

CLARK MONTESSORI HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE SELECTION CATALOG
2023-2024



Clark Montessori School
3030 Erie Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45208

<http://clark.cps-k12.org>
363-7100

Core Course Requirements

Each student at Clark enrolls in a rigorous study of required courses. These are aligned with CPS and state standards and provide students with the credits necessary to graduate from high school and to be successful in college or other post-secondary plans. All students enroll in the same grade honors level English, Science, and Social Studies courses, and select the most appropriate options in Mathematics and Foreign Language. The Clark Montessori High School Diploma is a high school diploma with a special program endorsement which requires students to earn more than the minimum state requirements. Students work with their advisor, parents and the school counselor to ensure they have the appropriate number of credits to graduate.

Credits Required to Graduate with a Clark Montessori Diploma		
Math	4	(Algebra I AA, Geometry AA, Algebra II AA, Functions/Stats, Probability & Stats AA, Pre-Calculus, AP or College Calculus, AP Stats – Students are required to take a math EACH YEAR of high school.)
Science	4	(Physical Science AA, Biology AA, Chemistry AA, Physics AA or Anatomy & Physiology)
Social Studies	4	(Modern World History AA, US History AA, American Government AA, Senior Project Courses
English	4	(English 9 AA, English 10 AA, English 11 AA, English 12 AA)
Foreign Language	2-4	Note: 3-4 credits of Foreign Language are <u>strongly</u> recommended for students who plan to attend college and the number of foreign language credits influences admission decisions at some colleges.
Fine Arts	1	Note: Any music or art course can be applied toward this requirement. (each semester .5)
Health	0.5	
Physical Education	0.5	2 courses required; each semester earns .25 credits)
Financial Literacy* (Beginning Class of 2026)	0.5	One semester of the required Financial Literacy elective
Intersession	4	8 intersessions required; each earns .5 credits)
Community Service Hours:	140	hours required, up to 40 hours can be earned during 10 th grade Service Intersession

Be sure to read course descriptions carefully and sign up for courses that you are truly interested in. The **ONLY** opportunity to change your schedule will be on the official **schedule change form** due in early August, 2022.

Students who do not meet Ohio Graduation End-of-Course exam point requirements will be enrolled in Companion Courses to provide additional support. Parents and students will be notified by the school counseling office.

In addition to earning the required course credits, students beginning with the class of 2023 will also need to earn 2 graduation Seals This presentation has been shared with 9th & 10th grade students through Advisory, **Classes of 2023 & Beyond Graduation Seals** Please contact your student's counselor if you have questions or concerns.

Courses not meeting enrollment minimums may be canceled.

Some elective courses require a materials fee.

Tentative schedules for the 2023-2024 school year will be printed and distributed by the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Final schedules may be viewed online in early **August, 2023**. *Schedule change forms and course offerings will be available online and at schedule change day. Schedule change forms are required to have a **parent's signature**.*

Elective Course Descriptions

In addition to the Core Course selections, each student may select from a rich variety of elective courses that suit each individual's interests and needs. ***Important Note:** AP Courses at Clark Montessori may not fulfill a core course requirement; in addition students who elect to enroll in an AP Course are required to sit for the AP Exam in the spring. AP Exams are charged to student fee accounts and cost approximately \$95 per test. (Some students may qualify for an AP Exam fee reduction.)

Language Arts Electives

Advanced Placement Language and Composition Year - 1 credit All students who enroll are required to complete the AP exam.

This challenging, year-long course is designed to prepare students for all types of college-level writing. Students will develop the skills they need to write academically, professionally and personally for all kinds of purposes. Students will practice the stages of the writing process from brainstorming through revision, engage in peer review of one another's work, and complete many informal and formal writing assignments. In addition, students will become skilled readers of a wide variety of non-fiction work, from memoir to essays to scholarly research. In May, students have the opportunity to take the AP English Language and Composition exam that may enable them to receive college credit in English.

Creative Writing Semester - .5 credit

The purpose of this course is to give students who are interested in writing their own stories a chance to focus on practicing writing, learning, and analyzing the popular and modern mediums of creative writing. Be prepared to write every class and share with your classmates. Everyone will develop their own writing style and create a final product each quarter such as a well written short story or several chapters of a novel. If you see yourself as a writer, or if you just love writing the occasional story, this class is for you.

Film Tech and Analysis Semester- .5 credit

The Film Tech and Analysis elective will combine on-location film production, editing, and layout with viewing, discussion, and criticism. In the field and in the classroom, students will study literary, cinematic and dramatic aspects of film and will be provided opportunities to understand and use media for a wide variety of communication purposes. Students will also regularly view feature length and short films and critique them based upon the aspects listed above and write extended film analyses each quarter.

Social Science Electives

Public Issues Semester - .5 credit

The goal of this seminar is to have open discussions of controversial political and social issues and raise awareness of current world events in a classroom setting. Discussions for the first part of each class will focus on current events from that week, while in the second part of class students will research a scheduled issue in greater detail.

African American History Semester - .5 credit

This course offers the opportunity to explore the contributions, challenges and progress of African Americans and American society. Topics covered in this class include African contributions, the Middle Passage and Slavery, Abolitionists and Reconstruction, Washington and Dubois, the Great Migration and Harlem Renaissance, World War II, Civil Rights Movement and African Americans today. An emphasis will be placed on critical thinking skills through seminar discussions, projects and research.

Business Law Semester - .5 credit

Modeled after a class called "Street Law." We focus on laws that affect students and their families in daily life. The class includes mock trials, debates, and seminars on current events. The focus is NOT business, despite the listed course name.

Advanced Placement - Psychology Year - 1 credit All students who enroll are required to complete the AP exam.

AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. Students in AP Courses MUST pay and sit for AP Exams in May. There are no Pre-requisites for taking AP Psychology, however this course is recommended for 11 & 12 grade students with strong study and work habits.

Advanced Placement – Human Geography Year - 1 credit All students who enroll are required to complete the AP exam.

The AP Human Geography course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. This course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socio economic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012). There are no prerequisites for AP Human Geography. Students should be able to read college-level texts and write grammatically correct, complete sentences.

Mathematics Electives- All students will complete Algebra I, Geometry, & Algebra II. The 3rd & 4th year of high school Math will be based on teacher recommendation.

AP Calculus Year –1 credit (HS) All students who enroll are required to complete the AP exam.

Explore the key concepts, methods, and applications of single-variable calculus including functions, graphs, and limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Become familiar with concepts, results, and problems expressed in multiple ways including graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support your conclusions.

CCP Statistics Year –1 credit (HS)

In-depth study of probability, data analysis, and statistics including applying the concept of random variables to generate and interpret probability distributions, transforming data to aid in interpretation and prediction, and testing hypotheses using appropriate statistics. This course is recommended for students who are interested in pursuing careers in business, health professions, and other fields that require an understanding of data.

***PreCalculus Year –1 credit (HS);**

This course is for juniors and seniors who have earned an A or B in Algebra 2, have a teacher recommendation, or have exhibited a strong desire to accelerate in math by completing prescribed summer work. This is a fast paced course covering PreCalculus concepts that will prepare students for further study in mathematics, including Calculus.

UC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PATHWAY

Successful completion of the UC IT pathway satisfies the State of Ohio graduation seal.

Information Technology (UC) Year–1 credit (HS) GRADES 9 AND 10 ONLY

The Fundamentals of IT is an introductory course to the University of Cincinnati's Information Technology major; the course also serves as an elective course for other programs at the university, and is a core course for students in the Early IT Program. To serve as a building block of each of these roles, the course is designed to introduce students at all levels to the field of information technology. In addition to the learning objectives of the course, students who complete the Fundamentals of IT should have: an elevator speech to answer the question "what is IT?", have a solid understanding of core areas of specialization with IT, know of several IT career paths, and have a conversational understanding of fundamental concepts related to hardware, software, networking, and collaborative IT design processes relevant to industry. Successful participants will gain automatic entry to UC's IT program after graduation and be eligible to participate in a UC Co-op (employment!) during the summer prior to their freshman year of college.

Web Design (UC) Year –1 credit (HS) PreRequisite= UCIT Intro to IT (see above)

UC course "Fundamentals of Web Development" This is a foundation course in Web Technology that covers the underpinnings of the technology and a variety of modern standards. The course covers modern web standards, well-formed and valid documents, semantic XHTML/HTML, user-centered design of static web sites, styling and layout of Web documents with CSS, common tools for Website development. Emphasis is on coding syntactically correct Web documents which are also visually appealing, and accessible to users using assistive technologies. This course covers material up to the use of scripting which is introduced in the next course in the sequence. You will learn HTML5, CSS3, responsive and user-centric design, XML, and SVG. Hands-on active learning required.

Computer Networking Semester .5 credit (HS) PreRequisite=UCIT Yr 1

This course introduces students to basic concepts of computer networks, communication protocols, and computing principles for networked systems.

Database Management I Semester .5 credit (HS) PreRequisite=UCIT Yr 1

This is an introductory course to the technology used for database development. Topics include the key database concepts, writing queries to retrieve, insert, update, and delete data from databases, and additional database features. Enterprise database management system will be used. Hands-on active learning required.

Science Electives

Anatomy and Physiology Year – 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Biology.

Anatomy and Physiology is a course that will enable students to develop an understanding of the relationships between the structures and functions of the human body. This course will involve lab activities, dissections, models, diagrams and presentations.

AP Biology Year - 1 credit

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. You must have successfully completed Biology in order to take this course.

College Credit Plus Chemistry Year- 1.0 Credit (HS); College credits through Cincinnati State

Course Prerequisite: Algebra II, Chemistry Honors B or Higher; Teacher Recommendation

Course Description: This course is available to seniors and is the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first year of college. The curriculum framework involves developing advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting chemical concepts. **Students enrolling in this course will be given the option to sit for the AP Chemistry Exam.**

Environmental Issues Semester – .5 credit

This is a survey course where students will be discussing and debating issues around the problems that our environment faces. We will be participating in seminars, projects, and action plans to raise environmental awareness around the Clark community and the larger Cincinnati community.

Zoology Semester - .5 credit

Of all the kingdoms the animal kingdom is the most diverse in appearance. Some animals are so small that they live on or inside the bodies of other animals, others are many meters long and live in the depths of the sea. They may walk, swim, crawl, burrow or fly! In this course, we will explore the wide variety of organisms in the animal kingdom concentrating on classification and physical characteristics. WARNING: We will be dissecting a wide variety of specimens throughout this course.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CAREER TECHNOLOGY PATHWAY

Agricultural Education; Food & Natural resources Year - 1 credit

Students will be introduced to the scope of the Agricultural and Environmental Systems career field. They will examine principles of food science, natural resource management, animal science & management, plant & horticultural science, power technology and bioscience. Students will examine the FFA organization and Supervised Agricultural Experience programs. Throughout the course, students will develop communication, leadership and business skills essential to the agriculture industry. Part I of III.

This course can lead to a seal through the Ohio Agricultural Education career pathway.

Plant Science Year - 1 credit

In this Career Tech course, students will investigate and apply principles of plant physiology and anatomy, protection, health, and nutrition. The course is focused on providing students with the knowledge and skills required to research, develop, produce and market plant products. Throughout the course, students will learn communication, leadership, and business management skills reflective of the industry.

This course can lead to a seal through the Ohio Agricultural Education career pathway.

Fine Arts Electives: Music

Concert-or- Jazz Band (Jazz Ens) Year – 1.0 credit

This course focuses on the style and technical performance aspects of the contemporary Jazz Band. Emphasis is placed on Big Band Jazz with improvisational techniques incorporated within each style. The repertoire will include jazz, funk, Rock, and standards of all types. This is a performance class; therefore, students are expected to attend all performances. If you have played an instrument in the past this course may be for you.

Percussion Survey (Drumline) Year – 1.0 credit

This is an advanced performance class. Students will study the art of drumming and learn multiple cadences. The group will perform at various school events. Past experience in Drumline or another music class is required.

Recording and Production Semester – .5 credit

This course will study the art of recording and production. Students will work with professional sound production elements including recording, mixing, microphones and more. We will use a wide range of software applications and recording equipment.

Steel Drum Band 10 Year – 1.0 credit

Steel Drum Band is a learning and performing music ensemble dedicated to steel pan performance, general music theory, personal development, and building teamwork with peers. There are four types of instruments in the steel band originating from Trinidad and Tobago. Drum set players are also needed. Student-musicians will perform exciting concerts during and outside of the school day. Students of any age without music or steel pan background are very much welcome to join. Students new to the steel band will complete a short online music theory course with the director.

Steel Drum Band 11 Year – 1.0 credit

Steel Drum Band is a learning and performing music ensemble dedicated to steel pan performance, general music theory, personal development, and building teamwork with peers. There are four types of instruments in the steel band originating from Trinidad and Tobago. Drum set players are also needed. Student-musicians will perform exciting concerts during and outside of the school day. Students of any age without music or steel pan background are very much welcome to join. Students new to the steel band will complete a short online music theory course with the director.

Steel Drum Band 12 Year – 1.0 credit

Steel Drum Band is a learning and performing music ensemble dedicated to steel pan performance, general music theory, personal development, and building teamwork with peers. There are four types of instruments in the steel band originating from Trinidad and Tobago. Drum set players are also needed. Student-musicians will perform exciting concerts during and outside of the school day. Students of any age without music or steel pan background are very much welcome to join. Students new to the steel band will complete a short online music theory course with the director.

Music Appreciation Semester – .5 credit

This class focuses on appreciating music in many ways. Learning topics include music history (time periods), instruments, and music in cultures around the world. Students will also need to work with other students on simple music playing activities. Additional introductory experiences on piano or guitar might also be included. THIS IS NOT AN ENSEMBLE. Students will not need to perform at concerts.

Fine Arts Electives: Art

Introduction to Digital Art Semester - .5 credit

This is an introduction to basic digital art forms using free CPS applications accessible on school issued devices. We will explore Digital Artist, and Technology as it relates to various Art Forms. **(Materials Fee: \$25)**

Ceramics 1 Semester - .5 credit

Basics of clay: Intro to Hand Building and Glazing. **(Materials Fee: \$45)**

Ceramics 2 Semester - .5 credit

(Prerequisite - Ceramics I) Intermediate - Advanced Hand Building and Surface Techniques. Intro to Wheel Throwing + Field Experience.

(Materials Fee: \$45)

Art 1 (Explorations) Semester - .5 credit

Learn through experimenting with different materials and techniques to find your voice as an artist. Skills and materials will be explored to build up your knowledge, and you will have the opportunity to come up with creative and unique ideas for expressing your ideas. Some materials we will learn to use are ink, graphite, colored pencil, acrylic paint and watercolor, as well as materials where your own interests take you.

(Materials fee: \$25)

Art 2 (Generating Original Ideas)- Semester - .5 credit

Prerequisite: Art 1

A continuation of Art 1, develop your independence as an artist by using the artistic thinking process: finding inspiration, planning, creating, reflecting and presenting your work. You will have the freedom to explore materials, techniques and ideas, all while learning to create original art in response to a leading question or prompt. **(Materials fee: \$25)**

Art 3 (Self-Directed Work)- Semester - .5 credit

Prerequisite: Art 2

Art 3 - (Self-directed work) You are the artist. The art room is your studio. Learn and practice the methods for creative and critical thinking! Assemble a body of artwork that demonstrates a high level of quality and growth over time of content, technique and process. Sort of like an independent study! Can be taken multiple times for credit. *This course can be repeated!!* **(Materials fee: \$25)**

Photography Semester – .5 credit

Photography - focus on using the best camera you have...the one that's easy and accessible - your cell phone, a point and shoot, or a DSLR! Learn to create Photographs instead of snapshots, and experiment with the latest technology has to offer to edit and manipulate your art. You will learn the basics of Photography as an art form, through the art of composition as well as some advanced techniques to turn your photos into works of art. **(Materials fee: \$20)**

Physical Education Electives

Collaborative Fitness Semester - 0.25 credit (Counts toward PE credit)

Prerequisite: Physical Education. This class will include a wide range of students with regard to physical ability. Daily involvement is emphasized in an exercise program stressing development of strength, flexibility, and endurance through a variety of beginner's level fitness activities.

Sr. High Health Semester - 0.5 credit

Physical Education Semester - 0.25 credit

Walking For Fitness - Semester - 0.25 credit (Counts toward PE credit) Prerequisite: 1 semester of PE

This course is designed to stress the importance of cardiovascular, muscular, and mental fitness development for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The course will help students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for physical fitness through participation in a carefully monitored walking program rain or shine or snow.

Weightlifting - Semester - 0.25 credit (Counts toward PE credit) Prerequisite: 1 semester of PE

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities.

Yogalates Semester - 0.25 credit (Counts toward PE credit) Prerequisite: 1 semester of PE

Connecting Body, Mind and Spirit. Teaching the mind-body connection is the heart of Pilates. A variety of strengthening, flexibility and mobility exercises are taught. This course is a unique way to shape your body and mind. Yoga postures are very effective for maintaining and even restoring one's physical health, mental harmony and emotional balance.

Other Electives

Study Hall (No Credit)

Study hall provides a quiet environment in which students can read, study, or complete school work. Students in study hall are expected to work/study/read at all times. Students should bring a novel or other choice reading for those rare times when they have no assignments due. Study hall is not intended as a break or as an opportunity for socializing.