semester course: Honors Economics
    - Honors Economics examines microeconomics and macroeconomics.
- Science: Physics or AP Physics B
    - Honors Physics and AP Physics B are based on the same core concepts and methodologies. AP Physics B includes more content than Honors Physics.
- Foreign Language: Spanish 2 or 3, French 2, or Mandarin 2

11th Grade Intervention or Elective Courses:

- Students in lowest quartile in math, reading, or writing must take one of the following:
    - Math Essentials 2 or Reading Essentials 2
- Students not in the lowest quartile in math, reading, or writing must take one elective:
    - Physical Education, Fine Arts, Computer Science, Media Arts, Creative Writing/Journalism, AP electives, or others

11th Grade Courses: Other:

- Study Skills: 2 times per week, 130 minutes total
- Advisory: 1 time per week, 40 minutes

12th Grade Courses

All 12th grade students must take six courses: five core courses and one elective course.

12th Grade Core Courses (during first three quarters):

- Math: AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, or AP Statistics
    - AP Calculus AB: See above
    - AP Calculus BC: This college-level course examines the topics found in a second semester college calculus course. Aligned with AP Calculus BC, it is designed to prepare students for the AP Calculus BC exam and for higher-level college courses in math.
    - AP Statistics: This college-level course will introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data..
- English: Honors Senior English
    - This course is modeled after college English courses, requiring reading, analysis, writing, and discussion. Each year, the instructor, with input from students, will determine the topic or theme of the course; examples include Shakespeare's dramas, contemporary American literature, gender in literature, and African-American literature.
- Social Science: An AP course in social science
    - Art History, European History, Comparative Government, Human Geography, or Psychology
- Science: An AP course in science
    - Computer Science A, Environmental Science, Human Geography, or Physics C
- Foreign Language: Spanish 3 or 4 or AP Spanish, French 3, or Mandarin 3

12th grade Elective Courses (during first three quarters):

- Students not requiring remediation must take one of the following elective courses:
    - Physical Education, Fine Arts, Computer Science, Media Arts, Conversational Spanish, Creative Writing/Journalism, AP electives, or others.
    - Senior Internship (fourth quarter): Replaces Elective Course in fourth quarter. Senior Internships will provide authentic contexts where students learn problem-solving and other higher-order thinking skills. Students will also explore their career interests.

12th Grade Courses: Other:

- Study Skills: 2 times per week, 130 minutes total
- Advisory: 1 time per week, 40 minutes