

A CURRICULUM SHOULD BE
A CALL TO ACTION

here students do



The Putney School

Progressive educator Carmelita Hinton founded The Putney School in 1935. In 1954 the school established eight goals for students and faculty:

To work not for marks, badges, honors, but to discover truth and to grow in knowledge of the universe and in the understanding of men, to treasure the hard stretching of oneself, to render service.

To learn to appreciate and participate in the creative arts, where man gives expression to his struggle for communication of his inner life and for beauty, and to grant these arts great prestige.

To believe in manual labor, be glad to do one's share of it and proud of the skills learned in the doing.

To play just as wholeheartedly as one works, but watching out a bit for the competitive angle, remembering that play is for recreation and an increased joy in living.

To want to lend a hand to the community at large, not to live in an "ivory tower."

To combat prejudices caused by differences in economic, political, racial, and religious backgrounds; to strive for a world outlook, putting oneself in others' places, no matter how far away or how remote.

To have old and young work together in a true comradeship relation, stressing the community and its need for the cooperation of all.

To wish to live adventurously though not recklessly, willing to take risks, if need be, for moral growth, so that one definitely progresses along the long slow road toward achieving a civilization worthy of the name.

AT PUTNEY, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS EXTRACURRICULAR. EVERYTHING IS LEARNING.

You are going to be learning all of the time—inside and outside, with teachers and fellow students, through your jobs and leadership roles, in independent study, at campfires, and in classrooms. This book is a menu of choices, but it is also a call to action: a call to be creative and work hard. At Putney you will learn to be bold and innovative, to work and to lead, to consider yourself and others, to live at home and out in the world, and to build sustainability into all of your efforts.

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For a current and comprehensive look at Putney's curriculum, please visit CURRICULUM.PUTNEYSCHOOL.ORG

EDUCATION FOR CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Education that fosters creativity is crucial to your ability to be useful in the world. Twice a year, you will design and carry out lengthy independent projects you will

design yourself. Independent studies and exhibitions will require you to dig deeply into an area of interest and create new questions and connections.

EDUCATION FOR LEADERSHIP

At Putney, you will practice leadership and learn through experience. You will help to run work crews, lead dorms, sit on committees. You will find yourself in lengthy debates about how to run a community in which individual freedoms must mesh with responsibility to the group. There are more than

50 leadership positions in which students are leading their fellow students to get work done, or in which students are part of the decision-making processes that make the community run. This work is vital to the school.

See pages 68–69 for more on Jobs & Leadership.

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Putney stands for a way of life, and we realize that this life must be an environmentally sustainable one. Throughout our history, the land use program has been a key element of a Putney education. New technology and old are combined to find ways to live more lightly on the land. Our science program

includes Physiological Ecology, and Complex Systems, as well as biology and chemistry classes that use the natural world as their laboratories. You will be required to work on the farm, in the gardens, and in the woods in order to graduate.

➔ For more on sustainability at Putney, visit www.putneyschool.org/sustainability

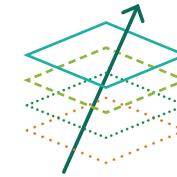
the putney core[®]

The Putney Core outlines the skills, knowledge, and understanding essential to a Putney education and necessary for graduation. It is a proficiency-based system, which requires students to show progress and proof of their learning through a digital portfolio. A Putney diploma represents four years of planned secondary school study. In addition to successful completion of the baseline requirements outlined by the Putney Core, students will define and pursue other areas of individual interest.

THE PUTNEY CORE HAS THREE COMPONENTS:

I. Throughlines

PAGE 07

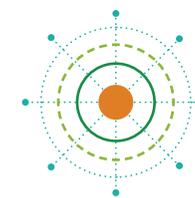


Seven overarching skills and habits of mind, defined in clear rubrics, guide development through a student's time at Putney



II. Subject-Centered Objectives

PAGE 13



Specific learning objectives define the detail of content and skills that a student will need in each discipline



III. Essential Experiences

PAGE 18



Invaluable and immeasurable opportunities to develop qualities which people should progress toward throughout life

I. Throughlines

The seven Throughlines are overarching skills and habits of mind, supported throughout our curriculum through coursework, projects, activities, jobs, group experiences, and independent studies.

Each Throughline is assessed using a rubric that describes each goal in detail and delineates the following levels: *novice*, *emerging*, *proficient*, and *beyond*. In order to graduate, students must demonstrate, through supporting evidence and reflection in their portfolio, that they have achieved the *proficient* level in all seven areas.

ETHICAL, CULTURAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSPECTIVES

Understands the ethical implications of questions raised in each discipline. Understands that all fields may be viewed through differing cultural lenses, and appreciates the value of other perspectives. Understands the complexities of social justice.

INQUIRY & RESEARCH

Turns curiosity into clear, useful questions and pursues a line of inquiry. Practices academic research in the context of different fields.

ARGUMENTATION

Constructs arguments, evaluates one's own arguments and those of others, asks salient questions, and evaluates competing claims in the contexts of different disciplines.

➡ See page 8 for sample rubric

DESIGN & BUILD

Articulates practical problems, imagines possible solutions, develops plans, attains skills needed to execute plans, and creates objects that address the identified needs.

COLLABORATION

Works with others in building an intellectual, creative, and active community. Engages in productive dialogue, shows respect to a group, and supports common goals.

➡ See page 10 for sample rubric

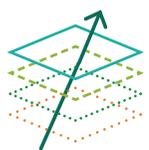
LITERACY & COMMUNICATION

Reads, interprets, analyzes, and makes meaning from a multitude of sources including written, visual, and auditory. Effectively conveys meaning in a variety of modes including written, visual, and spoken.

SELF-KNOWLEDGE & SELF-REGULATION

Prioritizes, manages time, and understands personal learning styles, strengths and weaknesses; perseveres in the face of adversity and uncertainty.





SAMPLE THROUGHLINE RUBRIC

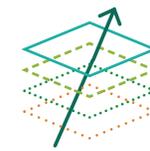
ARGUMENTATION

Constructs arguments, evaluates one's own arguments and those of others, asks salient questions, and evaluates competing claims in the contexts of different disciplines.



ARGUMENTATION

ELEMENT	NOVICE	EMERGING	PROFICIENT	BEYOND →
Uses argumentation to develop and clarify one's own thinking	Identifies ideas or viewpoints.	Regularly identifies a clear purpose and line of reasoning with some evidence or examples.	States a position clearly and evaluates its coherence with relevant premises. Regularly outlines how an opposing point of view would present its reasoning.	Independently and regularly subjects own thinking to internal debate and logical testing. Can trace out most implications of a given assumption and is aware that not all consequences can be predicted.
Uses logic, organization and recognition of logical flaws	Recalls and restates examples of logical fallacies and of sound logical reasoning.	Modifies teacher-provided examples of logical arguments to make them sound or false. Student explains in words or pictures teacher-provided examples of a condition being necessary but not sufficient, and sufficient but not necessary.	Understands basic logical structure and can lay out a complex thought in rational form. Identifies gaps in logic and relevant data needed to test an assumption. Student distinguishes between necessary and sufficient conditions and gives multiple examples of each.	Describes different sets of premises that may lead to the same conclusion. Describes how small changes in premises or assumptions would modify conclusions.
Evaluates evidence for relevancy, sufficiency, and validity	Recognizes evidence, but not the validity or the sufficiency of the evidence. Occasionally accepts they are wrong when told so.	Uses an insufficient amount of pertinent and valid evidence and sometimes recognizes invalid evidence. Occasionally recognizes when they are wrong.	Uses relevant, valid and sufficient evidence. Recognizes contradictory evidence and can realize when they are wrong.	Recognizes the most salient evidence for the purpose.
Understands audience, author's intent and bias, and their rhetorical techniques	Recalls examples of emotional appeals or other rhetorical methods that they have encountered in class or the media.	Sometimes employs rhetorical techniques including emotional and ethical appeals, logic, and establishing credibility. Sometimes takes audience into account when crafting an argument.	Detects unstated assumptions and perceives bias embedded in an otherwise logical argument; understands how real-time debates can exacerbate this challenge. Identifies bias and uses it to better understand and address an opposing point of view. Fluently manipulates parts of an argument. Consistently takes audience into account.	Understands that unexamined or irrational beliefs shared by an audience can enhance author's capacity to persuade. Is aware that his/her own bias exists, that it may be limiting his/her ability to see an argument's validity, and that some of that bias may be unconscious.



SAMPLE THROUGHLINE RUBRIC

COLLABORATION

Works with others in building an intellectual, creative, and active community. Engages in productive dialogue, shows respect to a group, and supports common goals.

COLLABORATION

ELEMENT	NOVICE	EMERGING	PROFICIENT	BEYOND →
Engages in dialogue	Participates in an unbalanced manner. Primarily shares one's own views and ideas with the group, or primarily listens to others without offering one's own ideas.	Asks clarifying and probing questions to explore and make meaning. Listens to varying views and ideas. Practices integrating those with one's own.	Participates actively: listens to others, inquires to pull out others' ideas, puts forth own ideas and advocates for the group to incorporate these ideas.	Leads dialogue by creating a safe space for peers to take risks, models participation and moderates as needed.
Works willingly and effectively with others	Works with new partners reluctantly or creates or adds to dysfunctional dynamics. Complies with some of the directions of a given activity but is reluctant to move from an individualistic approach to the work.	Works well when partnered with others who are easy to work with. Follows directions of activities willingly. Demonstrates care for the completion of various steps regardless of the dynamics in the partnering.	Works with a wide variety of partners on a variety of tasks. Engages authentically and willingly in the spirit of the exercise regardless of the partnering. Sometimes helps others with their work and accepts help from others when needed. Understands the spirit of cooperation and prioritizes the group's goal over their own preferences. Remains positive and engaged when faced with adversity.	Modulates participation in activities to differentiate for their own learning goals as well as others' without compromising the spirit of the exercise or the final outcomes and products.
Understands group processes and shows respect to the group	Is present and on time; observes others' learning and communication styles.	Works within parameters and expectations that are set by others within the group or by someone outside the group. Stays in their "role." Does their share of the work as assigned.	Works with group to create and implement structures for decision making, allocating time, and assigning tasks. Works to ensure that all members of the group have a chance to participate. Understands what strengths and weaknesses a particular group member offers, works toward capitalizing/mitigating those. Does their share of the work and works on integrating it into the group's vision. Understands that group's results are more durable and legitimate when generated with broad participation.	Facilitates group in its work towards an agreed upon goal. Nurtures group members to adjust their behaviors with the goal of group in mind, rather than individual success.



II. Subject-Centered Objectives

Each department specifies learning objectives and assesses a student's progress toward them with rubrics that detail knowledge and skills. Categories of *novice*, *emerging*, *proficient* and *beyond* help students and teachers use student work as evidence of their learning.

ART

- Analyzes and comprehends art across disciplines using historical and cultural contexts
- Self-evaluates, discusses, and critiques art using appropriate vocabulary
- Demonstrates competence in at least one artistic discipline
- Manifests concepts with 2D, 3D, performance or mixed media

ENGLISH

- Explores personal identity and diverse perspectives through literature
- Discusses literature with close attention to the text

➡ See page 14 for sample rubric

- Reads and interprets literature
- Crafts imaginative and expository writing

HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE

- Uses history as a tool for understanding across disciplines, cultures, space, and time
- Locates and uses academic resources to interpret, analyze, and construct historical arguments

MATHEMATICS

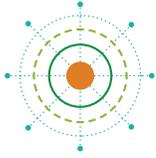
- Models change using mathematics
➡ See page 16 for sample rubric
- Uses technology and coding to facilitate mathematical work and exploration
- Uses geometric reasoning to model and analyze spatial relations and patterns
- Uses probability and statistics to understand and manage variability in data
- Demonstrates financial literacy

MODERN LANGUAGES

- Listens, reads, speaks, and writes at an intermediate skill level in one non-native language

SCIENCE

- Possesses a working knowledge of major biological, chemical, and physical principles
- Designs and implements lab-based inquiries to investigate novel questions
- Describes, analyzes, and reports on a body of evidence generated by scientific investigations

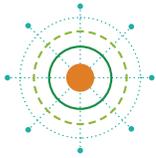


SAMPLE SUBJECT-CENTERED OBJECTIVE RUBRIC



ENGLISH DISCUSSES LITERATURE WITH CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE TEXT

ELEMENT	NOVICE	EMERGING	PROFICIENT	BEYOND →
Prepares text for discussion	Often arrives without the text, annotations, or notes. Occasionally contributes.	Intermittently arrives with the text. Asks clarifying and comprehension questions. Sometimes annotates.	Reliably brings in the text, useful annotations, and skillful, authentic questions for discussion.	Always brings in useful annotations, questions for discussion, and, sometimes, relevant related material to share.
Maintains curiosity and civility	Goes silent, gets mad or is dismissive when confronted with an unfamiliar or challenging perspective.	Shows willingness to investigate and consider challenging or unfamiliar perspectives in some instances.	Meets or attempts to meet with civility and curiosity unfamiliar or challenging perspectives in literature or in classmates.	Consistently meets challenging or unfamiliar perspectives in literature or in a classmate with curiosity and civility, even when those perspectives are diametrically opposed to a personally held view.
Listens and Participates Actively	Is easily distracted or tends to zone out when others are talking. Readily shares personal experiences that may be tangentially related to the text. Asks questions about others' personal experiences.	Can focus attention on the discussion; sometimes makes comments that reveal engagement. Tends to ask comprehension and clarifying questions.	Is visibly engaged. Sometimes responds to what has been said in an effort to extend or explore another's idea. Anchors analysis in the text. Practices a few different ways of contributing substantively to discussions.	Is visibly engaged, looking at the speaker, text open, pen in hand. Asks classmates for clarification when necessary. Often responds to what has been said in an effort to extend or explore another's idea. Draws out the intelligence of other students. Is adept at anchoring analysis in the text and contributing substantively to discussion in a variety of ways.
Uses the Language of Literature	Expresses personal opinions imprecisely. Relies on overly familiar language.	Can identify literary devices but cannot yet make use of them.	Uses literary terms to be precise in making observations about the text. Makes use of literary language to interpret.	Uses literary terms and devices to describe how an author has created an effect. Can use terms like metaphor, paradox, ambiguity as conceptual frameworks for making meaning.



SAMPLE SUBJECT-CENTERED OBJECTIVE RUBRIC

MATH: MODELS CHANGE USING MATHEMATICS

ELEMENT	NOVICE	EMERGING	PROFICIENT	BEYOND →
Linear change	<p>Replicates examples to find slope or rate of change from two points.</p> <p>Graphs points on a plane and connects them to create a line.</p> <p>Compares and estimates the size of rational numbers.</p>	<p>Creates graphs from slope-intercept form; finds slope-intercept form given a graph.</p> <p>Graphs linear functions from many different starting points: two points on line, standard form equation, starting amount and rate of change.</p> <p>Hand sketches a graph of a linear function from one point and a slope.</p> <p>Finds slope and y-intercept given various inputs.</p> <p>Constructs and solves linear equations in one variable.</p>	<p>Articulates core concept of constant rate of change. Interprets meaning of slope and y-intercept.</p> <p>Fluently uses verbal, graphical, numerical, and algebraic descriptions.</p> <p>Accurately applies graphical, algebraic, and technological methods to characterize real-world situations, and applies estimation strategies to check for errors.</p> <p>Sketches and describes graph when given equation.</p> <p>Creates linear regression models from data using technology and explains the method of least squares.</p> <p>Uses graphical displays and correlation coefficient to evaluate a linear regression model. Gives examples of the pitfalls of correlation coefficient.</p> <p>Uses linear regression to interpolate and extrapolate; articulates the hazards of extrapolation.</p>	<p>Constructs and solves linear equations in two or more variables.</p> <p>Describes physical characteristics of graphs in three variables.</p> <p>Solves systems of equations algebraically and graphically.</p> <p>Identifies when point-slope form is useful and applies it to graph linear functions.</p>
Exponential change	<p>Recognizes that situations with percent changes often imply exponential change.</p>	<p>Computes the base and initial value given two input-output pairs.</p> <p>Computes value of exponentially changing quantities at simple, discrete time points.</p> <p>Describes and sketches approximate shape of exponential curves, including differentiating between positive and negative rates of change.</p>	<p>Articulates core concept of exponential rate of change as repeated multiplication.</p> <p>Interprets meaning of base and constant rate terms.</p> <p>Sketches and describes graphical characteristics of exponentials.</p> <p>Fluently uses verbal, graphical, numerical, and algebraic descriptions.</p> <p>Characterizes real-world situations in graphical and algebraic form, and answers salient questions using both algebraic and technological formulas.</p>	<p>In an applied setting, can identify scales at which exponential change is locally linear and scales at which material differences in outputs will result.</p> <p>Differentiates between continuous and discrete exponential change; provides examples of conditions leading to each.</p> <p>Uses the number e to model exponential situations involving continuous change.</p> <p>Applies concepts of translations and dilations to modify exponential models to fit data.</p> <p>Creates exponential regression models from data using technology.</p> <p>Understands logarithmic scales.</p>
Combine and compare different models of change	<p>Recognizes and distinguishes linear and exponential functions. Given initial information, can draw a rough sketch of each kind of change.</p> <p>Restates definitions of, and qualitative differences between, linear and exponential change. Gives examples of linear and exponential functions.</p> <p>Restates a description of a situation in which a variable undergoing exponential change can also be subject to linear change.</p>	<p>Gives real-world examples of linear and exponential change and represents these algebraically and graphically.</p> <p>Reads, understands, and describes a simple table of values showing the combination of linear and exponential change. Can extend by giving similar examples.</p>	<p>Articulates the key differences between linear and exponential change using precise mathematical vocabulary such as <i>rate of change</i>, <i>asymptote</i>, <i>limit</i>, <i>end behavior</i> etc. and gives examples of each.</p> <p>Identifies the appropriate functions for modeling a exponential or linear scenarios and applies them correctly.</p> <p>Understands that situations exist that are neither exponential nor linear, and identifies them correctly.</p> <p>Uses technology to accurately reflect linear change and exponential change to obtain realistic model outputs.</p> <p>Identifies key features of exponential and linear graphs, including specific points and rates of change.</p> <p>Finds intersection points between different models using technology.</p>	<p>Uses functions that are neither linear nor exponential to model appropriate phenomena.</p> <p>Models the combination of linear and exponential dynamics using technology, as well as combining these with other functions such as trigonometric or logarithmic.</p> <p>Explains the underlying phenomena that lead to linear or exponential change.</p> <p>Differentiates between periodic change that can be modeled with trigonometric functions and periodic change that cannot.</p> <p>Correctly uses parameters to modify behavior of trigonometric functions. Explains physical significance of each parameter.</p>

III.

Essential Experiences

There are qualities we wish all Putney graduates to have, which are inherently valuable, and in fact are qualities towards which people should make progress throughout their lives. These qualities include cultural fluency, self-reliance, an appreciation for manual labor, an appreciation of fine arts, and a capacity for the “hard stretching of oneself.” Essential Experiences present invaluable and immeasurable opportunities to develop these qualities. We require that Putney students fulfill all of them in order to graduate.



1

EXPERIENCE LIVING IN A DIFFERENT CULTURE

Live for a minimum of one month in a culture significantly different from one's own, either with a local family or in a boarding environment with local students. A culture is understood as “significantly different” if it requires one to use a language other than one's native language or differs from one's own cultural background in two of the following three aspects: ethnicity, economic background, or urban/rural economy.

The experience of living in a culture significantly different than one's own helps to develop cultural fluency and to foster one's abilities “to combat prejudices caused by differences in economic, political, racial, and religious backgrounds; to strive for a world outlook, putting oneself in others' places, no matter how far away or how remote.”

2

MAINTAIN REASONABLE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Participate in an activity at least twice a week that develops aerobic fitness, physical endurance, or physical strength while on The Putney School campus.

The experience of maintaining a reasonable level of physical activity helps students to maintain their physical well-being and affords them opportunities to “play as wholeheartedly as [they] work”.



3

DO THE WORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Fulfill the requirements of the Work Program as currently stated.

The experience of engaging in productive labor develops students' belief in manual labor, and allows students opportunities to be proud of working to support the community within which they are living and to learn important skills such as collaboration, perseverance, and leadership.





4

CAMP IN THE OUTDOORS FOR A MINIMUM OF FIVE DAYS

Participate in Long Fall trips every year while attending The Putney School. Experience sleeping at least 3 consecutive nights disconnected from media and phone and where one must carry in one's own supplies.

The experience of camping in a remote location builds a connection with the natural world, develops self-reliance, and can also foster an ability to work interdependently within a group.

5

PARTICIPATE IN EFFORTS AIMED AT MAKING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

Serve on a committee or in a leadership position, or complete one Project Week, Independent Study or Exhibition that is focused on sustainability. Incorporate daily habits that support an environmentally sustainable community into one's life while at Putney.

The experience of working towards making both the local and global communities more environmentally sustainable builds awareness of daily practices that help preserve the world we live in.



6

CREATE AND EXPERIENCE A WIDE VARIETY OF ART

Maintain frequent, regular immersion in a variety of creative arts.

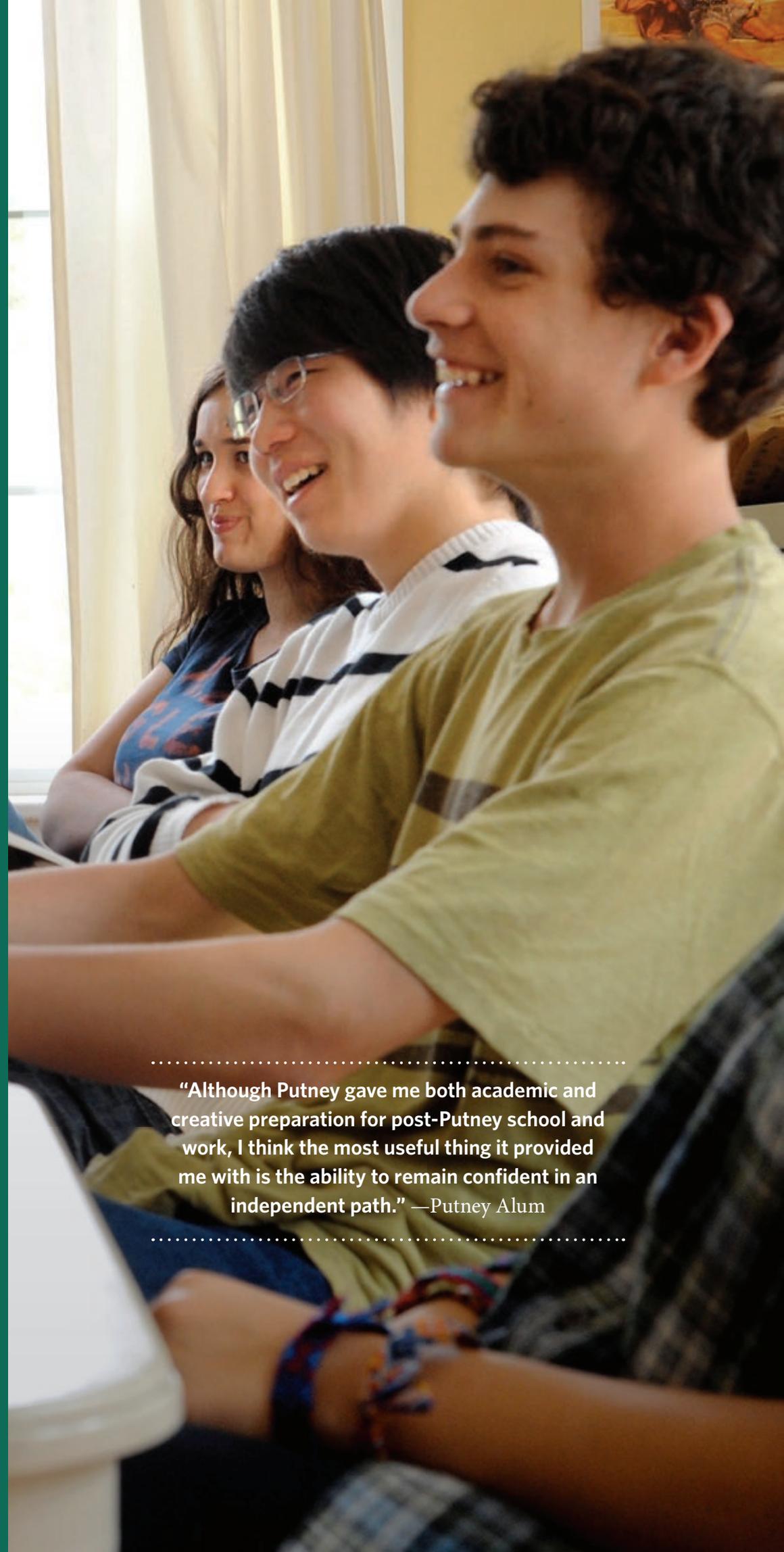
Frequent and regular experience with, and exposure to, a wide range of art forms, both as a creator and viewer, helps build an ability to use art throughout one's life. Those who have a strong background in the arts use this as a means of finding aesthetic pleasure and comfort as well as to understand and express problems, both personal and societal.



academic curriculum

This curriculum is a menu of choices, but it is also a call to action: *a call to be creative and work hard*. At Putney you will learn to be bold and innovative, to work and to lead, to consider yourself and others, to live at home and out in the world and to build sustainability into all of your efforts.

On the following pages you'll find the courses, activities and opportunities planned for the year ahead.



.....
"Although Putney gave me both academic and creative preparation for post-Putney school and work, I think the most useful thing it provided me with is the ability to remain confident in an independent path." —Putney Alum
.....

courses



The academic program is rich in opportunity for intellectual exploration and discovery as well as creative expression. The study of history is steeped in primary sources, and students, like historians, learn to create historical narratives, conduct research, and interpret events. Science classes are investigative and students are encouraged to view the campus as a laboratory for discovery and to develop an appreciation for the complexity and fragility of the environment. Math is taught as a language where phenomena can be expressed in numbers and problems solved elegantly. Spanish, French, and Chinese are taught with an emphasis on speaking and listening, reading and writing, and gaining a nuanced, cultural understanding. The arts and the cultivation of the imagination permeate the Putney curriculum.

long fall

Long Fall trips are a core part of our student orientation each year. These 4-day, 3-night camping trips are a chance for new and returning Putney students to bond with fellow students and faculty while exploring the outdoors in Northern New England. Trips range in challenge level and provide an opportunity for students to work together as a group, connect with nature, and expand their camping and outdoor skills. Students may choose from a variety of trips including backpacking in the Green Mountain National Forest, canoeing down the Connecticut River, camping and working at a local farm, and rock climbing in New Hampshire.



independent work

Independent work is a critical piece of our academic curriculum. It is our way of preparing our students for a world without roadmaps, without operating instructions. At Putney, students learn to motivate themselves and discover issues, actions, and concepts that they care about. By designing and executing their own projects, students strengthen their organizational skills and learn to put their knowledge to use in the world.

Project Weeks

Project Weeks are periods twice a year in which Putney students carry out independent projects and learn to apply what they have learned. Students may conduct one double project (40–50 hrs) or two smaller projects (20–25 hrs). They may also choose to join one of the many group projects directed by Putney faculty. Each Project Week, one of these projects must be grounded in an academic course the

student has taken that year. In advance of Project Weeks, students identify a faculty mentor, with whom they develop a project proposal. That proposal is reviewed by the Educational Programs Committee and relevant academic departments.

Project Weeks are a chance for students to explore their intellectual and creative passions and forge connections between disciplines; they also help students develop critical time management and presentation skills.



INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Working with a faculty sponsor, students may design an independent course of study during the fall or winter trimesters. Each course must be reviewed and approved by the Educational Programs Committee.

WORK TERM

Work Terms are intended to provide students an off-campus opportunity to explore an area that might be of career interest. These experiences are usually full-time, not-for-profit apprenticeships.

SENIOR EXHIBITIONS

Senior Exhibitions are an opportunity for seniors in good standing to design and complete an independent project in their spring trimester. Students are expected to create a project that draws upon the breadth and depth of their educational experience at Putney. Ideally interdisciplinary, this intensive work is supported by a faculty mentor, reviewed by an outside evaluator, and culminates in a presentation to the Putney community.

INDEPENDENT TOPICS IN SCIENCE

This course is designed to give highly motivated students the opportunity to pursue scientific or technological questions of their own design, or for students to take on a challenge such as entry in a science contest. One component of the course will be continuous communication and collaboration with others in the class, regardless of their area of study. To qualify for enrollment, students submit a description of their proposed study which must then be approved by the science department.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Educational Programs Committee is composed of deans, faculty, and student representatives who review and develop the curriculum. The EPC is also responsible for approving and providing feedback on student proposals for Project Weeks, Independent Studies, and Senior Exhibitions.

.....
"Many people couldn't even sew on a button or make tea and were scared/reluctant to try. I knew that whether or not I'd done a task before, I could because I had already done so much and been successful."
—Putney Alum
.....



support

ADVISORS

At the core of the Putney experience are the strong relationships that form between students and teachers, particularly those between advisors and advisees. Advisors support students in their path through Putney—they help with course and activity selection,

and they serve as the main conduit of information among various aspects of a student's life at Putney and family at home. Students have a weekly scheduled meeting with their advisors, as well as frequent informal meetings, dinners, and group advisory trips off-campus.

CONFERENCE BLOCKS

We have four blocks each week to allow time for student-teacher meetings, collaborations on projects, extra help sessions, student study groups, and

individual homework time. Seminars, music lessons, tutoring, health appointments, and college meetings are also scheduled during conference blocks.

THE CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Center for Teaching and Learning is a resource for all students and teachers. It provides academic support, organizational help, study skills, and math workshops. The director and experienced tutors are available for students with

specific challenges meeting the demands of their academic work. We do not treat those with learning differences as “other”; we understand that students have a variety of learning styles, capacities, and strengths.

HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES

The Putney School Health Services office is staffed with caring and experienced registered nurses and counselors who take a holistic approach to student health. They work closely with families to support

students' health and mental health needs while they are away from home. School counselors are available for drop-in support or scheduled appointments.

LIBRARY

At Putney, students gain varied and authentic experience using the library. Because of the project-oriented nature of much of the curriculum, students are required to develop research strategies and make informed decisions about the types

and quality of resources used. The faculty expects students to be able to understand and use a variety of resources: the library's online catalog, database subscriptions, high quality Internet sources, as well as book and periodical collections.



COLLEGE PLACEMENT

The Putney School offers a comprehensive college counseling program that begins formally in the 11th grade. We believe, as Frank Sachs writes, that “College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.” We actively assist students as they research colleges, investigate careers, and begin to make decisions about where they would like their lives to head after graduating. We offer individual meetings with students and parents, a weekly College Planning Seminar for juniors, a weekly College Applications Seminar

for seniors, online accounts to access Naviance—a nationally recognized college counseling software resource—email updates to parents with reminders about the application process timeline, campus visits from representatives of more than 60 colleges and universities, financial aid and scholarship workshops, and all PSAT, ACT, TOEFL, AP and SAT registration and testing.

➔ For a list of recent college acceptances, visit www.putneyschool.org/acceptances



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Technology is an increasingly integral part of what we do here at Putney. From Google Apps for Education, to robotics, geographic information systems, and science lab data collection, technology provides opportunities for project-based and hands-on learning. The Instructional Technology Center (ITC) is where teachers and students learn new technologies, improve their skills, and get help from the technology staff. A wide variety of resources are available,

including video production equipment, digital video cameras, digital still cameras, MIDI controllers and music composition applications, ProTools-based digital recording equipment, scanners, and printers. ITC computers have a variety of software titles for video production, web page design, graphics, digital photography, video conferencing, document scanning, and desktop publishing.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

The ESOL program is designed for international students to achieve a high level of English proficiency for academic work.

See page 53 for a description of the ESOL courses and support systems.

Integrated Curricula

Ninth-grade students are required to take *Humans in the Natural World*. Both *American Studies* and *Writing and Research* are required for juniors in lieu of English and U.S. history in order to provide a richer exploration of American society, culture, and history.

HUMANS IN THE NATURAL WORLD

Three-trimester Course

Ninth-grade students are required to take *Humans in the Natural World* which integrates English, social science, and natural science. Using the tools of these three disciplines, this year-long course begins by asking students “How do we know what we know?” Starting with what they can observe locally, students will expand to connect to the global community. They will collaborate with each other, make connections, and synthesize information about their world from historical, scientific, artistic, and literary sources. Each student will undertake several long-term projects, including detailed studies of a plot of land, a country, and a commodity. Students will read novels, poetry, and both primary and secondary sources in all three disciplines. Ultimately, each student will hone their skills in analytical and creative writing, oral presentation, collaboration, research, and analysis. They will also learn the habits of reflection, self-evaluation, perseverance, and practice.

Throughout, students will demonstrate their skills and understanding through presentations, experiments, writing, and teaching. After completion of this integrated course, students will be expected to accurately sketch the world around them, critically observe and analyze their environment, collect and use GIS (geographic information systems) data, write in both analytical and imaginative forms, synthesize scientific and historical facts into meaning, and be fearless enough to embrace uncertainty, ambiguity, and the benefits of failure.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT FOR HUMANS IN THE NATURAL WORLD:

An ESOL teacher is available to International students in this class who need added language support. This teacher provides modified readings and assignments for English learners and is an additional resource during conference block and by appointment. This teacher also reviews written work to help students correct grammar before handing in essays and reports, and helps them rehearse presentations.

AMERICAN STUDIES

Three-trimester Course

This year-long, interdisciplinary course for 11th-grade students is organized into five thematic units: American Political Thought, The American Landscape, Slavery and its Legacy, America in Conflict, and Capitalism and The American Dream. Each unit poses its own set of essential questions and asks students to derive their own insights and lines of inquiry from a combination of historical texts and works of literature. Whether they are U.S. citizens or not, students will learn to appreciate the complexity of the American story and to recognize their own lives as a part of that story.

WRITING AND RESEARCH

One-trimester Course

The primary goal of this course is for students to develop an effective, individualized research and writing process and to write one or more substantial research papers. Students will use library and online resources, engage in close reading of primary and scholarly secondary source materials, and turn their curiosity into clear, useful historical questions. This course is linked to American Studies, with research questions and topics often designed around content and themes from that course. Writing and Research is taught by members of the History and Library Departments.

Each trimester of HNW follows a theme: Observation, Systems & Society, and Globalization & Climate Change. For a detailed look at the skills and content covered in each trimester, visit www.putneyschool.org/humans

English

We strive to help students express themselves with clarity and power orally as well as in writing. We want them to be able to generate authentic, nuanced questions and original ideas. Reading literature with sensitivity and exploring varied cultural perspectives are also critical.

Students write frequently. Readings range from the canonic to the contemporary and roam over a wide landscape of cultures and voices both in original English and in translation. Most genres are represented, including novels, short stories, essays, poetry, plays, graphic novels, and film. Classes are taught seminar-style. Lecture is rare. Class participation is essential as students try out their ideas aloud.

ADVANCED LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Two-trimester Course

This transitional course for non-native English speakers is taken before entering mainstream English classes and replicates the experience of a mainstream class. Students learn and practice a range of writing skills, including sentence-level construction and syntax, techniques for stylistic variety, and expository skills for both personal essay writing and formal literary analysis. Through reading and discussion, as well as writing, students improve their ability to express complex ideas in English with nuance and precision.

COMPOSITION: FORMS OF THE ESSAY

Two-trimester Course

Students will spend this course writing nonfiction: short summaries, descriptions, longer analyses, profiles, and narratives. The course approaches writing as a multi-step process that includes prewriting, drafting, and revision. In developing their own voices, students learn to be deliberate, persuasive, and creative in all written work. Students then learn the skills of literary analysis by writing essays in response to readings that include plays, novels, short stories, and poetry by such authors as Tim O’Brien, Chinua Achebe, Marjane Satrapi, and Adrienne Rich.

CREATIVE WRITING

One-trimester Course

Students write daily in this course, experimenting in genres that may include poetry, short story, microfiction, plays, and creative nonfiction. We will use readings in each genre as models, with an emphasis on learning craft. Students share work with one another and focus on the process of revising creative work, producing multiple drafts, and critiquing. Each writer will create a portfolio of work.

ETHICS EAST AND WEST

One-trimester Course

Have you ever wondered what is the right thing to do? What is the difference between Western and Eastern philosophies and religions? Students in this course begin with a study of the fundamental theories of moral philosophy that have shaped Western ethics, and then turn to the ethics of the East, as expressed most distinctly in Mahayana Buddhism, considering what each of these traditions has to offer the other. Finally, students will consider contemporary moral and ethical challenges in light of these traditions. How do each of these traditions understand and respond to the current ecological, social, and economic challenges we face?

EXISTENTIALISM

One-trimester Course

In this course, students will don the heavy two-way lens of existentialism, turning us as deeply inward as it does broadly outward. Although it illuminates a heightened measure of despair, anguish, confusion, and alienation, this modern perspective liberates us into a creative expanse of freedom and responsibility. As Jean-Paul Sartre concisely expresses, “Man is nothing else but what he makes of himself.” Through an exploration of inspired essays, stories, plays, and films, followed by personal creation, students will attempt to make themselves and resolutely confront the inevitable obstacles along the path of this noble journey.



FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES IN LITERATURE

One-trimester Course

In this course, students will read classic, subversive, and enduring women’s writing and trace the emerging and evolving subjects, themes, and formal innovations to explore the goals and strategies of women writers in the 19th and 20th century. Students will also investigate current feminist trends and topics in literature and media and design and pursue an original project related to the themes of the course. Authors and theorists may include writers such as Sojourner Truth, Gertrude Stein, Zora Neale Hurston, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, bell hooks, Flannery O’Connor, Toni Morrison, and Margaret Sanger.

INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA STUDIES

One-trimester Course

How does the way we consume media influence the way we think about the world around us? How do we understand our own power and privilege through lenses of race, class, and gender? How do we learn to “read” visual information in still and moving pictures? This course addresses these questions, equipping students with the tools to analyze and critique various forms of media. Students will use the language of critical thinking to pull apart the messages layered in film, television, music, advertisements, video games, and social media.

READING CONTEMPORARY SHORT FICTION

One-trimester Course

In this class, students will read, discuss, and write about short stories by contemporary masters of the form representing a wide range of stylistic approaches. Authors may include Joy Williams, Lorrie Moore, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Raymond Carver, Haruki Murakami, Amy Hempel, Edwidge Danticat, Ottessa Moshfegh, Junot Díaz, Lydia Davis, and George Saunders.

SAY WHAT YOU MEAN

One-trimester Course

Is it difficult to make a persuasive point in conversation, even when your idea is clear in your head? Do you struggle to capture the complexity of your thinking when you write? In this course, students will explore and practice rhetorical skills to strengthen the efficacy between thought and language. Whether you think of yourself as a scientist, artist, mathematician, political activist, or musician, you will need to write well to share your insights with the world. This course will make use of a range of reading and writing techniques to pursue the simple goal of clarity in writing and speaking.

SHAKESPEARE

One-trimester Course

The eminent literary critic Harold Bloom wrote, “Shakespeare is the true multicultural author. He exists in all languages. He is put on the stage everywhere. Everyone feels that they are represented by him on the stage.” In this course, students will focus on three or four of Shakespeare’s plays in depth. Discussion, acting, and writing will serve as tools for interpretation. Students will have considerable input into which of Shakespeare’s plays we study.

➔ For more on English, contact english@putneyschool.org

History

History students are asked to create meaning from our past and present, developing an ability to understand a historical framework for the world evolving around them. Classes emphasize discussion and oral skills, writing with an emphasis on analytical essays and critical thinking. Students are asked to write history—to formulate, support and document their own views of the past. The use of primary texts is critical in all courses, and student research builds from primary document analysis.

AFRICAN STUDIES

One-trimester Course

This course aims to build a better understanding of the challenges faced by emerging African economic and social structures in the wake of European control and exploitation. Our investigation will emphasize how the West has projected European Enlightenment assumptions onto a continent with dramatically different social and political attitudes and traditions. The course will be divided between this topical overview (including the historical heritage contained in the continent and traditional social attitudes) and independent student projects developing an area of special interest.

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

One-trimester Course

This course builds an understanding of the traditions of religious belief and the nature of the divine in history and across cultures. Students will read religious texts in their historical and cultural context. Writing will include both analytic and personal response. Readings include Huston Smith’s *The World’s Religions*, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Hermann Hesse’s *Siddhartha*, selections from the *Bhagavad Gita*, the Old and New Testaments, Dostoevsky, the Koran, Rumi, and the Tao Te Ching.



INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

One-trimester Course

The term economics is derived from the Greek “rules of the household.” In this course, students will look at the way economics governs our lives and homes, as well as our political institutions. Students will consider the way economic actors (ourselves included) make decisions. The course includes a survey of basic economic concepts and terminology and takes a thematic approach to economics. Articles from the newspaper and news magazines will serve as the backdrop for the class. Students will gain a greater ability to use economic terms and concepts to understand the world. The course will culminate in an independent research project.

SOCIAL CONTRACTS: DEMOCRATIZATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION IN WESTERN EUROPE

Two-trimester Course

The first trimester focuses on the development of government and rule of law in Western Europe, with primary emphasis on 17th century England and 18th century France, and the emergence of “The Enlightenment” in Western Europe. The second trimester focuses on the challenges of citizens struggling to deal with the dramatic growth of industrialization, market and societal forces, mass society, and mass destruction in 19th and 20th century Europe. Readings range from textbooks and primary documents to historical literature. Student will produce papers, library research projects, oral presentations, and formal debates. The first term is anchored by Machiavelli’s *The Prince* and More’s *Utopia*, and the second term is anchored by Zola’s *Germinal* (the 1993 film), Remarque’s *All Quiet on the Western Front*, and Wiesel’s *Night*.



SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY STUDIES

One-trimester Course

This course is an opportunity to study the way art reflects the world around us. Students will study documentary photographers whose work is central to our understanding of history and have changed our perception of truth. The course begins by using documentary photography to look at the self, moves on to an exploration of the “other,” and ends by looking at social issues. Students focus on photography, but complementary materials will include literature, historical texts, census data, video, as well as sound and music. Project-based work forms the centerpiece of this course and each student will complete a major self-designed capstone piece that combines photography with research. Students will also have a chance to meet a number of local photographers and use local historical resources. This course is intended for juniors and seniors.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

One-trimester Course

How does a social context shape the way we understand, influence, and relate to ourselves and to one another? How do we maximize the degree of choice we exercise in our lives, and what are the purposes served by our behavior? The field of social psychology looks at how these questions and their answers stretch when the context shifts from the individual to the group or social level. This course focuses on three core areas: social thinking, social influence, and social relations. Students will choose an area and embark on reading through literature and other studies, teaching one another the key concepts, and building an experiment and research project.

SOCIOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF FOOD

One-trimester Course

Food is an ever-present part of our daily experience and a medium through which we can examine our individual and collective heritage. In this course, food becomes the basis for interdisciplinary study in several units: Food and Meaning; Food and Ethics; Food and Justice; and Food and Culture. Readings come from a variety of disciplines including anthropology, art, literature, psychology, religion, politics, ecology, economics, psychology, and history. In addition to written research-based assignments, the class will involve experiential activities, many of which include a focus on culinary skills.

THE MIDDLE EAST CAULDRON

One-trimester Course

The Middle East remains a focal point of cultural misunderstanding and conflict. This course seeks a greater understanding of this complex and volatile region. The course begins with a look at the political, economic, cultural, and religious influences in the region, from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire to the present, using both primary and secondary sources. Later, the course considers selected topics from the history of the region, the Sunni-Shiite split, and the growth of Islam. The course continues with the complexity of women’s roles with an emphasis on Iran, and concludes with an independent project.

➔ For more on History, contact history@putneyschool.org

Modern Languages

Learning a modern language and gaining insight into its culture(s) are important routes both to increased self-awareness and cross-cultural understanding. Putney currently offers three modern languages: Chinese, French and Spanish. From the start, students are immersed in speaking, listening, reading and writing; they learn by doing. Students learn about culture through readings, discussions, movies, visiting speakers, songs and occasional trips. The Chinese program is entering its third year with six levels. In both French and Spanish, classes are offered at six levels, with more advanced classes offered, as needed, in each of the three languages, either as independent study or as additional classes.

CHINESE I

Two-trimester Course

Students in Chinese I will begin to develop proficiency with the Mandarin Chinese language and culture, the phonetic system (pinyin), Chinese characters, vocabulary, and structures. By the end of the class, students will be able to introduce themselves, greet people, extend or respond to invitations, discuss family and friends, schedules, dates, weather, numbers, ask questions, speak about food, and write emails. Students will also explore Chinese arts, culture, calligraphy, tongue twisters, songs, feature films, documentaries, and tai chi. Students will be able to communicate using basic vocabulary in writing and in conversation.



CHINESE II

Two-trimester Course

Students will participate in extended dialogues and daily discussions in Mandarin Chinese. Writing tasks are increasingly complex and include letters of request and introduction, descriptions of daily life, and basic emails on several topics. Students will explore Chinese arts and culture, Tang Dynasty poetry, calligraphy, songs, feature films and documentaries, and tai chi.

CHINESE III

Two-trimester Course

Students will communicate about a variety of day-to-day experiences in Mandarin Chinese. They will sharpen grammar skills in speaking, listening, writing, and reading by completing tasks with increasing complexity. They will write letters, narrative descriptions and emails, including inquiries and explanations. By the end of the course, students will be able to write multiple paragraphs. Topics of study include Chinese arts, Tang Dynasty poetry, calligraphy, songs, feature films and documentaries, and tai chi.

CHINESE IV

Two-trimester Course

In this course, students will move from controlled speaking situations to spontaneous speaking on a variety of topics. Students learn to use more complex structures, allowing them to speak and write on broader topics. Students use authentic materials to enhance all their language skills. In addition, students explore specific topics in Chinese culture and arts, Tang Dynasty poetry, and tai chi. Students will make presentations on Chinese culture and tell short stories that they have written in Chinese. Students in Chinese IV speak almost exclusively in Chinese.

CHINESE V AND VI

Two-trimester Course

Students will continue to expand their ability to communicate independently and speak on a variety of topics by practicing further complex structures and idioms. Students use many authentic materials to enhance all their language skills. In addition, students explore specific topics in Chinese culture and arts, Tang Dynasty poetry, and tai chi. Students make presentations on Chinese culture and write stories, persuasive essays, reading summaries and journal entries. Students speak entirely in Chinese throughout the course. Students will be expected to work independently on the reading material that is provided.

FRENCH I

Two-trimester Course

Students will learn to use basic French in speaking, listening, writing, and reading, and also will acquire the study skills necessary to learn a new language. Students develop their basic interpersonal communication skills around themes such as school, family, and weekend events. By the end of the course, students understand French spoken at a measured pace and learn strategies to cope with the gaps in their comprehension.

FRENCH II

Two-trimester Course

Students will expand their ability to communicate about daily routines and habits, food, friends, and family, in the past, present, and future tenses. They continue to use memorized phrases while they also increase their ability to communicate spontaneously and naturally in both predictable and unpredictable situations.

FRENCH III

Two-trimester Course

Students will expand their ability to describe topics of personal interest and current events in the past, present, and future tenses. They will develop their writing and speaking skills to communicate spontaneously in indicative, conditional, and subjunctive moods.

Students in this course communicate in French at all times.

FRENCH IV

Two-trimester Course

This course improves students' reading, writing, and discussion skills by exploring current topics in French and world culture. Students will analyze current events, literature selections, videos, and movies. Students will develop their use of the indicative and subjunctive moods.

FRENCH V AND VI

Two-trimester Course

Students will select themes to study and design the units, then lead discussions and presentations after researching authentic French language materials for reading, watching, and listening. They focus on specialized content areas such as the heritage of French colonization in Africa, French cinema, or French in science and medicine. Grammar and vocabulary are reviewed or introduced as needed for comprehension and expansion of prior skills. Students also produce translations and written responses to the themes studied, which provide formal opportunities to hone accuracy and language mechanics.

PUTNEY TRIMESTERS ABROAD

We value cultural fluency and the ability to communicate in another language. To further these curricular goals, we have established trimester-abroad programs to Mexico, China, and France, as well as other opportunities to learn abroad. These programs are led by Putney faculty with deep local experience and are designed for students to live in and learn about local cultures through experience.

Learn more about Putney Trimesters Abroad at putneyschool.org/world



SPANISH I

Two-trimester Course

Students will learn to use basic Spanish in speaking, listening, writing, and reading, and will acquire the study skills necessary to learn a new language. Students develop their basic interpersonal communication skills around themes such as school, family, and weekend events. By the end of the course, students understand Spanish spoken at a measured pace and learn strategies to cope with the gaps in their comprehension.

SPANISH II

Two-trimester Course

This course builds on students' skills in speaking, listening, writing, and reading basic Spanish. Continuing with the commitment to speak as much Spanish as possible, students study the vocabulary, grammar, and idiomatic expressions used in talking about oneself, past events, and situations. Small group and pair work maximize opportunities to practice speaking.

SPANISH III

Two-trimester Course

Students and teachers communicate only in Spanish throughout this course. Students respond to a range of material for native and non-native speakers and augment their cultural exposure to improve comprehension. They demonstrate their speaking proficiency with in-class conversations, audio and video journals, and improvised monologues. By the end of this level, students will be able to listen and speak spontaneously in the present, past, and future tenses.

SPANISH IV

Two-trimester Course

Students will understand the language as spoken and written by and for native speakers. Students will read, write about, and discuss short stories and poetry. Students will also be able to discuss current events from Spanish-speaking countries. Students will demonstrate their proficiency with in-class conversations, audio and video journals, monologues, and Socratic seminars. By the end of this level, students will have a good understanding of many Spanish-speaking cultures.

SPANISH V AND VI

Two-trimester Course

Students will study advanced Spanish and Latin American literature and culture. Students will communicate entirely in Spanish and will be able to use authentic materials. They will have the ability to research authentic Spanish language materials for reading and listening. Translation and writing assignments will provide students with opportunities to focus on accuracy, creativity, and the mechanics of the language.

➡ For more on the Modern Languages, contact language@putneyschool.org



Mathematics

Our math courses cover fundamentals for college preparation while encouraging our students to explore the beauty of mathematics and its connection with other subjects.

ADVANCED TOPICS IN MATHEMATICS

Two-trimester Course

Students will study mathematical topics not typically covered in a traditional secondary school mathematics sequence, while furthering their ability to write about sophisticated mathematical concepts. Students will also strengthen their abilities to use technology as tools for analysis and exploration. This course emphasizes mathematical literacy and writing to prepare students for advanced study at the university level. Mathematical topics vary based on student interest and have included the study of satellite motion using computer models of differential equations, the science of passwords and encryption, and multivariable calculus.

ALGEBRA I

Two-trimester Course

This course focuses on how to represent, model, and analyze the world we live in using mathematics. Students will examine the motion of objects, population growth, climate change, and games of chance. Students regularly use tables, graphs, algebraic symbols, and verbal descriptions to represent patterns and relations. Mathematical topics include probability, linear functions, quadratic functions, and exponential functions. Computer-based technology is used extensively as a tool for analysis and exploration.

ALGEBRA II

Two-trimester Course

Students will continue learning to use mathematics to recognize, generalize, and represent patterns in our world and to make predictions based on those patterns. We will focus on understanding functions and building mathematical models for input-output relationships that are ubiquitous in everyday life. Students examine projectile motion, population growth, compound interest, and common logarithmic scales such as pH. Students will increase their fluency with graphing programs and analytical software, use basic principles of statistics to analyze real-world data, and advance their skills in trigonometry.

CALCULUS I

Two-trimester Course

Students will learn methods for determining how a dynamical system is changing, and how to work from a description of a changing system to a complete model of the system. Examples include objects moving in space, populations growing or shrinking, and objects heating or cooling. The course introduces students to the basic methods of using derivatives and integrals to investigate these systems, using a conceptual understanding of limits. Students will leverage technology extensively in this course to assist problem solving, system visualization, and conceptual mastery.

CALCULUS II

Two-trimester Course

Using projects and physical models, students will develop a solid conceptual understanding of abstract topics of the derivative and the integral. To ground the concept of calculating solids of revolution, students will determine the volume of irregularly shaped vases and plot the function derived from a homemade cinnamon bun. The course begins with review of basic calculus concepts then progresses to applications of the integral, integration techniques, power series expansions of functions, and possibly the beginnings of multivariable calculus.

COMPUTER SCIENCE I

One-trimester Course

Students in this introduction to computer science will learn the basics of how a computer works, as well as how to write programs to make computers execute specific tasks. This course begins with short programming tasks and culminates in larger projects. Based on student interest, we may cover topics such as circuitry, Boolean logic, cryptography, computer graphics, and algorithms.

COMPUTER SCIENCE II

One-trimester Course

Building on their work from Computer Science I, students will design and build independent projects in any programming language they choose. Our in-class discussions will expand upon object-oriented programming and will introduce the basics of programming efficiency and runtime calculations.

GEOMETRY

Two-trimester Course

Students will learn to use proofs and logical reasoning to build models of relationships among geometric figures, both real and abstract. The course draws examples from the physical campus at the Putney School and incorporates elements of art and design in real-world applications. Students develop a stronger understanding of the properties of polygons, parallel lines, and circles, as well as a beginning understanding of trigonometry. We will use technology extensively, as well as pencil and paper techniques. More broadly, students strengthen their ability to use mathematical thinking to analyze a wide variety of situations and move toward finding elegant solutions to problems using both creativity and logic.

INVESTMENT AND FINANCE I

One-trimester Course

This course addresses a variety of investment and financial questions including: What are stocks and bonds? How do loans affect one's financial well-being? What are credit ratings? What tools exist in the market for investing according to one's ethical priorities? How do they affect organizations such as The Putney School and its board of trustees? In addition to conceptual investigations and mastering technical vocabulary, we will investigate mathematical concepts from probability (expected value and variability in returns) and functions (exponential growth and amortization).

INVESTMENT AND FINANCE II

One-trimester Course

Building on their work from Investment and Finance I, students will focus on inflation, currency exchange, and recent financial history. Students will then design and implement independent projects on topics of their choice in consultation with the teacher.



PRECALCULUS

Two-semester Course

Students will expand their earlier understanding of functions to model a larger set of nonlinear situations, such as how the amount of sunlight varies cyclically throughout the year and how the levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere are growing, and many examples of circular motion ranging from Ferris wheels to gears and engines. Specific mathematical content includes sinusoidal functions, exponential and logarithmic change, vectors, sequences and series, and probability and combinatorics.

STATISTICS I

One-semester Course

In this course, students will learn a variety of mathematical methods to manage and understand variability in data. We will use many scientific, social, and economic contexts to motivate different techniques. We will begin with ways of summarizing data quantitatively and graphically and then turn to using statistical methods to draw conclusions in the presence of variability. Topics will include linear regression, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing.

STATISTICS II

One-semester Course

Building on their work from Statistics I, students will learn stochastic simulation, sampling theory, and multivariate regression. Students will then design and implement independent projects on topics of their choice in consultation with the teacher.

➡ For more on Mathematics, contact mathematics@putneyschool.org



Science

The study of science at Putney revives, instills and encourages curiosity about the natural world by equipping students with the habits of mind needed to ask and answer questions using the scientific method. Courses introduce fundamental biological, chemical and physical principles through active inquiry, experimentation, direct instruction and exercises in problem solving. Advanced tutorials in the sciences are available and common. Upon graduation, students will have developed an understanding of essential methods and content sufficient for lifelong learning, responsible citizenship and for further study of science at the university level.

ADVANCED CHEMISTRY: CLIMATE CHANGE TOPICS

One-semester Course

Climate change is arguably the most pressing issue of our time. Fast-paced and quantitative, this course advances student knowledge and understanding in chemistry by exploring some of the fundamental science behind climate change processes and mitigation strategies. Students will learn gas laws, how isotopes are used to determine our climate history, and how acid and base chemistry sheds light on the acidification of our ocean's ecosystems. Along with exploring whether fuel cells and biodiesel are effective technologies to combat climate change, students will design and fabricate their own fuel.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I

One-semester Course

Together, anatomy and physiology provide us with an intimate understanding of the form and function of the body's tissues and organs. Throughout this course, students will focus on identifying structures and discovering how their form enables the human body to accomplish remarkable tasks every second of every day. After developing a working knowledge of cellular function, histology, and homeostasis, students will explore three systems of human anatomy and physiology: skeletal, muscular, and cardiovascular. In each section, students will learn relevant anatomical terms, perform laboratory dissections (on animal parts), and design physiological tests to observe processes in action.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II

One-semester Course

Building on the foundational knowledge gathered in the first term, students will collectively select three or four systems to investigate. Possible options include nervous, endocrine, respiratory, immune, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems. For each system of study, students will learn critical anatomical terms, design and implement physiological tests, and employ computer simulations.

BIOETHICS IN MODERN SCIENCE

One-semester Course

In this science seminar, students will explore, navigate, and create systematic frameworks for evaluating ethics in research science. Students will discuss controversial issues that may include human subjects, organism patents, and stem cell research. Using a case study approach, students will practice critical science writing and argumentation in the context of challenging, modern issues, while developing evaluative criteria for scientific research subjects and projects.

CHEMISTRY AND MICROBIOLOGY

Two-semester Course

Chemistry is everywhere—in what we eat, in what we breathe, in how we live, in what we are. Using an understanding of the essentials of chemistry, students will explore fundamental biochemical pathways and cellular processes. Students will learn how cells communicate and replicate, enabling a variety of organisms to maintain a stable internal environment in the face of changing external conditions. The course will also explore how organisms relay information from generation to generation and how these pathways can be disrupted. It will also consider emerging technologies and how they are transforming our collective capacity to understand and manipulate the world on a biochemical level.



COMPLEX SYSTEMS: AGROECOLOGY

One-semester Course

This biology course uses The Putney School and other local farms to explore the sustainability (ecological, economic, and social) of these agricultural systems. Students will study the history of farming in our area, investigate how past and current practices affect the land and economy, and familiarize themselves with soil and plant ecology and how nutrient cycles determine how and what we can grow. In addition to readings, students will use farm visits to practice analyzing the sustainability of farm systems. While the focus will be on dairy farming, students will also work with local vegetable farmers, orchardists, and permaculturists. Final projects will provide the opportunity to delve into agricultural sustainability issues, such as climate change, organics, GMOs, rotational grazing, permaculture, water conservation, and pest management.

COMPLEX SYSTEMS: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

One-semester Course

This elective uses The Putney School campus as a laboratory to learn about sustainable building systems and practices. Students will learn how certain cycles impact life on our planet, how we can intentionally and inadvertently change these cycles, and what we can do to live more sustainably. Students will examine geopolitical, economic, and ecological forces driving our concern about sustainability, especially with regards to energy. Students will investigate the ways we use energy, calculate how this contributes to our carbon footprint, discuss alternative methods for meeting our energy needs, and debate how science, politics, and economics affect our ability to make sustainable decisions.

CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

One-semester Course

In this experiential survey of basic physics concepts, students will design and perform experiments exploring major concepts in physics while developing writing, mathematical description, and data handling skills. This course is intended for any student wanting a basic physics experience.

ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

One-semester Course (science or humanities)

How do we approach, reflect upon, and discuss some of the most pressing environmental issues with which we are currently faced, especially in our seemingly polarized world? This course begins with a foundational study of environmental philosophy, ethics, and argumentation and rhetoric, and will then focus on specific issues such as climate change, economics, and climate justice. Students will learn the fundamentals of critical thinking, as well as the basic theories of environmental ethics. Ultimately, we will use these skills and knowledge to deconstruct how various groups of people discuss climate change through the rhetorical analysis of dialogue and argumentation.

INDEPENDENT TOPICS IN SCIENCE:

LIFE SCIENCE

One-semester Course

This course gives highly motivated and independent students the opportunity to pursue scientific or technological questions of their own design, or take on a challenge such as entry in a science contest. One component of the course will be continuous communication and collaboration with others in the class, regardless of their area of study. To qualify for enrollment, students submit a description of their proposed study, which must then be approved by the science department.

INDEPENDENT TOPICS IN SCIENCE:

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

One-semester Course

This course gives highly motivated and independent students the opportunity to pursue scientific or technological questions of their own design, or take on a challenge such as entry in a science contest. One component of the course will be continuous communication and collaboration with

others in the class, regardless of their area of study. To qualify for enrollment, students submit a description of their proposed study, which must then be approved by the science department.

INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY

One-semester Course

It hardly seems reasonable to detect an object that by its very nature is unobservable, or to claim knowledge of the composition of stars with any scientific certainty. Yet astronomers have reached many such conclusions and we will follow their chain of reasoning. Students will discuss planetary motion, stars and their life cycles, galaxies, and cosmology, and use our observatory to view, image, measure, and make inferences about the objects we find. By the end of the course, students will know their way around the sky and have a sense of the scale of our universe, how it develops over time, and the nature of the objects in it.

INTRODUCTORY PHYSICS

Two-semester Course

Students will look at familiar phenomena from the perspective of an experimental scientist, developing reasoning by deriving equations to make predictions and then designing experiments to test those predictions. Students begin by studying kinematics, Newton's Laws of Motion, momentum, energy, rotational motion, and planetary systems, then concentrate on electricity and magnetism, and end with a brief survey of topics in modern physics.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

One-semester Course

In this investigative, introductory course, students will use scientific inquiry and collaboration to delve into the concepts that lay the foundation for modern molecular biology and genetics, while practicing techniques used in labs around the world. Content includes genetics, probability of inheritance, central dogma of molecular biology, and genetic engineering. In labs, students will build skills and knowledge through a collaborative, problem-solving approach. Students will also consider the power and limitations of the field, and the social implications of the research.

➡ For more on Science, contact science@putneyschool.org



Arts

Involvement in the arts is one of the central Putney experiences, and the academic arts program, encompassing a diverse range of disciplines in the visual and performing arts, forms the core of the arts program. Studio visual art courses seek to increase a student's awareness of the visual world, to support the controlled development of a student's unique imagination and emotion into visible form, and to promote an intellectual understanding of the basic formal elements and technical processes of a discipline. Music courses introduce students to the language and art of music, from both an academic and an aesthetic viewpoint. A full range of theater classes are offered during the academic day, as is a modern dance class with a focus on building both a technical and creative foundation from which to move.

Students in arts courses have the opportunity to continue and expand their interest by participating in the Evening Arts program. In theater, students rehearse, produce and perform a fully staged production twice a year. Various vocal and instrumental ensembles meet during the evening. Dance is represented by Afro-Modern, Latin, and hip hop classes and Dance Ensemble. Studio art classes meet at this time, as well as other non-academic classes such as blacksmithing, jewelry and stained glass. Many students continue their work in the arts during Project Week, and seniors often choose independent study and Senior Exhibitions in the arts, to delve into their media in greater depth and concentration.

ACTING

One-semester Course

How do you know characters deeply enough to inhabit them and portray their point of view? How do you get inside their words and make them your own? This course helps students build skills in acting and its theatrical styles on both the stage and in film. Acting is about making choices in collaboration with a text, its context, and the other people in the room. Students will learn the skills necessary to read well, study cultural context, and understand multiple points of view—all skills that inform how we speak, listen, and act in the world.

CERAMICS I

One-semester Course

Students will learn to work with a variety of hand-building and wheel-throwing techniques, with an emphasis on functional ceramics. Students will explore design elements of form, proportion, and surface, and investigate examples of historical and contemporary ceramics. This course focuses on good craftsmanship and attention to detail, while encouraging innovation and experimentation. Students will learn basic glaze chemistry and how a gas kiln is fired. In the spring trimester, there is a section on collecting local clay, learning about the geology of it, making pots, and pit-firing them.

CERAMICS II

One-semester Course

Building on the foundations provided in Ceramics I, students will challenge themselves with increasingly complex projects and explore areas of their interest in more depth.

CERAMICS III

One-semester Course

Building on their prior ceramics work, students will challenge themselves with increasingly complex projects and explore areas of their interest in more depth.

DANCE INTENSIVE

One-semester Course

In this course, students will explore dance as an evolving art form. Beginning with the development of ballet in its historical context, students will continue with a similar exploration of modern dance. Students will learn basics of both ballet and modern dance through movement and practice, supported by journaling, reading, and viewing recorded and live performances. In addition, students will study anatomy from an experiential perspective, learn basic elements of injury prevention, and how to “listen” to their innate physical intelligence.

DIGITAL FILMMAKING

One-semester Course

Students will explore the use of digital filmmaking as a means of self-expression and as an art form through both narrative and documentary styles. Students will examine the elements of storytelling, composition, cinematography, lighting, sound recording, and editing as they create short films throughout the course. Through viewing a wide variety of filmmakers and film types students will build foundational and historical knowledge of the medium.

DRAWING I

One-semester Course

In this course, students will develop their ability to perceive the world around them and skillfully translate their perceptions to paper. Students will become fluent in expression of the basic elements of visual experience: light, gesture, edge, mass, texture, and space. Subjects will include the human head, the figure, still life, landscape, and interior in a variety of wet and dry media. Students will regularly critique and discuss each other’s work in order to share experiences, identify successful elements in their drawings, and support each other’s efforts.

DRAWING II

One-semester Course

Students will learn to express the perceived world with greater skill and clarity as they develop the expressive elements of a personal style. Students are encouraged to explore new media and approaches and to develop their fundamental skills more fully. Students will also develop a portfolio on a single theme consisting of many extended studies and variations in approach.



FIBER ARTS I

One-semester Course

Through individual projects, students will learn about a wide range of techniques as they create textiles and explore structure, function, color, and design. The primary focus is weaving, though we will also cover spinning, knitting, dyeing, sewing, and quilting. A component of the class is collaborative dialogue among students about design choices and approaches.

FIBER ARTS II AND III

One-semester Course

Students will expand their knowledge of fiber arts through designing projects in their areas of interest. These can include weaving on four- and eight-harness floor looms, exploring color through dyeing cellulose and animal fibers, papermaking, knitting by hand and machine, and clothing design and construction. Students will also research an area of interest and give a presentation to the class.

GUITAR BASICS

One-semester Course

In this comprehensive introduction, students will learn playing technique, basic chords and their structure, and voicing. The course gives students the opportunity to build practical playing skills and familiarity with music theory. This course is intended for students with little to no formal guitar training or experience.

HISTORY AND LANGUAGE OF ART

One-semester Course

Students will gain the skills to look carefully at art. Through study of Western art from the late medieval period to the 20th century, students will learn to see art clearly and relate what they see to its cultural context, with the aim of fostering a lifelong pleasure in looking at art. The class will study works in reproduction and in visits to major museums. Students will also study techniques and materials through hands-on experience with silverpoint drawing, fresco, and oil painting, including the manufacture of selected media from raw materials.

MUSIC COMPOSITION

One-semester Course

Students will explore the creation and notation of musical ideas for acoustic and electronic media. A natural progression from Music Theory II, this course continues the process of learning to create and notate musical gestures and ideas. Students begin with melody writing in modes and scales and progress into counterpoint, harmony, and modern techniques. The structure of the course will be flexible to suit the strengths and desires of the individual student, but will always include at least one composition for acoustic instruments and one for electronic media.



MUSIC HISTORY

One-semester Course

Students will analyze the language and varying styles of music from antiquity until the late 20th century, with a focus on the major eras of Western music composition: Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Post-Romantic/Modern. Students will consider the features of representative composers and their artistic works through intensive study of cultural/societal, historical, and aesthetic contexts. Students will explore the constant dialogue between composer and audience, the crucial role of the interpreter, and the historic role music possesses to both reflect and embrace its time, as well as the potential music has to challenge its environs.

MUSIC INTENSIVE

One-semester Course

This course is designed for musicians who would benefit from a focused and individualized setting in which to develop their skills. The curriculum for the course will be developed by the student in collaboration with the course instructor, though necessarily includes a weekly schedule of at least three hours per week of practice time (in addition to class time and private lessons). The course also requires three short performances (such as performance of a song in school assembly) and a longer final lecture/demonstration.

MUSIC THEORY I

One-semester Course

This course is intended to take musicians with some basic knowledge of the mechanics of music (note reading, beginning familiarity with the keyboard or other pitched instrument) to a deeper understanding of the way music works. The course will focus on the written and aural comprehension of pitch and rhythm, as well as phrase structure, melody, basic harmony, and four-part writing.

MUSIC THEORY II

One-semester Course

Students will delve into deeper topics of music writing and analysis: harmonic progressions, non-chord tones, melody writing, advanced harmonies, modulation, and musical form. We will also introduce basic orchestration and modern compositional techniques. The course will reinforce advanced aural and harmonic skills through technology-based work, culminating in the complete harmonic and structural analysis of a major work for piano in sonata form.



PAINTING I

One-semester Course

This course focuses on developing the expressive and structural elements of painting. Students will come to understand and control color through the expressive application of acrylic, oil, and watercolor paint. Subjects will include the figure, head, still life, landscape, and interior, as well as invented sources and images of personal significance to each student. We will study the works of acknowledged masters and other relevant precedents, both in reproduction and in a visit to a major museum collection. Students will create a cohesive body of work related to a specific theme.

PAINTING II

One-semester Course

This course, intended for students with a strong foundation in drawing and experience painting, allows them to pursue ideas of color and painted form with emphasis on the head, figure, and landscape. The course will stress fundamentals of painting and encourages students to develop a “painterly vocabulary” of color, light, and form. We will address concepts of abstraction and representation as students increase their visual awareness and understanding in relation to their own painting. The course culminates in large-scale paintings and projects based on themes of personal interest to each painter.

PHOTOGRAPHY I

One-semester Course

Through shooting with traditional film cameras, and learning how to develop and print in a darkroom, students will learn the basic science of the photographic process and discover the power of the single B&W photographic image. This course will explore photography as a visual language and the use of design elements such as line, light, and motion to build strong compositions. Students will delve into a variety of photographic genres, including portraiture, narratives, experimental and alternative darkroom techniques. Journals and critiques will help students develop language and the ability to assess both their own work and that of others.

PHOTOGRAPHY II AND III

One-semester Course

Building on the foundations learned in Photography I, students will use independently designed projects and focused portfolios to more deeply explore a genre or learn new photographic techniques such as large format cameras, 19th century processes, and digital photography. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the power of image making and the development of the art form through research projects and presentations on photographers.

PIANO BASICS

One-semester Course

This piano-based course helps students build comfort, ability, and basic functionality at the keyboard. Students will learn proper hand/finger position and coordination, notation reading skills, and basic keyboard harmony. This course is intended for students with little to no formal piano training or experience.



PRINTMAKING I

One-semester Course

In this course, students will focus on learning various printmaking techniques, as well as developing their individual creative processes. Students will explore intaglio (etching, drypoint, and aquatint) and relief (linoleum cut and letterpress). Further emphasis in the class will be on the self-editing process, keeping an active sketchbook, studying the elements and principles of design, looking at historic and contemporary printmakers, and developing an individual and expressive voice.

PRINTMAKING II AND III

One-semester Course

Students in advanced Printmaking classes will explore techniques in intaglio and relief printmaking through sustained individual projects.

SCULPTURE I

One-semester Course

This course guides students in the skills and techniques of sculpture. Students will learn the processes of modeling, carving, and welding using clay, wax, plaster, wood, stone, and metal. Emphasis is on understanding the history and integrity of the material as students create their own sculptures in various media and forms.

SCULPTURE II AND III

One-semester Course

This course allows students with previous sculpting experience to delve into sculptural materials of their preference to create a cohesive series of sculptures or one or two larger single works. Students will be encouraged to experiment, but also to develop mastery of their chosen sculptural techniques.

STUDIO ART INTENSIVE: 2D

One-semester Course

This course gives highly motivated and independent students the opportunity to further develop their skills and interests in drawing, painting, and multimedia visual art. In addition to independently designed projects, students will be introduced to historical and contemporary art practices. Students will participate with visiting artists in our Currier Gallery and at the end of the term students will exhibit their work in the Currier Center. This course will provide an opportunity for seniors to focus on their work in drawing and painting in preparation for their college portfolios.



THEATER ELEMENTS

One-semester Course

Through improvisations, theater exercises, and text and scene analysis, students will acquire knowledge and fluency in all three aspects of theater: acting, writing, and directing. Students will work together to bring the page to the stage as they broaden and deepen their vocabulary for watching and working in theater. This course will also develop diction and increase each student's ability to memorize and speak in front of others.

THEATER INTENSIVE

One-semester Course

This course is designed for advanced theater students interested in pursuing an aspect of theater. Students will choose to direct, perform, or write a play, culminating in a presentation of their work at the end of the trimester.

WORLD DANCE

One-semester Course

This course provides students with an appreciation of dance as an art form by exploring various forms of world dance and cultures. Students will observe dance in live and video formats, perform selected styles of dance, critically read and write about dance, discuss dance as an art form, and explore dance as a cultural reflection. Students will learn to articulate a synthesized understanding of culture, history, and physical movement trends that are common to each dance tradition. Each segment of the class culminates in a final creative project.

➡ For more on the Arts, contact arts@putneyschool.org

ESOL

The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program is designed for students to develop a high level of English proficiency for academic work in the U.S. Our program prepares students broadly, including language training, content education, study skills, and cross-cultural orientation. New students typically take three full-credit ESOL courses for one year and then mainstream in their second year into non-ESOL courses. Other ESOL offerings include two sheltered classes for advanced English learners: one in literature and writing and one in American history and culture. The ESOL program strengthens students' ability to write and speak clearly, work independently, think critically, act cooperatively, and join discussions effectively. Students must demonstrate proficiency at each level of the program before moving to the next level; those who do not may have the option of summer study to prepare for the next level. All seniors must be mainstreamed.

ADVANCED LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Two-semester Course

This transitional course for non-native English speakers is taken before entering mainstream English classes and replicates the experience of a mainstream class. Students learn and practice a range of writing skills, including sentence-level construction and syntax, techniques for stylistic variety, and expository skills for both personal essay writing and formal literary analysis. Through reading and discussion, as well as writing, students improve their ability to express complex ideas in English with nuance and precision.



THEMES IN U.S. HISTORY AND CULTURE

Two-semester Course

Rather than follow a purely chronological approach, this course uses units to consider the American story through different lenses, with an emphasis on the values that define and reflect the culture. "The Land," for example, explores the idea of wilderness, introduces native peoples, and considers the experience of early explorers and settlers. The course prepares English learners from other educational backgrounds for mainstream courses in history and the humanities. Students will learn academic skills that are crucial in the U.S. educational system: note-taking, text annotation, outlining, discussion and oral presentations, doing surveys and interviews, basic research skills, and taking exams in English.

STRUCTURE AND USE

Two-semester Course

This course presents advanced grammar structures, varied reading and writing tasks, discussion tactics, conversation strategies, and ample new vocabulary. By course end, students will be able to use the entire English verb tense system, articles in discourse, conjunctions and logical connectors, relative clauses, causative verbs, the subjunctive, and many other stylistic and structural aspects of the language. In addition to the grammatical work, students consider a range of academic, social, political, and philosophical themes in the forms of news reports, lectures, films, and songs.

ADVANCED ACADEMIC ENGLISH

One-semester Course

Instruction and practice focuses on advanced sentence-level grammatical forms, which the students and teacher identify from an analysis of individual writing. Students will also practice strategies for developing a concise writing style. Challenging readings from across academic disciplines will provide springboards for discussion, writing topics, and vocabulary development, as well as for practice in annotating, outlining, and increasing reading speed. Mastery of academic English is a long-term and ongoing process; this course supports student accomplishment in mainstream classes and future academic work.

afternoons

We believe in the value and importance of exercise for its physical, emotional and spiritual benefits. The afternoon activities program offers a variety of ways for students to be physically active. All students must participate for a minimum of four afternoons per week for two seasons and two afternoons per week for the third. At least two afternoons each trimester must be spent in a physical activity. In addition to athletic and fitness activities, afternoons also include activities offered in the Afternoon Work Program. These activities meet 1–2 times per week and provide a chance for students to practice stewardship of the land, contribute to the functioning of the school through administrative and individualized opportunities, and carry out community service.



Athletics

Competitive sports meet four to five times a week and compete against other schools in the River Valley Athletic League and the Lakes Region League. No tryouts, no cuts. Everyone is welcome.

BASKETBALL TEAM

winter; boys & girls

With the addition of our Net-Zero/LEED Platinum Field House in 2009, the boys and girls basketball teams have grown in numbers, skills, and enthusiasm. The teams emphasize participation, good-spirited play, and aerobic activity.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TEAM

winter; coed

Putney offers both a recreational and competitive cross country ski program on its 40 kilometers of groomed trails. Skiers of all levels have the opportunity to learn skills and technique. Skiers are expected to provide their own equipment, learn how to take care of it, and learn how to wax skis. The school provides waxing facilities and waxes for racing and training. A limited supply of skis are available for novice skiers. Opportunities beyond interscholastic racing are available for serious competitive skiers.

LACROSSE TEAM

spring; boys & girls

Anyone who is willing to work hard can be on the lacrosse teams. Students spend the first weeks getting into shape after a long winter and reviewing the basics of throwing, catching, and cradling. Each member of the team is guaranteed playing time in interscholastic contests and the group works hard to build a team ethic.

ROWING TEAM

fall; coed

The fall rowing program provides an opportunity for novices to learn how to row and for experienced rowers to continue to develop their strength and technique in a boat. Putney's rowing program focuses on sculling and students have the opportunity to row in a single, double, or quadruple scull boat. Emphasis is placed on participation and cooperation rather than competition for a seat in the boat. Advanced rowers are encouraged to compete in fall races such as Putney's own Green Mountain Head.

SOCCER TEAM

fall; boys & girls

The soccer teams welcome players of all abilities and emphasize learning the game well. All who sign up may play. Coaches seek to instill the values of hard work, fitness, participation, fun, sportsmanship, and competition against a background of fundamental athletic training and skill development. The teams train four or five days a week and play a full schedule of home and away games against other schools.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING TEAM

fall; boys & girls

The cross country team emphasizes overall fitness and an appreciation of the beauty of fall in Vermont. Practices are mostly on dirt roads and trails, which the team helps maintain. All participants are expected to commit to high levels of individual effort as well as support of teammates. Workouts are tailored to the fitness and ability of each runner. The runners compete in the Lakes Region League weekly on Wednesdays throughout the fall.

Recreational Sports

All recreational sports are coed, and meet twice a week.

ALPINE SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING

winter

The group travels to Mount Snow on Wednesdays and Sundays. This activity is open to individuals of all skill levels. Mount Snow maintains over 100 trails and has excellent snow making. Rentals and lessons are available and there is also a half-pipe for snowboarders.

BADMINTON

spring

This activity began at the initiative of an enthusiastic and proficient group of students from China, where this sport is very popular. It is a recreational activity where basic badminton skills are taught through a few drills and a lot of fun practice and games.



CLIMBING

spring, fall

This activity meets on Wednesday afternoons for three hours and usually goes off campus to various local climbing areas, exploring a wide range of rock types demanding a variety of climbing styles. Students will also make extensive use of the climbing wall in the Field House when the weather keeps us inside. At the wall, students will focus on building strength, endurance, and technique, making climbing outdoors more productive and also helping to reduce the risk of injury.

CONDITIONING

spring

Students spend the trimester working to develop a comprehensive level of fitness. Workouts are geared toward increased strength and flexibility, utilizing a cross training approach that features running, weightlifting, plyometrics, and other techniques to prepare students for a healthy spring and summer.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

winter

Putney offers both a recreational and competitive cross country ski program on its 40 kilometers of groomed trails. Skiers of all levels have the opportunity to learn skills and technique. Skiers are expected to provide their own equipment, learn how to take care of it, and learn how to wax skis. The school provides waxing facilities and waxes for racing and training. A limited supply of skis are available for novice skiers. Opportunities beyond interscholastic racing are available for serious competitive skiers.

DANCE—BALLET I AND II

all terms

Modern dance, vigorous and invigorating workouts to build full-body strength and gain flexibility and contemporary styles of jazz with an emphasis on rhythm, energy and fun!

LEVEL I: All are welcome, no prior experience is necessary.

LEVEL II: For dancers with previous experience, offering the opportunity to further expand movement vocabulary, strength, and ability. Pointe, variations, and partnering are offered as appropriate.

DANCE—MODERN JAZZ I AND II

all terms

One day a week, dancing to live percussion, students focus on modern dance, combining elements of the Horton, Graham, and Limón techniques, influenced by other diverse styles. On the other day, following a vigorous workout focusing on full-body strength, flexibility, and technique, students explore contemporary styles of jazz with an emphasis on rhythm, energy, and fun!

LEVEL I: All are welcome, no prior experience necessary.

LEVEL II: For dancers with previous experience, offering the opportunity to further expand movement vocabulary, strength, and ability. Partnering and advanced performance techniques are offered as appropriate.

HIGH INTENSITY AEROBIC WORKOUT

all terms

This activity meets from 7:00 to 7:30, five mornings a week. Based on the theories of Dr. John Ratey, this course employs exercises and techniques meant to bring the students' heart rates to 75% to 80% of capacity for a 30-minute period of time, with the exercises and routines varying from day to day. The benefits of this class are not only focused on fitness but can help increase a student's capacity to focus, elevate overall energy levels, and improve mood.

HIKING

fall, spring

Hiking invigorates the body, calms the mind, and stimulates the senses. Most walks will be on trails through the woods and fields in the vicinity of the school. Come prepared to walk with comfortable walking shoes, sneakers or boots, a water bottle, jacket and hat (optional). Students will walk in all weather, with walks designed to bring us back to campus by the end of the activity period.

HORSEBACK RIDING

fall, spring

Riding at Putney can be custom fit to each individual rider's needs. The focus is on the basics of dressage and stadium jumping and cross country jumping, along with miles of trails to explore. The stable is filled with wonderful school horses of various breeds and levels of training. From riding a school master to working with a green horse, students have many opportunities for development. The riding program focuses not only on riding but on horsemanship and animal husbandry. Students learn to care for, tack up, and evaluate their horses for confirmation, soundness and general behavior.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

fall, spring

The group rides on school trails and local dirt roads. There is one long ride each week, and one shorter ride that focuses on technique and other specific skills. Each student is encouraged to ride at other times of the week to best develop their skills and fitness. Occasionally, when the weather is inclement, we will take time to clean and perform routine maintenance on our bikes.

POND HOCKEY

spring

In a fun and invigorating activity, skaters of all levels will learn the basics of the classic, wide-open sport of pond hockey. The emphasis is on having fun, learning teamwork, improving skating and stickhandling, and most importantly getting outside on the ice for some winter exercise.

RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL

fall, spring

Recreational basketball is for girls who would like to engage in the basketball activity two days a week. The emphasis is on movement and fun, along with skill development.

RECREATIONAL ROWING

spring; coed

The spring rowing program is a two-day activity. Participants start the season with dry land training focusing on using the indoor rowing machines as well as developing basic fitness. Once river rowing conditions allow, students transition to practices on the Connecticut River where the focus is on sculling. Students have the opportunity to row in a single, double, or quadruple sculls. Students maintain our fleet of boats, the boathouse, and install our docks.

RENAISSANCE-STYLE FENCING

winter

Renaissance-style fencing is a historical martial art that aims to recreate the techniques of dueling taught by the masters of the 16th century with the addition of modern safety equipment. In practice, it looks like a cross between modern fencing and the stage combat techniques used in popular movies. Students start with basic positions and footwork, learn how to use the blade in attack and defense and, finally, practice actual duels against one another.

RUNNING AND FITNESS

all terms

Students will combine running on our beautiful trail system with stretching and strengthening exercises. The combination is guaranteed to leave students feeling fit and healthy. And it's a great way to work up an appetite for dinner.

SELF DEFENSE

all seasons

The Martial Arts/Self Defense Afternoon Activity will be a collaboration of styles and mindsets designed to unify participants as a team, while encouraging independent strength and growth. Focus is on training both students' physical and mental selves to become confident in their bodies and self defense capabilities. Self reliance is our goal. Students will begin with taekwondo and Brazilian jiu jitsu techniques and move on to more rigorous workouts and complex techniques. By the end of the trimester, we hope to have helped create a space for each student to have accomplished both a physical and mental goal through studying martial arts.

SNOWSHOEING

fall

Snowshoers enjoy scenic tours through the snowy woods, taking advantage of the school's rural campus and miles of trails. If the snow is limited, the group will go hiking instead. The school supplies snowshoes and students learn how to use them and maintain them. Participants learn to appreciate the pace of snowshoe travel, the beauty of the winter landscape, and the ability to travel through areas normally inaccessible the rest of the year, such as wetlands.

TAI CHI

fall, spring

This activity offers students an opportunity to explore a variety of Chinese martial arts and culture. Practices integrate body and mind in relation to nature, to animals, and to the universe. The class environment cultivates the spirit of self discipline and respect of self and others, exercising inner strength and endurance. Students will study the principle of yin and yang balance that is embedded in the movement: slow and fast, soft and determined, inner energy and outer energy. The class traces the tradition, history, and philosophy of kung fu by viewing historical footage along with learning Chinese language.

RECREATIONAL ULTIMATE

fall, spring

Organized as a two-day recreational sport in the fall and spring, Ultimate is a wonderful game to play at the high-school level for its emphasis on conditioning and skills, but especially because it is self-refereed at all levels of play. This challenges young athletes to be honest, calling fouls on themselves even as they try their hardest to win.



ULTIMATE TEAM

fall, spring

This fast growing sport is played by many schools in our River Valley League and Putney competes in a full season of games as well as several tournaments. Ultimate emphasizes good aerobic conditioning, disc skills, team communication, and sportsmanship as required in a sport where players on the field referee their own play. The coed team is open to novice and experienced players.

WEIGHTS AND FITNESS

all terms

Students participate in a variety of resistance activities. The weight room offers free weights, aerobic exercise machines (rowing, running), and strength-training machines. Abilities range from athletes who are training for other sports to people who just want to get in shape. Individualized programs are designed to meet all fitness needs.

WILDERNESS SKILLS

fall, spring

Students will learn the necessary skills and self-confidence to operate in the wilderness with minimal equipment. They will learn shelter construction, how to build and maintain a safe campfire, backcountry cooking, and identification of edible plants. The activity will culminate with a camping trip and the opportunity to stay in a debris shelter overnight. Students will be outside every day, rain or shine, and will alter our tasks based on the weather and season, including fire building in the rain.

YOGA

all terms

Students will learn basic Hatha yoga postures in the Kripalu and Ashtanga traditions. Each class will begin with a flowing series of strengthening and balancing postures, followed by slow stretching and a long relaxation period. We will also learn partner postures.

➡ For more on Athletics, contact athletics@putneyschool.org



Afternoon Work Activities

Afternoon Work activities meet once or twice a week. They are group activities that a student does in addition to their normal job as part of the six-day Work Program.

CARPENTRY

all terms

Students will learn basic carpentry skills, including the use of hammers, saws, measuring tapes, levels, and square. Students assist in ongoing repairs and construction projects on campus.

CHILDCARE

all terms

For students who love working with young kids, this is a chance to do so in the afternoons at Elm Lea Childcare, our on-campus childcare center for infants through five-year-olds. Student workers help out in the afternoon assisting trained child care professionals. Reading books, digging in a small garden, playing tag, some light cleaning, singing to babies, and generally having fun with young children are all part of the activity.

CIDER MAKING

all terms

Students collect apples from campus or at a local orchard, then convert them into cider. This activity emphasizes teamwork and cooperation, both while pressing and, later, while cleaning. Each student rotates through the various tasks so he or she learns all the steps in making cider.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

all terms

Students choose from a variety of volunteer opportunities, primarily working with local schools, nonprofit organizations, or individuals. In the past few years, this has included working with children in the Putney Central School after-school program, at Kurn Hattin Homes assisting in the apothecary, doing clerical tasks at the Sojourns Community Health Clinic, assisting senior citizens with yard work and household chores, assisting the Next Stage Arts Project with clerical and maintenance work in the theater, and doing trail maintenance with the Putney Conservation Commission. Other options may be available based on students' interests.

FARM

all terms

Students participate in all aspects of running a diversified farm. Activities may include fencing, haying, sugaring, animal husbandry (cows, chickens, sheep, pigs, turkeys), building, and clearing land.



GARDENING

all terms

Growing food locally and sustainably is an important way to address global environmental issues. It is also a rewarding and enjoyable way to connect with the earth that sustains us. The work in this activity varies seasonally. In the spring the work involves seeding, transplanting, and work in the greenhouse. In the fall, time is spent harvesting and preserving veggies, flowers, and fruits.

KITCHEN

all terms

Students work in the kitchen preparing dinner for the entire school. They learn basic kitchen skills such as handling a knife and preparing salad and learn cooking techniques such as sautéing, steaming, boiling, and roasting. Duties may also include cleaning and stocking.

LANDSCAPING

fall, spring

Students work on the grounds of the school campus. They prune large and small shrubs, plant, weed, dig, transplant, and plan. Students put gardens to bed, and then wake them again in the spring. They work with all kinds of plants and flowers around campus, and learn about invasive plants, healthy trimming, maintenance, and clean up. Students learn how to think about aesthetic choices in landscaping as well as functional and practical overseeing of the plants around dorms, offices and pathways. The activity involves mostly manual tools and provides a way to fulfill the land use requirement.

MAINTENANCE

all terms

Reality and its practical applications are given the hands-on approach in this activity. Carmelita Hinton's work ethic versus the Victorian school of condescension toward dirt under the fingernails are at the heart here. Entropy, creating order out of chaos, a priori philosophical constructs, and how to unclog a sink drain are all part of learning "grunt" work at Putney.

OFFICE HELP—ADMISSIONS

all terms

The student Admission Office helpers assist with various clerical tasks, including telephone operation, photocopying and assembly of Admission mailing materials. The students also help with outgoing correspondence to prospective applicants and special projects as needed. The office helpers spend two days a week in the Admission Office, from 3:00 – 4:35, as an Afternoon Activity. The Wednesday iteration of this activity meets once weekly, from 1:30 – 4:30. Student assistance is integral to our admission process running smoothly.

PUTTING FOOD BY

all terms

This activity will focus attention to the preservation of food from the gardens here at school. It will combine gardening and food processing and cooking, so that our community can enjoy on-site produced food more often. Students will learn and practice a variety of kitchen and garden skills.



RECYCLING

fall and spring

Recycling is a work activity, responsible for collecting and monitoring our recyclable waste. Students rotate through the buildings collecting recyclables and keeping the collection areas as sanitary and organized as possible. More than just collecting cans, the purpose is to educate the community about the reuse and recycling of waste.

SHEEP FARM AND DYE GARDEN

fall

This activity meets for three hours on Wednesday afternoons in the fall and spring trimesters. Students care for the sheep, including cleaning their pen each week and assisting with trimming hooves and shearing. Students will also wash fleeces in preparation for hand spinning and tend the dye garden. This includes growing plants, weeding, and harvesting dye materials. Students will have the opportunity to dye Putney fleece and yarn with the dye plants that we grow.

SUSTAINABILITY CREW

fall

This activity meets two afternoons a week and allows students the time and guided support to work on projects designed to address the sustainability needs of our school. Projects can range from designing and updating signage and creating assembly presentations to raise awareness about important environmental issues, to conducting campus audits to update the recycling program and researching about concepts like net-zero for educational materials such as magazines and digital tours. Projects must meet a need of the school, but students have autonomy to work on things about which they're passionate.

THEATER LIGHTING TECH

all terms

This activity is responsible for lighting the current play in production as well as other performances. Students work as a team to design a light plan, hang, cable, and focus and gel the lights. This activity is ideal for those who can work methodically and safely to install a plan that uses one of the most nebulous of mediums, pure light in a dark room.

THEATER TECH

all terms

This activity is responsible for the physical elements of the current play in production. Students build and paint the sets and fixtures, creating the magical elements that are part of a theater production. The students are included in the design concept and give input toward that end. They also learn how to use both hand and power tools, to mix colors, and to paint scenery.



TRIMESTER AWAY

all terms

This activity is for students participating in a trimester abroad program. Students will receive credit for a two-day afternoon activity during the trimester away.

WOODS CREW

all terms

This activity involves both firewood preparation and forest management. Students learn to fell, limb, split, stack, and operate a chainsaw. This is a rigorous outdoor activity that acquaints students with Putney's wood lots, teaches them responsible stewardship of the land, and instills in them a sense of self-reliance in a rural setting.

evening arts

Evening Arts extends the artistic and creative possibilities offered to students during the academic day by providing a wide range of arts-based classes in the evening. It is an opportunity for students to try something entirely new, or to delve more deeply into an art form for which they have already developed a passion.

The evening classes meet for 1 ½ hours either once or twice a week for Fall and Winter/Spring terms. Students are required to complete two evenings of activities each term, but with permission from the class deans and the program director, students may take additional Evening Arts classes.



.....
“One thing I think I got from Putney was the assumption that art always has a place in one’s life. You don’t have to be amazingly talented at a craft to really enjoy it, and that kind of “why not give it a try?” attitude has kept me continually exploring new areas all the time.”
.....

—Putney Alum

Visual & Literary Arts

.....

ANIMATION

This workshop gives students the tools and experience needed to create a short animation. Participants will create two short projects using a variety of techniques, including drawn animation, stop-motion, and computer animation, and will create a soundtrack for their films.

BALLROOM DANCE

This activity focuses on the smooth dances: foxtrot, waltz, East Coast swing, West Coast swing, and tango. We will dance a social partnered style of ballroom to learn how to lead and follow, as well as step patterns, and rhythms without a gendered assignment for leaders and followers. Students will have fun while learning how to use their body and communicate with a partner.

BLACKSMITHING

Participants will learn the traditional hammer-and-anvil method of shaping hot metal, using tools and techniques whose origins go back a thousand years or more. The objects we make range from the functional to the artistic, the commonplace to the whimsical. We will emphasize craftsmanship and encourage imagination.

BOOK ARTS

As a group, students will explore books, images, and text by making handmade books. Students will investigate the elements that go into crafting a graphic media, including editing text, graphic design, and illustration. Students will alter books, create books, and explore them as an art form.

BOTANICAL WORKSHOP

Students will prepare and create natural and herbal products by using 100% raw materials, including herbs, plants, and vegetables that are available on campus and from the school gardens. Students will start by researching and finding ingredients for everything from body creams to teas, and will make everything from scratch and finish their products by considering labels and packaging.

CERAMICS

This activity encourages students to explore a variety of methods that are possible for the means of expression with clay. Starting with basic hand-building and wheel-throwing techniques, students have the opportunity to move on to increasingly complex projects of their choosing. Along with different construction methods, students learn a range of surface decoration possibilities, such as texturing, carving, painting with slips and stains, and glaze application.

COMIC AND GRAPHIC NOVELS

This studio explores techniques of drawing and storytelling in the comic/graphic novel format. Students will develop work on different themes to create short stories using pictures, panels, and words. Class work is printed and participants contribute to a compilation book. Advanced students work with their own characters and ideas and produce their own complete comics.

CREATIVE WRITING

Participants will explore self-expression through an informal writers workshop. Students will dabble in a variety of genres, including fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Prompts and exercises will provide a way to get started, or students may work on their own projects. Participants should be prepared to share their writing from time to time with the group.

DIGITAL FILM-MAKING

What does it take to be an indie filmmaker? Students of all experience levels will get hands-on with all the gear needed to make films, learn how to write a convincing script and pitch it, then dive in and see how to get great acting performances on set while making a guerrilla-style movie with a small, tight-knit crew.

FIGURE DRAWING

Devoted exclusively to drawing the human form from observation, this activity gives students the opportunity to observe and express the structure, gesture, anatomy, and form of the live model in a variety of drawing and printmaking media. Students will look at precedents in art history and add substantially to their college and art school portfolios.

FIGURE SCULPTURE

Students will work from live models to create a series of pieces in oil-based clay or wax. This activity focuses on the process of making, not on the objects made. All wax and clay works will be recycled at the end of the class.

ILLUSTRATION

This activity explores the world of picture book illustration. Along the way, students will use a variety of mediums: acrylics, watercolors, pen and ink, paste papers, collage, graphic novels, and more. Students will also look at great illustrators of the past 100 years, both traditional and experimental. In the end, students will create and print a few collaborative picture books of their own.

JEWELRY

This activity focuses on making silver jewelry, but students may make other objects as well. Students will also work with other metals such as brass, copper, and materials that can be combined. Students will acquire skills in basic hammering, sawing, and forging, as well as setting stones in bezels and finishing techniques.

KNITTING

Students will increase their competency in knitting while they enjoy a congenial evening. All levels welcome, though an emphasis is placed on beginner and intermediate levels.

LEATHER WORK

Students will learn the basic concepts of working with leather while developing skills for designing patterns and utilizing materials, tools, sewing, and finishing techniques. Wallets, bags, and pouches are only the first step.



LITERARY MAGAZINE

Students will help make the Literary Magazine a reality. A part of a team of writers, artists, photographers, and editors, students will design Putney's magazine and publish a variety of creative talents from our community. Participants will help recruit, promote, select, lay out, and produce this stellar and well-loved yearly publication.

METAL SCULPTURE

This activity gives students the opportunity to express their creative selves by learning the techniques of sculpting in metal: cutting, bending, denting, grinding, welding and polishing.

MIXED MEDIA ART: RECYCLE, REUSE, CONSTRUCT

Using a variety of construction techniques to manipulate paint, fabric, paper, and found objects, students will explore recycling, reusing, and re-appropriating materials to make art. Students will start with collage and investigate the two-dimensional world, then work with three-dimensional sculptures and finish by exploring the fourth dimension of time.

PAINTING

This activity introduces new students to painting and affords more experienced students the opportunity for further practice, growth, and development. Students will explore color theory, painting from observation and from imagination, and materials and mediums. Students will look at work that interests them and try to understand the techniques employed to achieve the desired results.

PHOTOGRAPHY: B&W

Students will learn to use a 35mm camera, process film, and print in the school's darkroom. We will also explore experimental techniques and alternative cameras. For those with a background in traditional photography, this activity is an opportunity to investigate the medium further.

PHOTOGRAPHY: DIGITAL

After achieving an understanding of exposure and camera operation, students will learn Photoshop skills to create digital art that explores a variety of concepts, such as layering imagery and photomontage. In addition to capture and composition skills, students will learn basic digital processing techniques to help photos better reflect their artistic vision. Interested students may explore specialized techniques such as time-lapse, light painting, B&W, or HDR.



PRINTMAKING

Students will work with a variety of etching techniques. We will explore hard ground and soft ground etching, aquatint, spit bite, sugar lift, and white ground. Depending on experience, students will make many small plates, using a different technique on each plate, or make one image that incorporates all the techniques.

SCULPTURE: PLASTER/CLAY/WAX

Students will study figure sculpture and develop ways of abstracting the figure, working first in plaster with an emphasis on non-representational free form sculpture. Students will also work in wax and clay, likely completing four to six sculptures.

SEWING AND QUILTING

This activity covers a variety of basic sewing skills. Students can choose to focus on quilting techniques or learn to sew clothing from commercial and original patterns. Instruction in embroidery, alterations and embellishments will also be offered.

SMART OBJECTS

Students will build, sew, and hack electronics into everyday objects for the purpose of artfully designing tools that explore interaction with the world. This interdisciplinary activity introduces embedded computing, basic electronics, and some mechanical engineering.

STAINED GLASS

Students will explore stained glass using lead-free solders and copper foil. We will learn to cut glass, break and grind it, wrap with foil, and solder together to complete a beautiful work of art. After some experience with this process, 3D formats are also an option to create sculptural mobiles and small boxes.

WEAVING

Students will learn the fundamentals of weaving by designing and creating individual projects on four- and eight-harness floor looms. Projects may include scarves, clothing, blankets, rugs or tapestries. Students can also explore other fiber-related techniques, including spinning, dyeing, and knitting.

WOODWORKING

Students in this activity will receive instruction and suggestions on design, construction techniques, and the uses of both hand and power tools. Each student must complete at least one project by the end of the semester.

Music

AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN DRUMMING

Students will explore African, Caribbean, and Brazilian percussion music in a fun, relaxed, and supportive environment. We will learn drumming techniques, traditional rhythms, improvisation, and how to create our own percussion music.

CHAMBER MUSIC

This activity offers instrumentalists the ability to expand their musical skills through exploration, study, and performance of the classical chamber ensemble repertoire. Participants will receive coaching on style, phrasing, and historical practice, while learning how to effectively cooperate with a smaller group of artists. The repertoire will be selected based on the abilities and instruments of the enrolled students. Preparation of assigned music and practice outside of class is expected.

JAZZ I ENSEMBLE

Students will gain the musical tools needed to become improvising players. The group affords students the opportunity to improvise and create imaginative solos in a variety of jazz styles, including the blues. Rehearsals incorporate jazz theory into performance practice. The activity focuses on how to jam and rehearse effectively while developing skills and an individual style. The group performs publicly when appropriate. Full-year commitment.



Theater, Dance, Meditative & Culinary Arts

MADRIGALS

In the choral ensemble of The Putney School, participants will build musicianship and artistry through the performance of a challenging and varied repertoire. Rehearsals focus on diction, ensemble vocal technique, intonation, rhythmic precision, interpretation, and style. The ensemble emphasizes standard choral literature from all historical periods of Western musical practice, while exploring contemporary and modern choral compositions. Madrigals meets one evening and sectionals are one afternoon per week. The group performs frequently. Full-year commitment.

MUSIC LESSON AND PRACTICE

This activity combines a weekly lesson with a scheduled practice time, so that students will benefit from the structure of both instruction and practice within the busy Putney schedule.

MUSIC PRODUCTION

This activity focuses on individual production styles and techniques, with each student experimenting in a chosen DAW (digital audio workstation). We will focus on live audio recording, computer-based music creation, the fundamentals of mixing, and playful production techniques. Working on their own laptops or on the computers in the MIDI lab, students will engage in creative collaborations such as scoring mini films and creating class-wide “mashup” songs.

PUTNEY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Open to all players of orchestral instruments from the advanced beginner level and up, this ensemble is dedicated to music for string, chamber, and full orchestra (including works with chorus) from various historic time periods. Students are often featured as soloists..

SONGWRITING

As a group, students will investigate the elements that go into crafting songs: lyrics, melodies, rhythm, chord progressions, arrangements, sounds, emotion, and inspiration. Students will listen to examples of great songs and split up into groups to create mini songs to share with each other each week. Students can also bring in songs they have been working on to workshop in class, and we will aim toward a performance of new material in the final weeks.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Bluegrass and Irish fiddle tunes, Appalachian folk songs, and contra and square dances all have their roots in the Celtic music brought over by Scots-Irish immigrants. Students will explore the music and dance of the Celts home countries (Ireland, Scotland, and France) as well as what they morphed into once they came here. Students will jam in a big group and also split into smaller combos of matched abilities. This is a class for interested musicians/dancers of any level.

CULINARY ARTS

Developing a repertoire of basic cooking skills and educating the palate are life-long endeavors. This activity takes a hands-on approach to the world of cooking, food, and taste, with a focus on Latin American countries and dishes. Students will begin each class by learning a basic cooking or baking skill and will also learn about the culture of food through related historical, social, political, and artistic materials. Weekly tastings will be an important part of the activity.

DANCE ENSEMBLE

This activity offers experienced and dedicated dancers the opportunity to grow deeper as dancers and artists while being part of a performing ensemble. We will work together to create and rehearse works for the Spring Gala Dance performance and potentially perform at other local venues. The season’s repertoire will include at least one featured guest choreographer, who will create a work with dance ensemble dancers, as well as opportunities for student choreography. Commitment, diligence, and tenacity are necessary. Full-year commitment is preferred.

HIP HOP DANCE

This dance activity increases rhythmic awareness and timing while exploring a full range of body mechanics. The class incorporates break dancing, pop-locking, freezes, power moves, and a touch of jazz.

LATIN DANCE

Students will learn basic footwork, dance positions, and connections between partners. A partner is recommended but not required. Ability to play both leader and follower is a plus. Students will also focus on learning the basics of salsa, merengue, cumbia, and more.

MEDITATION

Students will cultivate mindfulness, which is defined as present-moment awareness. We will learn how to pay attention, in the present moment, to whatever arises, in a non-judgmental way. The awareness that comes out of paying attention in this way allows us to center ourselves and to develop clarity of mind and

stability. Students will cultivate mindfulness through practices such as gentle stretching, eating, sitting, and walking meditation. Students will also learn ways in which we can bring mindfulness into our daily lives.

PERFORMANCE ART WORKSHOP

This activity explores the ways in which various forms of performance inspire political and social change. We will learn how artists have used performance as protest, from the Dada movement to Lennon and Ono’s famous “Bed-in for Peace” and today’s highly-debated performances such as Beyoncé’s “Formation” halftime show. Students will try out “performance” in their daily actions and on a larger scale through theater, movement, and dance in hopes of sparking dialogue and creating expressive work.

TAP DANCE

Students will learn the basic elements of tap and refine them with a musical theater focus. We will explore rhythm and sound in a fun and physical setting.

THEATER

All students, faculty, and staff are invited to audition for the fall and winter/spring theater productions. We will perform two short plays in the last four days of Project Week in December. We will learn how to read the way an actor reads, memorize lines, and block movement. Rehearsals are delightfully intense, ask everyone to bring their best energy to the group, and require both a seriousness of purpose and a penchant for play. In addition to the evening time slot, rehearsals happen Sunday afternoons for the fall and spring terms, though not everyone is required every Sunday. Because of the collaborative work, once the show is cast, students may not change despite the add/drop period.

BELLY DANCE

This dance activity draws inspiration from the nomadic and Romani groups of northern India, North Africa, the Middle East, and Spain. Music ranging from traditional Middle Eastern to Arab-American-Balkan electronica will drive each class. The movement is funky and strong, utilizing torso isolations and a literal interpretation of rhythm and melody.

jobs

Students learn how to do fundamental human activities that form the foundation of life. Jobs are led by students who are organized by a student-run Work Committee. Jobs are done six days each week for 30–40 minutes each day. Students rotate jobs each trimester and must satisfy the following six work distribution requirements:

- Lunch Service
- Dinner Waiter
- Barn
- Dish Crew
- General Substitute
- Land Stewardship



leadership positions



“Putney remains my benchmark when I talk about a ‘socially sustainable’ community and a healthy community in general. When I think about how I’d like human societies in the future to function, Putney seems a pretty good model. Democratic, local, considerate of all opinions and views and everybody being equal in status.” —Putney Alum

STUDENT HEADS OF SCHOOL

The Student Heads of School set the tone for the school community; upholding the “Fundamental Principles” and the core expectations described in the Student Handbook (integrity, respect, participation and stewardship).

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Standards Committee reviews disciplinary cases with the dean of students.

STUDENT TRUSTEES

The Student Trustees represent the thoughts and concerns of the student body to the Head of School and the Board of Trustees.

STUDENT HEAD OF DORMS

The Student Head of Dorms work closely with the student/adult dorm heads and the dean of students to help implement and maintain the systems that ensure a safe, fun and educational residential life program.

STUDENT HEADS OF WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

The Student Heads of Weekend Activities create fun and exciting activities for students to participate in during the weekends.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Educational Programs Committee (EPC) oversees all the educational programs of the school.

WORK COMMITTEE

The Work Program provides a setting in which young adults can further their understanding of the relationships between work, home and community life.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Admission Committee members help to shape the future of the school by reviewing student applications for the upcoming school year and making admission decisions.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Diversity Committee works to educate the school community about the political, social and social justice issues which arise in a pluralistic society, and to support students for whom life in Vermont may be radically outside their previous experience.

INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS

International Ambassadors serve as mentors for and give support to all new international students via email or Skype during the summer, and then throughout the year.

SUSTAINABILITY SQUAD LEADERS

Student Sustainability Coordinators act as chief proponents of sustainability and environmental affairs on and around the Putney School campus.

DAY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The Day Student Representatives work closely with the Dean of Student's office to ensure the needs of the day student population are being met. They are also mentors and a vital resource to the day students and their families.

GIRL AND BOY STUDENT DORM HEADS

Student Dorm Heads plan and work closely with Faculty Dorm Heads, help set the tone of the dorm, create fun events to bring the dorm together, mediate disputes within the dorm and help orchestrate and participate in dorm jobs.



CABIN DWELLERS

The cabin program is a unique element of the Putney program and demands a high degree of leadership, responsibility and trust.

PUTNEY OUTDOOR PROGRAM

The Putney Outdoor Program encompasses afternoon activities, weekend trips and our long-standing tradition of campus-wide trips called Long Fall.



OUR FACULTY

To learn more about our faculty and to contact them directly, visit our staff and faculty directory at www.putneyschool.org/sf

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