

Law and Justice Curriculum

Foundations in Law and Justice

This course provides students with an understanding of how and why governments and laws are formed. Students develop the ability to analyze and articulate the tensions inherent in any system of government as it seeks to secure justice. Students critically examine key concepts—such as democracy, justice, and rights—from multiple perspectives and contexts. Their knowledge of the relationship between law and law enforcement is strengthened, as students prepare to become actively engaged in the civic process. Students critically analyze legal primary and secondary sources while being introduced to a wide range of careers in law and law enforcement.

Introduction to Law/Criminal Law

In this course, students are introduced to the law, law and legal professions, and legal institutions. Students learn about the many career opportunities in the area of law and justice including, but not limited to, court administrators, attorneys, judges, peace officers, and paralegals. Students analyze the development of criminal law and procedure, especially criminal procedures that affect students, through the use of basic logic and critical-thinking approaches. Students learn the elements of a crime and examine issues in justice and fairness and gain an understanding of the criminal justice system and how individual rights are balanced with public policy. This course is in development.

Constitutional Law/Civil Law

Students examine the rules and role of the courts and the constitution; gain an understanding of constitutional text, ways to read it, and the intent of the framers; learn to separate emotion from reasoning; and learn to write and argue persuasively. In Civil Law, students learn about torts (civil wrongs) that occur intentionally and from negligence. Students also learn about liability and the relationship between tort laws and public policy. This class is in development.

Law and Society

In this course, students examine the role of laws in society and the relationship between law and human behavior. Students learn how laws are used for social change, philosophies of law, and how the law is used as a social control mechanism. This course is in development.

Business Law

This course introduces students to the codes and laws that govern business conduct. It emphasizes such concepts as business legal structures, governmental regulation, dispute resolution, courts and the court system, court procedures, contracts, and ethics. This course is in development.

Administration of Justice

This course examines the concept and history of justice. Students learn about the justice system and its many subsystems and their roles in society. In addition, students learn about the expectations society places on the criminal justice system and its agents and about how these agents are trained. This course also explores why crimes occur and the concepts of punishment, rehabilitation, and ethics. This course is in development.

Forensics

This course explores the history of forensic science. Students learn about the many disciplines within forensic science and, in particular, how forensic science is used to solve crimes. Students learn the proper methods for conducting criminal investigations including collecting and analyzing evidence through laboratory activities. This class is in development.

Environmental Law

Students explore the relationship between law and the environment. Students learn about laws that protect the environment, animals, and natural resources. In addition, students learn why these laws are important and how environmental laws are created and enforced. This course is in development.

International Law

This course explores the structure and sources of international law and its relationship to domestic law. Students learn how international laws are created and explore the roles of international organizations such as the United Nations. Students examine the jurisdiction of international law and explore its role in protecting and enforcing human rights and enforcing international disputes. This course is in development.

Integrated Unit: Crime Scene Investigation

As students take on the role of crime scene investigators to solve a murder that has occurred at the school, they integrate math, science, and language arts into the study of forensic science and associated health science careers such as pathology, forensic science, and medical examination.