

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade TBA Course Selection

## 2020 - 2021

**Directions:** You will be making some important decisions in Aspen about your classes for 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Read over this information so that you will be ready when it's time to make your choices. Please decide what is best for you as a learner!

**Choice 1:** *Below you will find descriptions of the 2 cohorts for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Read each description carefully to decide which one sounds the most exciting and interesting to you.*

### **Build the Future**

In this cohort, you will explore innovations from past to present, and work to design, build, and prototype solutions that launch your community forward. To do this, you will collaborate with peers and professionals from local organizations who are currently tackling these same critical issues. Be prepared to create, critique, and recreate devices using TechBoston Academy's Engineering Lab. Students in this cohort will take **Engineering**, Math 1, US History I, and ELA 9.

### **Survive and Thrive**

What has made the world what it is today? How did we get here? In this cohort, you will learn from the successes and mistakes of the past to design your own communities. You will explore all aspects of living organisms and how they work together with humans in every ecosystem. We will build thriving partnerships with our community to help us look into the future of our planet. In addition, we will learn how to solve community issues, experiment, and develop solutions that help us survive and lead in a changing world. Students in this cohort will take **Biology**, Math 1, US History I, and ELA 9.

**Choice 2:** *In order to graduate from high school you will need to take a language. We offer Spanish 1 & 2 and French 1 & 2. Your teachers and guidance counselors will decide which year you take language, but you decide which one to learn!*

### **Spanish**

Students will develop necessary skills for basic communication in Spanish language listening comprehension, oral communication, reading, and writing. Students will develop cultural sensitivity and respect for other cultures and their people. Topics covered include: Spanish speaking countries and their cultural characteristics/customs; greetings and introductions; time, dates, calendar; clothing; describing yourself and others; colors, numbers, and clothing; school; food and restaurant transactions; music; holidays; family and home; ecotourism; weather; and summer and winter activities.

*Available to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade students who do not speak fluent Spanish.*

### **French**

Students will develop necessary skills for basic communication in French language listening comprehension, oral communication, reading, and writing. Students will develop cultural sensitivity and respect for other cultures and their people.

*Available to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade students who do not speak fluent French.*

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**Choice 3:** *During the years that you do not take language, you have your choice of some other elective classes. The course called CTE Pathway is the one that Ms. Rieffanaugh or Ms. Smith presented in your Art of Science class.*

### **9<sup>th</sup> Design & Communication**

Elect to be a designer, a filmmaker, an animator, and an artist! In this class, you will build upon your beginning knowledge of the Adobe Creative Suite and hands-on activities as you further your creative endeavors. Begin to explore the world of Stop Motion Videos, Animated Gifs, and fine art mediums. Artistic freedom is encouraged as you expand your knowledge of art and design.

### **CTE Pathway (Advanced Design & Communication)**

Elect to be a designer, a filmmaker, an animator, and an artist! In this class, you will build upon your beginning knowledge of the Adobe Creative Suite and hands-on activities as you further your creative endeavors. Begin to explore the world of Stop Motion Videos, Animated Gifs, and fine art mediums. Artistic freedom is encouraged as you expand your knowledge of art and design. In this specialized pathway, you will become a more advanced designer through a three-year training in Visual Design, learning industry-standard competencies. As a senior, you will earn an Adobe certification.

### **Introduction to Public Speaking**

This course will help students develop the skills needed to deliver an effective speech or presentation. Students will learn how to improve their delivery when speaking in public by using voice, movement and body language effectively; overcoming nerves and developing confidence; engaging the audience; and applying best practices for notes and visual aids. Students will have an opportunity to practice these skills in a variety of real-world situations.

