

# **High School Program Overview**

The Attic's high school program supports learners as they explore who they want to be in the world, and works with them to find the next steps on the path to the future they want to build. Our learners become the inventors, innovators, problem solvers, creators, deep thinkers and community builders that will be ready to pursue lives of meaning and purpose and opportunity.

At The Attic, learning is a dynamic, engaging experience in a community of learners that support and inspire each other. Attic teachers serve as facilitators and guides, and learners are active partners in the learning process. Hands-on experiences and questions generated by learners are at the center of every class. Attic teachers give learners space to puzzle out problems and recognize there are many ways to get to a solution. Learning is meaningful and relevant, building on learners' natural curiosity. As one learner put it, at The Attic, "our teachers focus more on the why and how than just the what."

Each learner knows and is known by all of The Attic's teachers and support staff. The Attic's program is designed to support the growth of the whole child - intellectual, academic, social, emotional, physical and developmental. Learners discover their passions and develop the confidence to explore their "stretchy edge" where true learning takes place.

#### **Personalized Learning**

Each Attic learner works with their teachers to create a program that builds on their strengths, meets their unique needs, and opens the doors to future opportunities. The Attic offers all the required high school classes to meet Washington State graduation requirements. Small classes allow teachers to tailor their program for each learner. In writing, for example, all learners might be assigned the same essay, but the teacher works with each individual on the next step in their growth as a writer. Teachers design elective and supplemental programs based on the interests of the learners, and at times, learners share their talents as co-teachers of electives. Learners can design independent study and mentorship programs that allow them to pursue their passions. And learners who want to further customize their program can take classes through Running Start at local community colleges as juniors and seniors.

The Attic's advising program guides learners in thinking about themselves and their future plans and goals. Advisory classes go far beyond traditional college and career counseling, and like all Attic programs, are informed by the interests of the learners. In addition to exploring career options,

coaching on writing college essays, and discussions on helpful questions to think about when choosing your post high school path, recent advisory classes have also explored topics like managing personal finances, putting chains on a car, applying for a job, and planning / participating in an off-campus hiking trip.

#### **After The Attic**

Building a clear sense of self is a core Attic value and learners chart their own paths from the start. Alums report that they were prepared for the expectations of college and university classrooms because they were used to wrestling with deep and meaningful ideas. They know how to communicate in writing, advocate for themselves, and be a contributing member of a learning community. The Attic's math and science programs provide learners with a deep conceptual base that prepares them for advanced coursework, often much earlier than in other programs. Regardless of the post-high school path Attic learners choose, whether they want to take a gap year and travel, get vocational/technical training, attend a college or university, or chart a unique course for themselves, they are ready to head out on their unique journeys.

#### **Graduation Requirements**

Over the course of 4 years at The Attic, learners will be able to earn all the required credits for graduation. For those learners seeking alternative paths, The Attic has a team that advises learners as they create their plans. The team partners with learners to determine the criteria for earning credit for independent work, ensuring work is rigorous and meaningful. This partnership between teachers and learners is one of the most important and powerful features of The Attic's high school program.

# The Attic High School Course Overview

Each year, The Attic's staff creates a detailed course catalog for the upcoming year. The outline below is designed to provide an overview of the high school program and how The Attic will ensure that all learners have access to the required coursework for graduation. Specific course titles and descriptions, as well as daily schedules will be published in the spring each year for the upcoming school year. Supplemental and elective courses will change from year to year, but will be designed to meet the stated graduation requirements.

#### **History/Social Studies**

This four year schedule will enable students to satisfy all of their History, Civics, and Social Studies High School graduation requirements, including 1 credit of US History and Government, 0.5 credits of Contemporary World History, Geography, and Problems, 0.5 credits of Civics, 0.5 credits of PNW History and 1 credit of Social Studies Electives.

	Core Curriculum	Supplemental	Supplemental
2024-2025	United States History	Pacific Northwest History	•
2025-2026	Ancient World History	History of the World Wars	Geography
2026-2027	Modern World History	History of the Cold War	
2027-2028	United States Government and Civics+Contemporary World History	Comparative Worldviews and Religions	Geography
2028-2029	United States History	Pacific Northwest History	

#### **Mathematics**

The Attic follows the State of Washington's Integrated Math pathway; each learner takes a minimum of three years, beginning with their freshman placement.

Integrated Math 1	Integrated Math 2	Integrated Math 3	Precalculus	Calculus	
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#### Science

This will allow all students to satisfy their high school graduation requirements of 3 science credits, with at least two lab classes, and their 2 health and fitness credits. The classes will cover the expected topics for that subject, but are tailored to the math and science experience of the students.

	Lab Science	Other Science
2024-2025	Biology	Computer Science
2025-2026	Physics	Health and Fitness
2026-2027	Chemistry	Computer Science
2027-2028	Biology	Health and Fitness
2028-2029	Physics	Computer Science

### Literacy

This schedule of classes will enable an Attic high school student who attends the Attic for their entire high school experience to earn all 4 of their required credits in English and Literacy to graduate in the State of Washington.

**Attic Writing: The Academic Essay** is designed to provide students with all of the fundamental skills necessary to be successful in high school or college level writing and beyond. The focus is on academic writing, including both essays and research papers. We intentionally offer the course every other year to ensure all of our high school students take it at least once, and preferably more than once in order to further hone their writing. Specific books, activities, and assignments for Academic Essay will vary from year to year. Because of The Attic's small, workshop-style classes, each learner is able to focus on their particular areas for growth, whether they are a beginning, intermediate or advanced writer.

	Core Curriculum	Supplemental	
2024-2025	Attic Writing: The Academic Essay	Linguistics	
2025-2026	Comparative Literature	Advanced Essay Writing	
2026-2027	Attic Writing: The Academic Essay	Creative Writing	
2027-2028	Comparative Literature	Advanced Literacy (theme based)	
2028-2029	Attic Writing: The Academic Essay	Linguistics	

## **World Language**

Full-time Attic high school students will be able to meet all of their world language requirements solely through the Attic if they so choose. Students need 2 credits (2 years) of language to graduate from high school in Washington State. Currently, the Attic offers Spanish, but we look forward to expanding our offerings in the coming years.

	Language Option #1	Language Option #2	
2024-2025	Spanish	-	
2025-2026	Spanish	TBD	

2026-2027	Spanish	TBD	
2027-2028	Spanish	TBD	

## Miscellaneous

This last selection of offerings rounds out any remaining requirements to graduate from high school. In a full four years of high school at the Attic, students will be able to satisfy all 4 of the elective credits, both of their art credits, and their required 0.5 credit in Career and Technical Education.

	Core Curriculum	Core Curriculum	Supplemental	Supplemental	Seniors
2024-2025	High School Advising; College, Career, Life	Performance/ Visual Art	Electives	Visioneering/Af ter High School Prep (Career and Technical Education)	Senior Visioneering
2025-2026	High School Advising	Performance/ Visual Art	Electives	Visioneering/Af ter High School Prep	Senior Visioneering

## Sample Weekly Schedule - Final schedule to be determined annually

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
2	History	History	History	History	History
Break (15 min)					
3	English	English	English	English	English
Lunch / Break (60 min)					
All Attic Time (15 mn)	TBD	TBD	All Attic Community Meeting	TBD	All Attic Clean Up
4	Health	Health	Health	Health	ACE*
Break (15 min)					
5	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	ACE*

<sup>\*</sup>ACE: Attic Creative Expressions - multi-age art studio experiences including theater, drawing, painting, textiles, CAD design and 3D printing, ceramics, etc.