



**Program of Studies
Grade 7-12**

Many students have individual needs or circumstances that prohibit them from attending school on a regular basis. As such, the Online Academy @ North Hills provides a fully online program

for students in grades 7-12, including part-time/blended options. Our online program is built upon the premise of providing students with choices. The program truly customizes an educational plan in order to meet the individual needs of students.

Some students may want to have a fully online program; whereas, other students may choose to be online for their core courses but come to school for band, music, art, or a special course of interest. Students and their parents meet with school counselors, teachers, and administrators in order to discuss the plethora of choices available to students enrolled in the Online Academy @ North Hills.

The Online Academy @ North Hills has many positive attributes that benefit our students. Online Academy students are held to the same high standards set in the regular classroom. In addition, students are assigned a school counselor who will assist them with course selection and career planning. Other advantages include:

- Personalized education plan
- Work anytime, anywhere, any place
- North Hills School District diploma
- A robust and rigorous curriculum
- Wide variety of courses
- Ability to attend A.W. Beattie Career Center
- Laptops with built-in internet access are available
- Technical support
- School counseling for academic, personal/emotional, and career and college planning
- Ability to participate in school sponsored field trips and extra-curricular activities
- Ability to participate in NHSD athletics and activities

Online Academy students ***who reside in the North Hills School District*** enjoy access to the same resources as traditional students. They may attend athletic and social events, compete in athletics, and participate in the more than fifty clubs and activities offered at the middle and high schools. As official North Hills students, Online Academy students receive a North Hills School District diploma and participate in commencement ceremonies.

Students ***who reside in a school district other than North Hills*** can enjoy the same benefits and opportunities offered by their home school district with prior approval from that district. Non-North Hills students interested in studying via The Online Academy @ North Hills should contact Dr. Jeff Taylor at 412-318-1017 for more information.

IT IS VITAL THAT YOU FIRST DETERMINE IF AN ONLINE COURSE IS RIGHT FOR YOU.

Success in an online learning environment is highly related to the student possessing certain academic and electronic skills. Please consider:

- Are you able to easily access the Internet as needed for your studies? Do you have access to a quiet work space free of interruptions for classwork?
- Are you comfortable with written and electronic communication? Are you comfortable initiating communication with an instructor when you have a problem or a question?
- As a student, do you enjoy working independently? When it comes to learning and studying, are you a self-directed person? In your studies, do you set goals and have a high degree of initiative?
- Are you able to manage your time effectively and easily complete assignments on time? Are you able/available to dedicate 4 to 5 hours per week to EACH online course? Are you able to make a personal routine classwork schedule and keep to it?

REGISTRATION TO BE AN ONLINE ACADEMY STUDENT

If interested in enrolling in online coursework at North Hills (full-time and blended), an applicant must complete the online form found at <http://www.nhsd.net/OnlineAcademyatNorthHills.aspx>.

INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS

Students must attend one of the scheduled introductory meetings during the first week of class. At this meeting, students will receive a copy of all course rules, a course syllabus and all course texts and materials. Failure to attend one of the scheduled meetings may result in removal from the course.

CONTRACTS

Each type of online course requires that students submit a specific contract signed by both the parents and students prior to registering for an online course, indicating that both parties understand all of the requirements involved in the decision to register for an online course. The contract may be obtained in the CRC or the student's house office.

REGISTERING FOR ONLINE CLASSES AT NORTH HILLS

It is very important that North Hills students who wish to take an online course make their decision in a timely manner. Please be sure to speak with parents/guardians, school counselor, teachers, GIEP/IEP teachers, and other faculty/advisors when making your decision. The course selection process at North Hills begins in January/February of each school year and the selection of online classes should be considered concurrently with the selection of regular day classes. Students should utilize the Powerschool system to select their online classes in the same manner as the selection of regular day classes. Failure to act promptly and alert the district of your desire to take an online class in a timely manner may impact the availability of coursework.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE PERIODS

North Hills students who enroll in online classes may be placed in an Academic Resource Study Hall during their assigned study hall periods if their schedule allows. Students will have access to a computer during these periods; however, it is recommended that students have access to a computer outside of school to complete any homework and/or long-term assignments.

The Online Academy @ North Hills Coursework

Coursework is available for students to begin and complete the entire middle school and high school experience online. Please note that students attending North Hills High School in grades 9-12 are required to complete the courses marked with an asterisk (*) as part of the North Hills graduation requirements.

English/Language Arts

ENGLISH 7

Grade Level: 7

Course #A125

CREDIT 1.0

In seventh grade, by studying authors such as Amy Tan, Emily Dickinson, and Laurence Yep, the student ponders such questions as “Does every conflict have a winner?”; “What is the best way to communicate?”; and “Do others see us more clearly than we see ourselves?” Short- and long-term research engages the student’s curiosity and critical-thinking skills. The student is encouraged to integrate knowledge and ideas into coursework as the student practices narrative, informative, and persuasive writing. The student will improve comprehension of increasingly complex literature and informational texts using a multi-draft reading approach as the student discusses, analyzes, and critiques.

LITERACY ARTS 7

Grade Level: 7

Course #A155

CREDIT 0.5

This semester course is a comprehensive literacy program designed to increase students' reading achievement to high proficient or advanced levels. The course provides effective, explicit, sequential and systematic instruction in reading, writing, and speaking.

ENGLISH 8

Grade Level: 8

Course #A127

CREDIT 1.0

English 8 emphasizes the connection between reading and writing to promote the development of thinking skills. This course provides students with a thematically-arranged study of the essay, short story, poetry, novel, and drama. Students read and respond to at least two longer works, and they also are required to reach an independent reading goal throughout each quarter. In addition to reflecting on literature, the students develop written pieces in the narrative, expository, and argumentative modes. Technology, research, and language skills are taught in conjunction with the reading and writing processes. ***In addition, the course reinforces the skills identified in the Pennsylvania Core Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening, preparing the students to achieve Proficient to Advanced performance scores on the 8th grade English Language Arts PSSA assessment.***

ENGLISH 9 *

Grade Level: 9

Course #7110

CREDIT 1.0

English 9 integrates the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Arts. In addition to providing students with a sequenced study of language skills and literary analysis, this course also provides students with an in-depth study of composition, grammar, and research.

ENGLISH 10 *

Grade Level: 10

Course #7120

CREDIT 1.0

English 10 emphasizes proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, which will help prepare the student for both high school and college-level courses. Student writing encompasses the development and mastery of both paragraph and essay structure and the research paper writing process. Additionally, students are exposed to both fiction and non-fiction literature from a variety of genres, time periods, and cultures. Units include the study of writing,

literature, vocabulary, grammar, and standardized test preparation, including the PSAT and Keystone exams. ***The Keystone Exam that occurs in the spring is the state-mandated assessment for all tenth graders.***

AMERICAN LITERATURE *

Grade Level: 11

Course #7130

CREDIT 1.0

American Literature and Composition traces the history and development of American literature. In doing so, this course exposes students to a variety of genres of literature including novels, plays, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction texts. This course emphasizes skills identified in the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Art through content, vocabulary, and grammar concepts aligned across the curriculum.

ADVENTURE & QUEST *

Grade Level: 12

Course #7142

CREDIT 0.5

This course will trace the epic concept from classic to modern texts. Major works read include *The Hobbit*, *The Martian*, *Beowulf*, *The Things They Carried*, and selections from *The Odyssey*. This literature will be paired with poetry and nonfiction selections for comparison and analysis through discussion and writing.

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE *

Grade Level: 12

Course #7140

CREDIT 0.5

This course focuses on classic and contemporary literature with an apocalyptic theme. Works read include *Frankenstein*, *The Inferno*, *War of the Worlds*, and *No Country for Old Men*. Students will also read *The Tragedy of Hamlet: Prince of Denmark*. This literature will be paired with poetry and nonfiction selections for comparison and analysis through discussion and writing.

Mathematics

MATH 7

Grade Level: 7

Course #A315

CREDIT 1.0

Instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) understanding and applying proportional relationships; (2) understanding operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) 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; and (4) inferences about populations based on samples.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Grade Level: 7, 8, 9

Course #7305

CREDIT 1.0

The Pre-Algebra course consists of key concepts including variables, function patterns, and graphs. Students learn operations with rational numbers and properties of rational numbers. Students solve linear equations and inequalities. The course includes data analysis and probability. Finally, students study slope and graphing linear functions.

ALGEBRA 1 *

Grade Level: 7, 8, 9, 10

Course #7310

CREDIT 1.0

Algebra 1 is the first course of the Algebra 1 - Geometry - Algebra 2 sequence. Concepts taught in this course include topics from algebra, statistics, probability, and logical reasoning. ***The Keystone Exam occurs in the spring and is a state-mandated assessment for enrollees.***

GEOMETRY *

Grade Level: 8, 9, 10, 11

Course #7320

CREDIT 1.0

Geometry is the second of three academic courses in the math program. In Geometry, students will develop reasoning and problem solving skills as they study topics such as congruence and similarity, and apply properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. The students will also develop problem-solving skills by using length, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume to solve real world problems. A graphing calculator is required for this course.

ALGEBRA 2 *

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7330

CREDIT 1.0

Algebra 2 is the third of three academic courses in the math program. The content of this course focuses on families of functions including linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, and radical and rational functions. Students will learn to represent these functions in multiple ways- as verbal descriptions, equations, tables and graphs. They will also use functions to model real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems arising from those situations. Topics on probability, data analysis, geometry, and the fundamentals of trigonometry are addressed as well. This course will also address lessons on probability and data analysis as well as exercises involving geometry and basic trigonometry. A graphing calculator is required for this course.

Physical Education

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

Grade Level: 7

Course #7651

CREDIT 0.5

The Health and Physical Education course will guide the student through material that will promote healthy, active lifestyles. Health topics include issues that are relevant to the age group, such as mental and emotional health, conflict resolution, and bullying. The student will also be immersed in the prevention and avoidance of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. The student will receive the necessary strategies to help avoid the pitfalls of unhealthy and risky behaviors. The physical education portion of the course will offer great freedom as the student will be able to choose a physical education regimen that will fit the student's individual needs. The student will be given a choice of three paths that place emphasis on lifelong activities as well as current fitness trends.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

Grade Level: 8

Course #7651

CREDIT 0.5

The Health and Physical Education course will introduce the student to vital health concepts and reinforce health skills that promote healthy behaviors. The student will learn the functions and structures of various body systems as well as the care and prevention of disease to these systems. The student will learn about communicable diseases and how to prevent the spread of such diseases. The student will also be able to demonstrate the importance of proper nutrition by planning and analyzing meals and nutritional values. Proper actions in emergencies and safety procedures will also be included. The physical education portion of the course will offer great freedom as the student will be able to choose a physical education regimen that will fit the student's individual needs. The student will be given a choice of three paths that place emphasis on lifelong activities as well as current fitness trends. Physical education lessons are

geared toward a “physically fit” lifestyle that will aid the student in the years to come and ensure a higher quality of life.

HEALTH *

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7651

CREDIT 0.5

The purpose of this required course is to offer students an opportunity to increase their knowledge about health. Students will have the opportunity, through a variety of activities, to evaluate their own health behavior and to understand the importance of improving and maintaining positive health habits. Successful completion of this course is a graduation requirement.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION *

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7652

CREDIT 0.5

In this course students will be challenged to learn new about types of physical activity and experiment with the use of these activities to plan a personal workout plan. The personal workouts will be fine-tuned as they work through the course to include a fitness and eating plan that works best for their body and their lifestyle. The course fulfills Pennsylvania standards for Physical Education and Health, and is also mapped to national standards. A student could use this course in multiple years as they continue to fine tune their workout and eating plans.

Science

SCIENCE 7 - LIFE SCIENCE

Grade Level: 7

Course #A415

CREDIT 1.0

Science 7 is a culminating course in the preparation of student proficiency measured on the eighth grade PSSA examination. Instruction is delivered with an emphasis on science process skills with inquiry/design lessons unifying the four units of study. The following units will be covered in the course: General Concepts - Science Vocabulary, Data and the Scientific Method, Chemistry, Biology and Genetics, and Ecology.

SCIENCE 8

Grade Level: 8

Course #A417

CREDIT 1.0

In this course, students are introduced to, and develop proficiency in, the basic earth science and physics principles that will be assessed on the science PSSA examination in grade 8. The topics that will be studied include astronomy, plate tectonics, rocks and minerals, geologic history, meteorology and physics. Each of these topics has specific state-mandated benchmarks that all students must reach.

BIOLOGY *

Grade Level: 9

Course #7410

CREDIT 1.0

Biology examines patterns of life through the integrated study of biochemistry, cell theory, genetics, evolution, biodiversity and ecology. Emphasis will be placed on the Pennsylvania Keystone Anchors which will be tested on the Keystone Biology exam. The Keystone exam is a state mandated assessment for all students. *The Keystone Exam occurs in the spring and is*

a state-mandated assessment for enrollees. *Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently enrolled in Algebra I*

CHEMISTRY *

Grade Level: 10

Course #7420

CREDIT 1.0

This activity-centered chemistry course emphasizes laboratory experiences and the applications of chemistry. The course is designed for college-bound students who may not be interested in pursuing a college major in the sciences or engineering. Emphasis will be placed on the Pennsylvania Science and Technology standards. *Prerequisite: Biology or Honors Biology & C or better in Algebra 1*

North Hills High School students must take at least 1.0 additional credits of the following science electives as part of the NH graduation requirements.

PHYSICS

Grade Level: 11,12

Course #7435

CREDIT 1.0

Physics will provide significant laboratory and hands-on experiences for students enabling them to connect theoretical principles to real-life situations. This course is devoted to learning and practicing problem-solving techniques and relating these concepts to the mathematics of physics. Emphasis will be placed on the Pennsylvania Science and Technology standards. *Prerequisite: Chemistry C or better, concurrently enrolled in Algebra 2 or higher Mathematics.*

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7450

CREDIT 0.5

This course presents a brief introduction to environmental science, ecosystems and their interactions, water (including surface water, ponds and lakes, groundwater, water quality), soils, and resources both renewable and non-renewable resources. It also provides overview of the basic systems that influence the ecosystems of Earth. Students will investigate threatened and endangered species in our world. Environmental health and the importance of agriculture are also discussed in terms of their impact on our ecosystems.

ASTRONOMY

Grade level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7411

CREDIT 0.5

This one semester course provides the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding about the solar system, galaxy, and universe in which we live. Much attention is given to an appreciation for how we have obtained this information about the universe. Students will also learn to explain the movements of celestial objects. Areas of study include: the process of science, including use of the tools used to observe the sky; stellar astronomy and how stars change over time; and planetary astronomy and how interstellar spacecraft are obtaining information about other bodies in the solar system.

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Grade level: 11, 12

Course #7412

CREDIT 0.5

In this "CSI: North Hills" course, students will learn about and practice skills that would be useful to an investigator, such as making sharp observations and doing simple tests with materials from simulated crimes. Students will be solving case studies with background from practice

laboratory exercises including fingerprinting, forensic anthropology, and blood spatter. A high degree of chemistry or physics knowledge is not necessary; a willingness to observe and analyze is necessary. *Prerequisite: Biology & Chemistry or Conceptual Chemistry.*

Social Studies

WORLD GEOGRAPHY 7

Grade Level: 7

Course #A225

CREDIT 1.0

The geographer's world is a mosaic of people, places, and environment, all viewed from a spatial perspective. Geographers have an interest in where people settle and why, along with learning about their various cultures. People move constantly and often settle in places for a variety of reasons. Each place has unique characteristics, both physical (climate, vegetation) and cultural (religion, ethnic origins, occupations, and so on). Geographers try to make sense out of our dynamic, changing world.

AMERICAN CULTURES 8

Grade Level: 8

Course #A227

CREDIT 1.0

American Cultures 8 is a Pennsylvania standards based course. This course will be a survey of required standards dealing with geography, civics, and government, economics, Pennsylvania History and US History. The history period will include but is not limited to a chronological survey of the United States from the 13 original colonies to Reconstruction.

AMERICAN STUDIES *

Grade Level: 9

Course #7210

CREDIT 1.0

American Studies includes the second part of a two-part chronological survey of the history and culture of the United States. The major goal of this course is to acquaint students with the major characters, events, trends, concepts, and themes running from Westward Expansion following the Civil War through the beginning of the Cold War.

WORLD HISTORY *

Grade Level: 10

Course # 7220

CREDIT 1.0

This survey of World History from 1500 to 1945 emphasizes European history. World History integrates a chronological approach with investigations of selected trends in European history and examines their relationship to various cultures of the world. This course stresses the development of critical thinking, research and other social studies skills.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT *

Grade Level: 11

Course #7230

CREDIT 1.0

American Government examines the structure, function, and operation of the national, state, and local governments in the United States and examines the roles, rights, and responsibilities of the individual in our society. Emphasis will be placed on the study of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY *

Grade Level: 12

Course #7240

CREDIT 0.5

Contemporary History examines the post-World War II period through the early 21st century and emphasizes American domestic history and foreign policy. Students will gain an understanding

of major domestic movements and events, and the role of the United States in more complex world affairs.

North Hills students must also take at least .5 credits of the following social studies electives as part of the NH graduation requirements.

LAW & JUSTICE

Grade Level: 11, 12

Course #7250

CREDIT 0.5

Law and Justice is an introduction to criminology. Students study the administration and complexity of the law as they examine their own rights and responsibilities. Emphasis is placed on Pennsylvania criminal law, criminal procedure, investigative techniques, the Bill of Rights, landmark Supreme Court decisions, corrections, juvenile law, and criminal defenses.

SOCIOLOGY

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

Course #7255

CREDIT 0.5

Sociology is an introductory survey of the study of sociology. This course emphasizes sociological methods used to collect data for research. Topics covered include: culture, socializing the individual, social structure in society, the study of groups and formal organizations, deviance, social stratification, the social institution of the family and social change. This course stresses the use of critical thinking skills in analyzing social problems in contemporary society by utilizing research results and evaluating solutions.

PSYCHOLOGY

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

Course #72610

CREDIT 0.5

Psychology is an introductory survey of the study of psychology with an emphasis on the practical application of research. It presents the views of the different schools of psychology and offers a basic look at the research on learning, the nervous system and the brain, the mind-body connection, emotion, motivation, altered states of consciousness, human growth and development, personality development, stress and conflict, mental disturbance, breakdown, and therapy.

Business/Family and Consumer Science

CAREER & PERSONAL PLANNING *

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7623

CREDIT 0.5

Students will discover career areas and develop a personalized career and education plan that matches their personality, interests, aptitudes, and values as well as labor market trends using web-based, career and education assessments and planning tools. Students will explore the application process for post-secondary education as well as the workplace. Students will create professional documents such as: resumes, cover letters, and applications; obtain three references/recommendations; and participate in a mock interview with local business professionals. Students will learn the power of a positive attitude and important communications skills and strategies for networking and developing strong personal relationships.

Electives 9-12

CREATIVE WRITING

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

Course #7152

CREDIT 0.5

Creative Writing is designed for students who enjoy writing and are interested in writing in different genres. Emphasis is placed on the craft of writing and revision. Students maintain a writing journal and examine precise diction, language structures, poetry terms, dialogue, and writing techniques. Various genres of writing are practiced including personal narratives, children's literature, poetry, playwriting, and short stories.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Grade level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7145

CREDIT 0.5

This course is an introduction to the art of Photography. Students will learn the basics of capturing images using digital cameras and basic image editing software. Other topics include exposure, composition, lighting, camera lens operation and digital file formats. Students will explore photography both in the studio setting and beyond as they develop and improve their creative and technical skills. Part of this course will also focus on history, criticism, theory, aesthetics and art techniques as they apply to photography.

GAME DESIGN 1

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7701

CREDIT 0.5

This course is for anyone who loves gaming and wants to design games. The student will learn how to use popular game design software to create engaging, interactive games in a variety of genres. In addition, the student will get a solid foundation in the basic concepts of game development. By the end of this course, the student will have a variety of polished games for your game development portfolio.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

Course #7347

CREDIT 0.5

In this one-semester course, you will explore not only how to write, but why. All writing serves a purpose. This course defines the characteristics of effective writing, identifies different purposes for writing, and teaches you strategies for achieving those purposes. The course also provides in-depth instruction on the writing process, focusing on prewriting and revision. In the last part of the course, you will evaluate your own work by looking at it through the eyes of a reader.

LIFE SKILLS

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7632

CREDIT 0.5

This course provides an opportunity for the student to explore important decisions he may have to make as a teenager. The course provides important information pertaining to issues such as nutrition, substance abuse, and coping with stress. In this course, the student will also learn how to be a savvy consumer in a world of advertising and credit cards as well as review Earth-friendly practices.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7621

CREDIT 0.5

"An investment in knowledge, always pays the best interest"- Ben Franklin

Regardless of your career path, everyone will have to learn how to handle personal finances. This semester course will provide students with the knowledge of the financial planning process and the vital components of saving and investing. Students will learn to set and reach financial goals by completing a budgeting simulation, maintaining checking and savings accounts, and exploring various investment vehicles such as: stocks, bonds, mutual funds and IRAs. The course will help students function effectively as investors and savers, increasing the likelihood of their future financial success. Finance students will utilize financial game simulations, competitions, and project-based evaluations to demonstrate understanding. Start building your wealth today!

TEEN TRANSITIONS

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course #7631

CREDIT 0.5

This course prepares students for teen and adult life by exploring issues teenagers often face and discussing consequences for their choices and actions. Students will explore interpersonal communication skills, school success strategies, college life preparation, part time job work skills, and issues surrounding teen overall well-being and safety. Through practical, hands-on experiences and simulations, students will work towards increasing their own self-worth and confidence as they interact and succeed in the 21st century.

TRIGONOMETRY

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

Course #7340

CREDIT 0.5

Trigonometry is the study of triangles, circles, and how they relate. This semester course focuses on the trigonometry of right triangles, the unit circle and trigonometric functions of any angle, circular and trigonometric functions, identities, and analytic trigonometry, and applications of functions to the right triangle. A graphics calculator is required for this course.

Additional elective coursework may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis according to student need.