



NET High Academy

An innovative and individualized approach to high school education

Dr. Cynthia Knight, Director
Sarah Zdenek, Assistant Director

OUR MISSION:

NET High Academy partners with parents and caregivers to help students who have found the traditional route to a high school diploma unfeasible. NET High Academy provides a comprehensive high school experience in an online environment to serve students at risk of or who have dropped out of high school.

GOALS:

- To provide a specialized educational option for students and families who have not found success in traditional schools
- To provide support to families of students with academic and/or social/emotional challenges
- To provide students with an opportunity for both the acquisition of knowledge, and the development of learning and service skills
- To provide a learning environment where students develop a positive attitude toward school and an enthusiasm for learning

BENEFITS:

- Highly differentiated, personalized curriculum
- Interdisciplinary units developed to maximize student interaction with the curriculum and its real-world applications
- A combination of the best practices of face-to-face instruction and tutoring with the best practices of online education
- Regularly scheduled teacher/student interactions including individualized assistance for students who need additional help
- Flexible coursework for students who have demanding work schedules and/or family responsibilities
- Traditional as well as alternative projects and assessments that integrate technology and service learning with the Common Core Standards
- Consistent application of 21st Century Skills

English 9/10

Course may be repeated

The content of English 9 & 10 will focus around essential questions in literature and writing. Through the communication of ideas in both writing about literature and issues, students will learn to use information responsibly, accurately, and ethically.

Semester themes include: "Discovering Self in the Face of Adversity," "Taking Chances," "My Community," and "Persuasion."

English 11/12

Course may be repeated

Students will read novels of their choosing, selected short stories and poems, and review expository and creative writing skills. Students will also focus on creating and supporting arguments as well as 21st Century communication skills. The remainder of the course is spent exploring college and career possibilities. Students taking this course have generally completed English 9/10 or the COMPASS equivalent.

African American Literature Studies

This course is comprised of short selections of both prose and poetry that have impacted and influenced the role of African Americans in our country. Civil Rights era writings will be presented and discussed, as well as an exploration into the Harlem Renaissance. Music, art, and drama will be included as essential elements in this course.

Creative Writing

This course consists of exploring and developing different writing techniques and styles. Writing skills will be developed through pre-writing, editing, re-writing, and critiquing. Students will also examine various styles of writing by reading well-known and not so well-known writers of poetry, songs, newspaper columns, short stories, novels, plays, monologues, dialogues, reviews, etc. Goals will be met through a variety of reading and writing activities.

Drama

This course focuses on the art of theater and the many components that work together to create a performance. Students study both performance and technical elements as they develop projects of personal and social importance.

Journalism and Mass Media

Students will study all aspects of journalism and mass media: newspapers, magazines, radio, TV and motion pictures. They will learn to examine critically the role of the mass media in today's society, including persuasion and bias. Students will conduct interviews, write articles for their own blogs, and create portfolios.

English Language Arts

Literature Study-Genre

Students should explore a variety of literary genres for "wide reading" opportunities. Genre studies include determining specific characteristics of different genres, show how the different genres reflect the development of main characters, the plot lines and settings. Students will complete at least three book reviews within a chosen genre and share the books read by creating a social networking site, such as a blog or Wikki.

Modern Chicano Literature

This course will explore prominent selections of writing that resonate within the Chicano community and help familiarize students with emerging thoughts and contributions by Latino/Chicano writers. An emphasis will be placed on writers that have spurred change in the areas of equality and civil rights. This course is designed to provide a framework to interact with Chicano/Latino culture in the United States, as well as prompt students to question and explore their own roles within ethnic communities.

Science Fiction/Fantasy and Utopian Societies

This course takes students into a world unlike any they have experienced before! We will discover what this genre is all about through texts such as *Ender's Game*, *The Giver*, *The Hunger Games*, and student choice texts. Whole new worlds are only a page away, and this course will guide you in your quest to find them. We will also discuss how these books and imaginations reflect our own societies and cultures, as well as try our hand at writing some science fiction/fantasy stories.

Speech

This course is grounded in the fundamentals of oral communication. Basic speaking skills are studied, such as vocalization, body language, handling stage fright, use of visual aids, gathering and using supporting evidence. Speeches include narrative, informative, demonstration and oral interpretation.

Algebra I and II

Algebra I provides the foundation for higher-level courses in mathematics, science, and technology. The course will teach the language and structure of algebra, algebraic expressions, solutions and application of equations and inequalities, graphing, rational expressions, and polynomials and factoring. A strong emphasis will be placed on visualizing and solving word problems.

Students will:

- Use a variety of strategies to understand new mathematical content
- Construct algorithms for multi step and non-routine problems
- Use formal mathematical language and notation to represent ideas
- Be able to understand the properties of the real number system and understand the discrepancy between actual and estimated answers
- Be able to interpret data from a variety of sources
- Be able to understand and apply basic and advanced concepts of probability

Basic Math

Emphasis will be placed on refreshing or mastering the basic computational skills, elementary algebra skills, and important applications before advancing to the next level of mathematics.

Students will:

- Be able to do basic mathematical operations
- Understand problem-solving techniques
- Understand the discrepancy between actual and estimated answers
- Use basic measurement skills
- Understand basic properties of geometry
- Be able to use formulas to solve real world problems
- Understand and apply concepts of ratios, proportions and percents

Financial Algebra

Financial Algebra is designed for students who have a basic grasp of mathematical computation, but require additional instruction for applying these skills as a wise consumer. Instruction is provided using a variety of realistic, consumer-oriented applications. These applications reinforce and extend students' mastery of basic mathematics concepts.

Students will:

- Understand problem-solving techniques
- Understand personal financial record keeping
- Understand financial concepts that allow them to be responsible consumers
- Understand investments and borrowing money

Mathematics

Geometry

Geometry introduces the study of points, segments, triangles, polygons, circles, solid figures, and their associated relationships as a mathematical system. Emphasis is placed on the description and use of inductive, deductive, and intuitive reasoning skills. Powers of abstract reasoning, spatial visualization and logical reasoning patterns are improved through this course. Points, segments, triangles, polygons, circles, and solid figures are the structures studied. The focus is on comparisons between these figures concerning surface areas, volumes, congruency, similarity, transformations, and coordinate Geometry.

Students will:

- Be able to translate between the geometric description and the equation for a conic section.
- Be able to use coordinates to prove simple geometric theorems algebraically

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra will prepare students for Algebra I with an emphasis on the mastery of basic skills needed for success. Integers and algebraic concepts are introduced early to develop students' algebraic thinking skills. Throughout the course algebraic concepts are connected to arithmetic skills to build on what students know. Geometry concepts are integrated when appropriate to foster connections.

Students will:

- Understand and use problem-solving approaches and procedures to solve math problems
- Understand and use basic number theory concepts, properties and operations
- Use proportional reasoning to solve mathematical and real-world problems
- Understand formulas for finding measurements and solving problems
- Understand basic properties of geometry
- Understand measures of central tendencies
- Understand the differences between a variable expression, equation, and inequality

Astronomy

This course introduces students to astronomy concepts including basic facts about the Earth, moon, and stars. Projects revolve around galaxies, cosmology, and space exploration.

Biology: A Global Approach

The course consists of five units of study, which will allow students to investigate the structure and function from molecules to organisms and systems, the interdependence and interaction of biotic and abiotic components of the environment, and mechanisms that maintain continuity and lead to changes in population over time. Students will explore biological concepts through an inquiry approach with hands-on, real-world activities to engage them in discovering these concepts.

The units include:

- The Cell
- Heredity and Genetics
- Natural Selection and Evolution
- Ecology
- Behavior of Organisms

In addition, students will build skills related to the Nature of Science that will transfer to all areas of their lives.

- Inference/observation
- Metric measurements
- Graphing/data analysis
- Collaboration/inquiry

Environmental Science

This course studies the function of the earth's systems. Emphasis is placed on the human interactions with the Earth's geologic and environmental systems, predictability of a dynamic Earth, origin and evolution of the Earth system and universe, geochemical cycles and energy in the Earth system. In addition, scientific concepts are applied to the understanding and solution of environmental problems and solutions.

Forensic Science

The class is designed around authentic performance assessments with students working to solve crimes using scientific knowledge and reasoning. It involves all areas of science including biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics, and earth science with an emphasis in complex reasoning and critical thinking. In addition, students must incorporate the use of technology, communication skills, language arts, art, family and consumer science, mathematics and social studies.

This course studies key topics in forensic science, including:

- application of the scientific process to forensic analysis
- procedures and principles of crime scene investigation
- physical and trace evidence
- the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist

Sciences

Human Anatomy

Human anatomy is the study of human systems: human reproduction, integuments, skeletal, muscular, and cardiovascular. This course is highly recommended for students pursuing a career in nursing, medicine, medical technology, dentistry, pharmacy and other science-related fields.

Students will:

- become more aware of the interactions between the various parts of the body and how they are controlled, regulated and coordinated
- have a better understanding of the life processes and how the body maintains these processes
- develop some concepts and knowledge which may be important and useful in normal life activities

Science in My Life

This course consists of four units of study that will provide students with an opportunity to explore selected segments of science and how science applies to their lives:

- Doing Science
- Energy
- Water
- Interactions

In each unit, the students will do some independent, guided exploration of the concepts and then will apply the skills and practices in tasks designed to demonstrate student understanding of the big concepts by applying them in real-world situations.



Social Studies

American History

History is the study and analysis of the past. Built upon a foundation of historical knowledge, history seeks to analyze the past in order to describe the relationship between historical facts, concepts, and generalizations. History draws upon cause and effect relationships within multiple social narratives to help explain complex human interactions. Understanding the past provides context for the present and implications for the future.

American Government

All phases of federal government in reference to its operation, basic organization, relationship of the individual to the government and comparison of our government to other types of government are studied. Emphasis is placed on the relationship of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.

Current Issues

Students will study a range of current events both domestically and internationally such as human rights, the environment, social issues, and the role of the media. The course will incorporate ideas, information, and themes from all of the social sciences but primarily focus on the areas of the behavioral sciences.

Economics

Economics addresses the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The concept of scarcity is understood to mean that available resources are insufficient to satisfy the wants and needs of everyone. Economics is therefore founded upon the alternative use of available resources and the study of choices.

EverFi-Financial Literacy™

EverFi - Financial Literacy™ is a new-media learning platform that uses the latest technology – video, animations, 3-D gaming, avatars, and social networking – to bring complex financial concepts to life for today's digital generation.

Units include:

- Credit Score
- Insurance
- Credit Cards
- Taxes
- Investing
- Savings
- 401Ks
- Mortgages

Geography

Geography is the study of the interaction between people and their environments. Geography therefore looks at the world through the concepts of location, place, human-environmental interaction, movement, and region.

Psychology

Psychology is the study of the self. Students will study how people learn, grow, and process at the individual level while applying basic theories in Psychology and scientific research. Students will gain working knowledge about their own personal values, needs, goals, and developments.

Sociology

Sociology is the study of groups. Major social institutions and the effects of social change will be major focal points of the course with emphasis race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, and other cultural identifying factors.

World History

The focus of this course is the study of the historical development of people, places, and patterns of life from ancient times until the present. Students will use skills of historical and geographical analysis to explore the early history of the world.

Art

This course emphasizes the development of abilities to recognize visual arts content and concepts. Students will develop skills to create, discuss and understand original works of art. Students will maintain a portfolio documenting their accomplishments.

Career Exploration

This course begins with a self-assessment, then explores a wide variety of college and career options based on skills and interests. Internships and work experiences are reflected on for future planning.

- *Self-Assessment*: Learn more about your skills, values, interests, and personality.
- *Exploring Options*: Learn about college and career options available, and how you can use your interests to find a career you'll enjoy.

CPR/AED

Learn how to respond to cardiac and breathing emergencies in adults, including the use of [automated external defibrillators](#) (AED). Adult and infant/child CPR options available.

French

A sequence of four years of French is available. The emphasis in these courses is on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the target language. The courses also offer students a better understanding of the French-speaking world. This course is also offered with an emphasis on a particular field (medical, education, etc.).

Health

The health course helps students to develop an understanding of total wellness –physical, mental and social. It provides skills for students to develop healthy lifestyle behaviors.

Independent Living

The course is designed to explore all aspects of independent, successful contemporary living. Topics include personality development, personal health, relationships with family and friends, handling crises, aging, death, balancing family living, managing personal finances, career interests and employability skills.

The student will:

- Examine their personal development in terms of values, morals and character development
- Understand the evolution of relationships
- Develop a personal financial plan, including investment strategies
- Analyze the different stages and challenges of the family unit in modern society
- Explore career pathways and identify necessary skills

Additional Course Options and Electives

Physical Education

This class focuses on fitness enhancing habits that can be practiced for a lifetime. The five health-related components (cardiovascular, fitness, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and body composition) along with the concepts and principles associated with fitness and physical activity will be stressed. Students will create a personal lifetime fitness plan based on individual needs and interest and application of their understanding of the concepts and principles.

Research and Development-Independent Study

Prerequisites: Instructor and Director Approval

The course is designed for those students who wish additional study beyond what is currently offered. Students who take this course do so on a contract basis. Students will choose their area of interest and then contract with the instructor for requirements and grading. A portfolio of student's work is required.

The student will:

- Identify a passion or skill area to develop
- Become self-driven and develop weekly and long-term goals in order to accomplish contract requirements
- Explain the career pathways in their area of interest and develop a vision on how to successfully integrate what they learn into continued study and/or a profession

Spanish

A sequence of four years of Spanish is available. The emphasis in these courses is on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the target language. Students also gain an understanding of various Spanish-speaking cultures. This course is also offered with an emphasis on a particular field (medical, education, etc.).

Interdisciplinary Thematic Units

Whenever possible, students and teachers will work together to develop interdisciplinary thematic units of study that address Common Core Standards in multiple content areas. The goal is to insure that students understand how various fields of study interrelate. The outcome of a successful interdisciplinary instructional component is a richer and more meaningful classroom experience enhanced by building on real-world experiences and using multiple sources of information. The benefits of Interdisciplinary Instruction are:

- Students and teachers work together to improve student achievement.
- It helps students answer the question, "Why am I learning this?"
- It helps students to connect all the knowledge and skills that they are learning, and it helps them to use it and to apply it in real-life situations.
- It allows for larger student choice and direction.

Studies have shown that students who take ownership in their learning are better equipped for college and career because they have experience with higher-level critical thinking skills.

The Interdisciplinary Approach and Service Learning

Service Learning

This required portion of the program connects students to their communities, enriches their experiences as participatory citizens, and develops interpersonal skills. Students are required to put in 8 hours of service learning for each month they are in the program.

Resources for Parents and Students

Information regarding the Common Core Standards is accessible here:

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

21st century skills framework:

http://www.ims.gov/about/21st_century_skills_list.aspx

- critical thinking and problem solving
- creativity and innovation
- communication and collaboration
- multiple literacies
 - informational, visual, scientific and numerical, media, communication, technology, financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial, civic, health, and environmental
- global awareness
- flexibility and adaptability
- initiative and self-direction
- social and cross-cultural skills
- productivity and accountability
- leadership and responsibility

For additional information,
please contact:

Dr. Cynthia Knight, Director
NET High Academy
3799 Village Run Drive, 804
Des Moines, Iowa 50317
(515) 829 2336
dr.knight@nethigh.org