



*New Student Orientation*  
Mr. Atkins

*Create, Believe, Dream, Achieve*

<https://www.facebook.com/connectionsvpaa/>



- Welcome to a great high school!
- Connections and Summerville are fully integrated programs
- Grade Level Coordinator, GLC---We're here for students!
  - Problem Solving –
    - Ask another student or friend – parent – teacher - GLC
  - Mr. Atkins – Connections
    - [datkins@summbears.net](mailto:datkins@summbears.net)
  - Mrs. Osterhout – 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, sports
    - [josterhout@summbears.net](mailto:josterhout@summbears.net)
  - Mr. Sweitzer – 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>
    - [ssweitzer@summbears.net](mailto:ssweitzer@summbears.net)
  - Principal of Connections and Summerville- Kellene Ditler
    - [kditler@summbears.net](mailto:kditler@summbears.net)
  - School Phone 928-4228



# Crisis Counselors and SRO

- Monique Nelson
  - [mnelson@summbears.net](mailto:mnelson@summbears.net)
- Kevin Wychopen
  - [kevinw@summbears.net](mailto:kevinw@summbears.net)
- Campus Security Officer- Deputy Ashley Boujikian
  - [aboujikian@cotuolumne.ca.us](mailto:aboujikian@cotuolumne.ca.us)

Meet your  
School Counselors!



# Connections Visual & Performing Arts Academy

- Highlights
  - Academics, course offerings, career/college planning, setting (small rural high-school), fields, one to one technology, teachers, administrators, strict discipline, respectful students, great community!
  - Choir, Band, Art, Film, Drama, Technical Theater, Ballet, Dance, Photography, Guitar, Piano
  - Athletics- Fall, Winter, Spring (open to Connections students)
  - Clubs (Robotics, Service, World, Ecology, Ski, Sporting, Debate, etc.)
  - CTE pathways (Manufacturing Applications, Automotive Technology, Agricultural, Biomedical, Law Enforcement),
  - [www.summbears.net/schools/connections-visual-performing-arts-academy/](http://www.summbears.net/schools/connections-visual-performing-arts-academy/)





## *Where do they go?*



Graduates from Connections VPAA have attended: The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Occidental College, Berklee College of Music, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, USC, UOP, University of Portland, Western Washington University and many California State Universities. Several graduates have travelled as cast members for the Young Americans.



# School Rules

- Positive Climate
- Strict Rules and Consequences
- Absences- Must notify the office w/in 3 days to excuse absences- email Attendance Clerk- [tclark@summbears.net](mailto:tclark@summbears.net) (Trichelle)
- Students do their part
- Common Sense
- Disruption
- Cameras everywhere
- Language
- Detentions, Saturday School, exclusion
- Serious Offenses: Drugs, Alcohol, Fights; expulsion
  - Be smart

# Discipline

- **Behavior**

- *Accountable for online and in-person behavior*
- *Respectful interactions – prepare for your future*
- *Pick up after self*
- *See Something, Say Something*
- *THINK before you post – any social media*
  - *True*
  - *Helpful or Hurtful?*
  - *Inspiring or illegal?*
  - *Necessary*
  - *Kind*



# Vaping

- “Epidemic”
- JUUL, Dab, Mods, Drops
- Student victims- Customers, Addicts
- Addiction doesn’t go away
- Mood swings
- Searching
- Canine Detection
- edibles



# iPads

- 1:1 iPad--
- Check out for the school year
- Don't let others use
- Set boundaries with student
  - 10pm deadline
  - Charging station out of their room/ bring fully charged when returning to campus
  - Filtered 24/7 but...kids are smart. Please be aware of their use
- Leave chargers at home!
- Report issues immediately to GLC(/loss/damage within 24 hours)
- Theft-police report required w/in 72 hours for insurance
- School property/ can be searched at anytime





# Cell Phone Policy

- Make “offline, unplugged” time every day!!
- Research says depression, mood swings, anxiety, mental health risks increase with overuse of electronic devices
  - Cell phones are NOT allowed in class
  - Most discipline on campus is connected to cell phones/SnapChat- know what your kids are up to
  - manage iPad use as well
    - Set hours, charge overnight in kitchen, devices off at 10pm



# Block Schedule

- \*\*\*Hopefully next year
- Rotating Block Schedule A,B
  - Periods 1-4 on A days
  - Periods 5-8 on B days
- 7:55 - 3:05 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
- 7:55 - 2:05 Thursday and Friday
  - attendance is critical
- 0 period options (ASB/Student Government and Jazz Band)

# Parent Opportunities to Help

- C.A.S.T.- Creative Arts Support Team
  - Help fundraise for our students- scholarships, new equipment, etc. Current President is Kate Narron email [katenarron@me.com](mailto:katenarron@me.com) for more info:) 3rd Tuesday every month
  - [Facebook Page](#)
- Connections Advisory Board
  - Discuss school issues, budget, etc. 3rd Tuesday every month
  - email Mr. Atkins [datkins@summbears.net](mailto:datkins@summbears.net)
- Skills/Talents (fundraising, baking, costumes, make up, etc.- let us know)



# COURSE SELECTIONS

- Read Carefully
  - 5 required courses
  - 3 electives (Spanish 1 for 4 year college bound)
  - 2 alternates
- At least two classes must be in the Visual and Performing Arts to be in Connections
  - Ballet/Dance and Spanish count
- Consider support classes for English/Math
- Teacher recommendations for honors and math

Connections Visual & Performing Arts Academy 9th Grade 2021-22	
LAST NAME _____	FIRST NAME _____ DATE _____
PARENT SIGNATURE _____	
<b>POST GRADUATION PLANS</b> Check all that may apply. <input type="checkbox"/> 4 year college <input type="checkbox"/> Community college <input type="checkbox"/> Trade/Technical school <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<b>ELECTIVE COURSES (circle 3 choices)</b> Required Courses + Elective Courses = 8 periods (CP) meets College Prep in this subject area
<b>REQUIRED COURSES</b> <u>(circle one in each subject)</u> (CP) meets College Prep in this subject area  <b>English</b> Teacher recommended:  101 English I (CP)  117 English I Pre-AP (CP) by exam and teacher approval  <b>Mathematics</b> Teacher initials: _____  233 Math IA  179 Math I (CP)  180 Math II (CP)  <b>Science</b> 237 Physical Science/Earth Science (CP)  <b>Non-Departmental</b> Last name begins with: 794 A-L Health 793 M-Z Keyboard/Careers  <b>Physical Education</b> 300 Coed Core PE 301 Dance/Ballet 330 Adv. Dance * _____	<b>FINE ARTS</b>  <b>Art</b> 451 Art 1 (CP) 804 Filmmaking I (CP) 527 Photography I (CP)  <b>Drama</b> 805 Drama (CP) 797 Technical Theater  <b>Vocal Music</b> 667 Varsity Choir (CP) 653 Jazz Choir (Jazz @ 8)* (CP)  <b>Instrumental Music</b> 659 Jazz Band (CP) by audition (0 period) must also take #658 658 Orange Crush Band (CP) 661 Beginning Band (CP) 668 Piano (CP) 670 Guitar (CP)  <b>Foreign Language</b> 351 Spanish I (CP)
	<b>CTE Certificate Pathways</b>  <b>Automotive Technology</b> 531 Mechanics  <b>Agriculture Science</b> 401 Introduction to Ag Sci (CP) 401 Introduction to Ag Sci (CP)  <b>Biomedical Pathways</b> 245 Principles of Biomedical Science  <b>Non-Departmental</b>  282 Speech, Debate & Court Law 270 Student Government (0 period- 6:55am-2:30's per week)  <i>May choose only one-</i> 148 Language Arts Development 187 Math Support Class  <i>Staff Use</i> 846 848
	Please circle which season(s) you will be involved in a sport Fall Winter Spring  Sometimes elective choices are unavailable due to scheduling conflicts. Please write the name and section number of 2 back up electives  #1 Course Name: _____ # _____ #2 Course Name: _____ # _____
Student Goals/Interests: _____	

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**POST GRADUATION PLANS**

Check all that may apply:

- ☐ 4 year college  
☐ Community college  
☐ Trade/Technical school  
☐ Military  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED COURSES**  
**(circle one in each subject)**

(CP) meets College Prep in this subject area

**English**

Teacher recommended:

**101** English 1 (CP)**117** English 1 Pre-AP (CP)  
by exam and teacher approval**Mathematics**

Teacher initials:

**233** Math IA**179** Math I (CP)**180** Math II (CP)**Science****237** Physical Science/Earth Science (CP)**Non-Departmental**

Last name begins with:

**794 A-L** Health**793 M-Z** Keyboard/Careers**Physical Education****300** Coed Core PE**301** Dance/Ballet**330** Adv. Dance \* \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**ELECTIVE COURSES (circle 3 choices)**

Required Courses + Elective Courses = 8 periods

(CP) meets College Prep in this subject area

**FINE ARTS****Art****451** Art 1 (CP)**804** Filmmaking 1(CP)**527** Photography1 (CP)**Drama****805** Drama (CP)**797** Technical Theater**Vocal Music****667** Varsity Choir (CP)**653** Jazz Choir (Jazz @ 8)\* (CP)**Instrumental Music****659** Jazz Band (CP) by  
audition (0 period) must also  
take #658**658** Orange Crush Band (CP)**661** Beginning Band (CP)**668** Piano (CP)**670** Guitar (CP)**Foreign Language****351** Spanish 1 (CP)**CTE Certificate Pathways****Automotive Technology****531** Mechanics**Agriculture Science****401** Introduction to Ag Sci (CP)**401** Introduction to Ag Sci (CP)**Biomedical Pathways****245** Principles of Biomedical Science**Non-Departmental****282** Speech, Debate & Court Law**270** Student Government (0 period-  
6:55am2- 3x's per week)

May choose only one-

**148** Language Arts Development**187** Math Support Class

Staff Use

**846****848**

Please circle which season(s) you will be involved in a sport

**Fall**                      **Winter**                      **Spring**

*Sometimes elective choices are unavailable due to scheduling conflicts.*  
*Please write the name and section number of 2 back up electives*

#1 Course Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Course Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

*Student Goals/Interests:*



# ***Electives offered at Summerville High and Connections Academy***





**Mr. Johnson**

I have been teaching at Summerville/Connections for 11 years and in Tuolumne County for nearly 20. I love this school and love teaching these CRAZY, FUN BAND KIDS and leading them in concerts, parades, football games and basketball games.

**ORANGE CRUSH BAND**

**ZERO HIBERNATION  
JAZZ BAND**

**BEGINNING BAND**

**BEGINNING GUITAR**

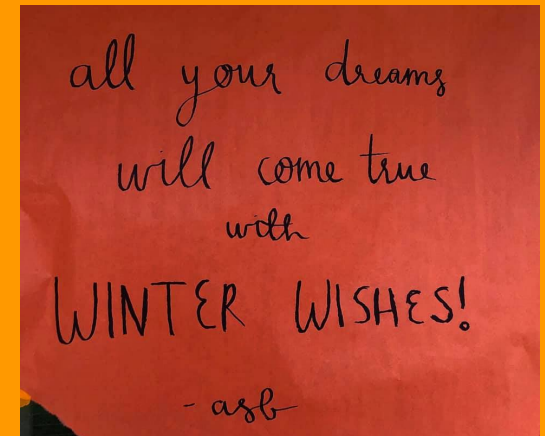
**BEGINNING PIANO**



# STUDENT GOVERNMENT/ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY (ASB)

In ASB we are training students to become great leaders through leadership activities, conventions and work on campus. Our goal is to inspire leaders to create a culture of ownership, collaboration and community in the classroom and on campus. We enjoy coming up with creative ways to make the campus fun and inviting.

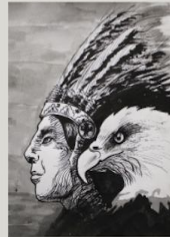
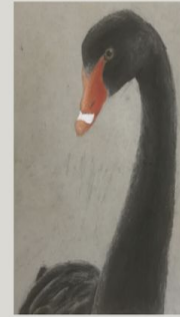
-o period (Meets A-G elective)





# Art 1

Learn the foundations of  
**DRAWING** and **PAINTING!**



Learn  
techniques with  
a variety of  
materials:

- ◆ graphite
- ◆ colored pencil
- ◆ charcoal ◆ ink
- ◆ watercolor
- ◆ acrylic paint
- ◆ printmaking

**EXPRESS  
YOURSELF!**



Ms. Castle,  
Art Teacher

# Art 2



Advance your skills. Develop your style.  
Deepen your understanding of art in society.



TAKE YOUR ART  
TO THE NEXT  
LEVEL!

- ◆ Visual Communication
- ◆ Figure Drawing
- ◆ Artistic Strategies
  - ◆ Advanced Techniques
  - ◆ Portfolio Development



Ms. Castle,  
Art Teacher



# Art 3/4

This course is for 3rd or 4th year students who are ready for real-world artist experience.



## DIVE DEEP INTO YOUR ART!

- ◆ Independent Artist Practice
- ◆ Peer Leadership
  - ◆ Portfolio Development
- ◆ Community Art Projects
- ◆ Art Shows



Ms. Castle,  
Art Teacher

# BEGINNING & ADVANCED FILMMAKING

- Learn the foundations of filmmaking
- Hands-on experience with filmmaking equipment
- Learn the fundamentals of video editing software (iMovie and Adobe Premiere Pro)
- Watch movies and learn how to make them!

*[FILM CLASS WEBSITE- Click Here](#)*

Mr. Bainbridge has a background in film production and loves sharing his passion for moving and still images with students!



# BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY

- Learn the foundations of digital photography
- Hands-on experience with photography equipment
- Learn the fundamentals of photo editing software (Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom)
- Learn how to take great pictures and have fun doing it!

**Mr. Bainbridge has a background in film production and loves sharing his passion for moving and still images with students!**

- 
- # BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY
- Learn the foundations of digital photography
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# BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY

- Learn the foundations of digital photography
- Hands-on experience with photography equipment
- Learn the fundamentals of photo editing software (Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom)
- Learn how to take great pictures and have fun doing it!

**Mr. Bainbridge has a background in film production and loves sharing his passion for moving and still images with students!**



# ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY

- Further develop personal artistic style and voice
- Hands-on experience with advanced photography equipment
- Develop advanced post-processing techniques (Adobe Photoshop)
- Learn the foundations of video production
- Photography field trips

Mr. Bainbridge has a background in film production and loves sharing his passion for moving and still images with students!



READY TO BE  
SEEN  
AND HEARD?

# Take Drama

With Van Gordon  
at:  
Connections/  
Summerville High

[vgordon@summbears.net](mailto:vgordon@summbears.net)





# Music With Mr. Wells

**Varsity Choir and Jazz @8 (audition required)**



Contact Me:  
[jwells@summbears.net](mailto:jwells@summbears.net)

*Hi! I having been teaching choir since, well, quite a long time. Fifty years.  
What !!!!!!!*

*I love many styles of music. Billie Eilish is one of my favorites. Anything A cappella.  
Dissonance rules (look it up).*

## **Jazz @8 Highlights**

- Trips to Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo
- Out of state competitions
- Local performances



# **Summerville High School**

## **Career Technical Education**

Courses are offered at Summerville in these Industry Sectors

HEALTH SCIENCE  
AND MEDICAL  
TECHNOLOGY



TRANSPORTATION

MANUFACTURING  
AND PRODUCT  
DEVELOPMENT



AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES

PUBLIC SERVICES



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# CTE Certificate of Completion

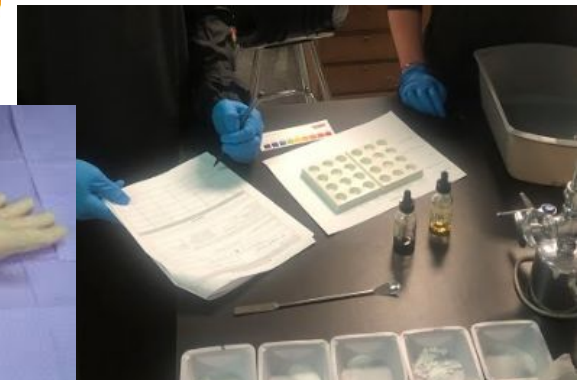
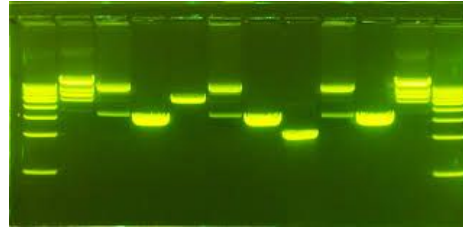
**Students that complete all requirements in a CTE Certificate Program including 40 credits of classes within that program will receive a certificate of completion in that pathway.**





# Biomed 1: Principles of Biomedical Science

- ❑ **Medical Investigation:** Learn how to analyze a crime scene, read polygraphs, fingerprints, blood spatters, compare DNA profiles, read autopsy reports, calculate time of death, test for toxic substances, dissect a heart and more!
- ❑ **Clinical Care:** learn about patient care and privacy, learn how to take vital signs, practice diagnose disease, learn to draw blood, analyze DNA to
- ❑ **Outbreaks and Emergencies:** track down an outbreak at a hospital, learn about wilderness first aid and survival, design your own mobile medical facility
- ❑ And much much more!



# Intro to Agriculture



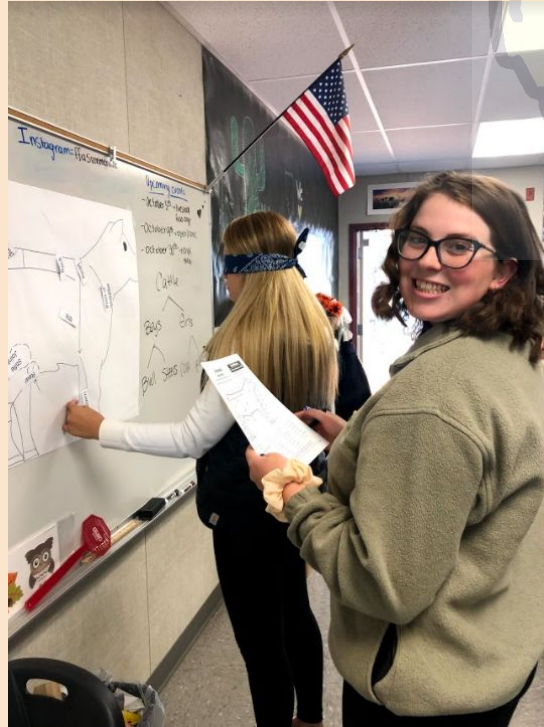
**Learn the basics of the  
Agriculture Industry!**

- ★ **Plant Science**
- ★ **Animal Science**
- ★ **Soil Science**
- ★ **Hands on Learning!**
- ★ **The National FFA  
Organization**





# Advanced Animal & Plant Systems



- ★ Forestry
- ★ Animal Nutrition
- ★ Crop Production
- ★ Vet Science

# Agriculture Leadership

- ★ Career Preparation
- ★ Leadership Development
- ★ FFA Event Planning
- ★ Community Service
- ★ Agricultural Policy
- ★ Public Speaking





# Mechanics Class

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Do you enjoy working with your hands?

Want to learn by doing?

Then the mechanics class is for you!!

What do we do in this class?

We do----

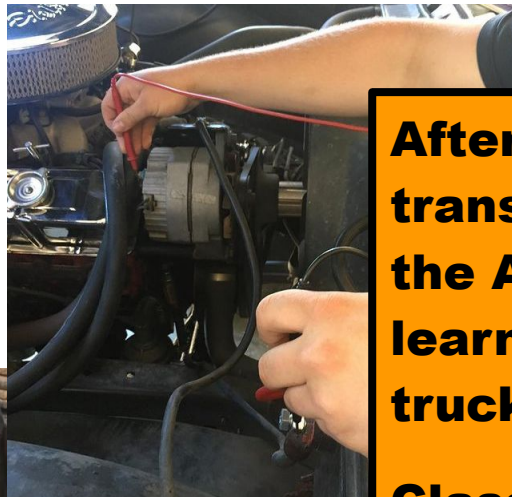
- Engine Work
- Welding
- Sheet Metal
- Woodworking
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Plus More!



**Cutting  
Torch**



# Transportation



**After Mechanics - You can take the transportation route and complete the Automotive Service Pathway to learn all about working on cars and trucks.**

**Classes - General Automotive**

**Advanced Automotive**

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# Manufacturing and Product Development



**After Mechanics - You can take the manufacturing and product development route and complete the Manufacturing Pathway to learn all about building things.**

**Classes - Manufacturing applications**

**Advanced Manufacturing**





## Jensen wins local speech contest

Sabrina Jensen, a student at Summerville Union High School, won first place in the California Lions Student Speech Contest in Sonoma and has moved one step closer to winning college scholarships.

Jensen beat out five other contestants with her speech on "Freedom of the Press: What Does it Mean?" Speeches are judged on supporting evidence, conclusion, emphasis, voice control, enunciation, pronunciation, sincerity, enthusiasm, poise, effort, logic, organization, persuasiveness and adherence to the topic. Judging was held Feb. 13 at the Tuolumne County Senior Center.

Jensen will advance to district competition. The ultimate winner of the contest will accrue scholarships worth \$10,000.

"Our club is proudly promoting Sabrina as she advances in the competition, and we hope that her self-expression and independent thinking inspires the public's perspective on this topic," said Lions Club President Kenny Ayers.



Courtesy photo / Sonoma Lions Club  
Sabrina Jensen

# Court Law, Speech, and Debate

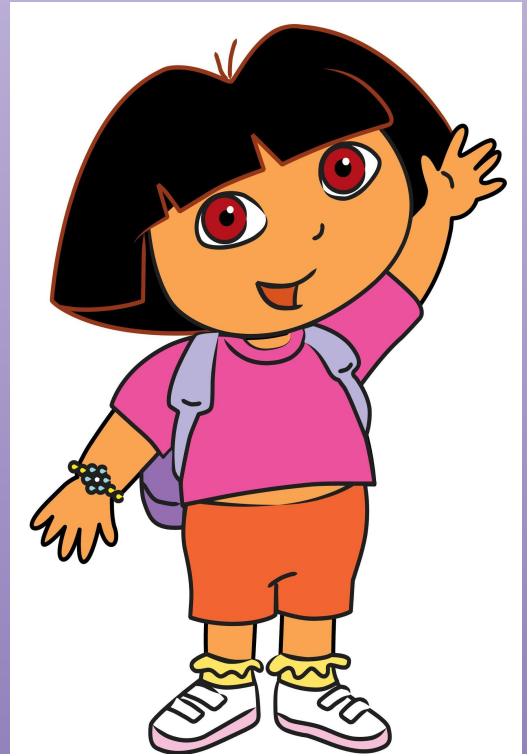
- Two subjects split over the course of one year: Court Law for first semester/Speech and Debate for second
- Gain experience in class that helps when participating in mock trial, debates, and speech contests (not required and optional)
- A class with a proven track record of success!
- Build skills that apply not just to a career in court law but to all career fields!



"We overcome fear and improve your critical thinking and speaking skills" - Mr. Patey

## SPANISH 1-4

**Doña Banks has been teaching Spanish 1-4 for many years by telling stories and having tons of fun. Learn without memorizing or stress. 86.66% students pass the AP Spanish test. She truly loves all her students, and they learn tons of Spanish!**







# Spanish 1



Ms. Dieste



Spanish 1 introduces students to the fundamentals of the Spanish language. The course will focus on the development of these four skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary and conjugation of verbs in the present tense. Oh, and we manage to have fun in class pretty much every day!



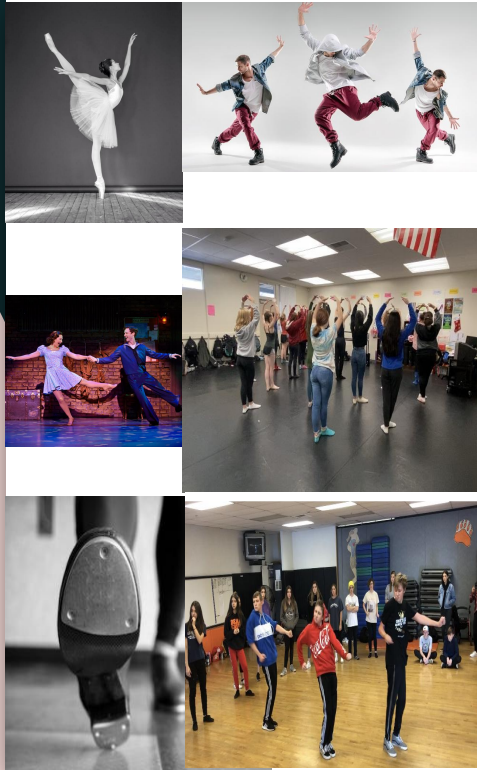
A little bit about me: I have been teaching at Summerville High for 27 years. I love teaching but most of all I really like to get to know and have fun with the students. They bring me joy every day, and I thrive when I am with them. I love the outdoors and being with my family.



*About Me:  
I have been  
teaching dance  
for 28 years!  
This is my tenth  
year teaching  
dance at  
Connections!*

Dana Spurrier

## Ballet/Dance Advanced Dance Academy Dance



Goals for this year!

- 1) Dance vocabulary
- 2) Technique for all genres
- 3) Choreography retention
- 4) Performance skills



BALLET  
JAZZ  
MUSICAL  
THEATER  
HIP HOP  
TAP  
LYRICAL

# LAD 1 & 2- Language Arts Development

Enrolling in LAD will allow you time and assistance to complete your English work. You will also have the opportunity to improve your reading and comprehension skills through silent reading opportunities. Finally, your teacher will provide you with organizational skills that can aid in your success as a high school student.



# **10-12 Grade Elective Course Samples**



# Athletic PE

## A Class for Varsity Athletes

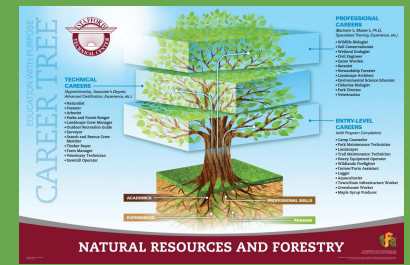


This class is designed to maximize Athletic Performance while embracing all aspects of the student athlete. Athletes will work on increasing: agility, stability, balance, strength, drive, discipline, competitiveness, self-confidence, focus, commitment, time management, & determination.

Teacher: Mrs. Peterson



# Forestry and Natural Resources



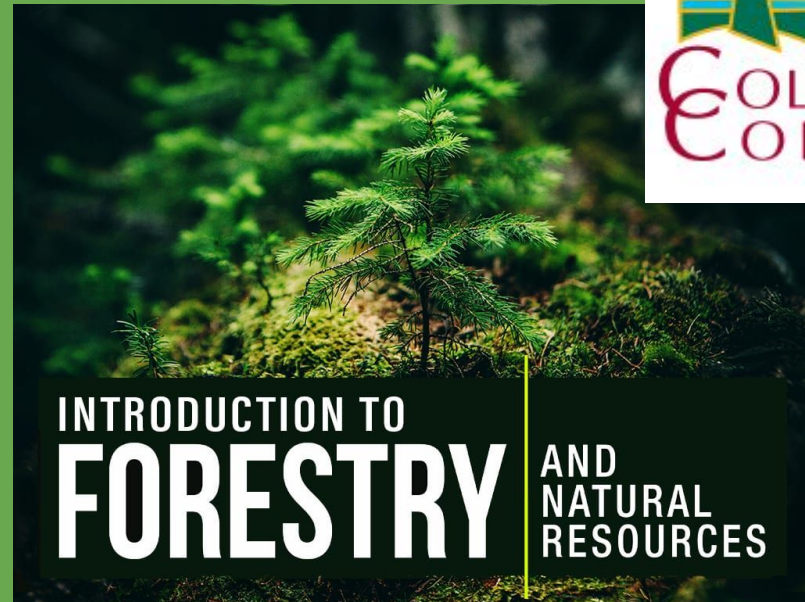
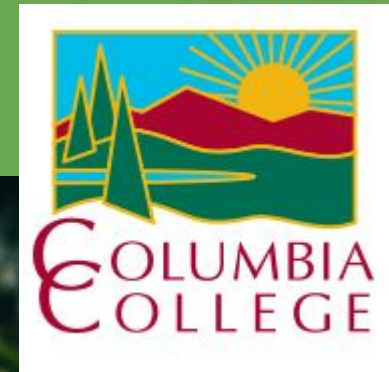
Take a Columbia College class on  
Summerville High's campus during regular  
school hours!

Get 8 units of college credit.

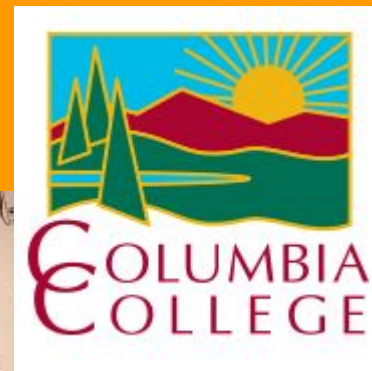
Topics include-

*Conservation, Natural History and Ecology*

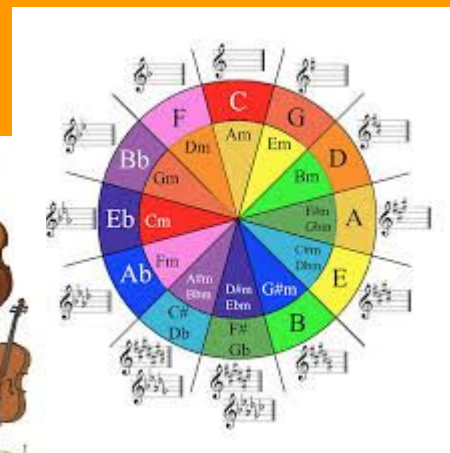
*Climate Stewardship*



# *Intro to Music and Music Theory*



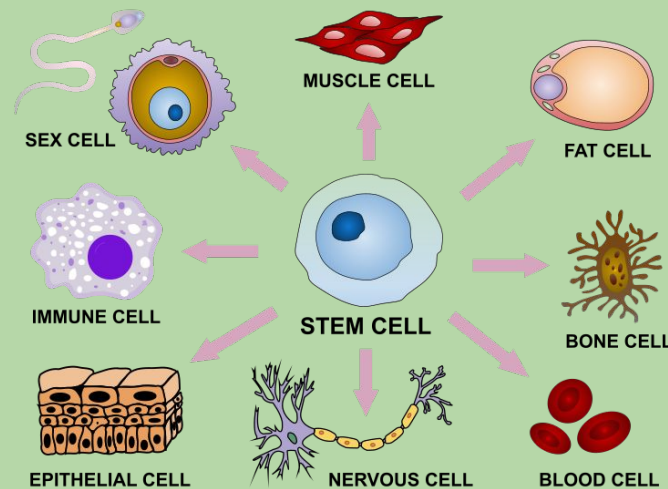
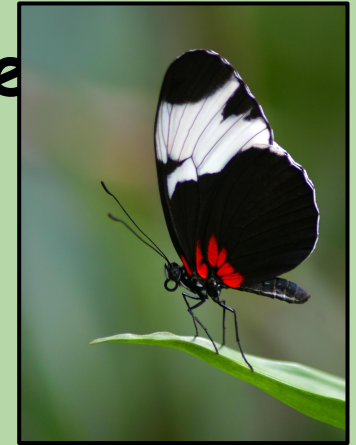
- Columbia College class on campus during period 5B.
- Mr. Johnson will teach 1st semester and Mr. Rod Harris will teach 2nd semester!
- 6 units of college transferable credit!



# 10th Grade Honors Biological Earth Science

Challenge yourself and sign up for Honors Biology in 10th grade

- Advanced Science skills
- Guest Speakers
- Field Trips
- In-depth knowledge of Biological Sciences





Join the staff!  
-Writing stories  
-Interviewing  
-Photography  
-Editions  
printed  
bi-monthly

# Beyond the Cave *Journalism*

## SHS Student Newspaper

### ❖ Our focus:

- Learning the fundamentals of journalism and news reporting with a strong emphasis on ethics, journalism law, news writing, photography, and layout.
- Grades 10-12



# CTE 1st Responders/Emergency Medical Services

In this class you will learn how to provide urgent prehospital treatment and stabilisation for serious illness and injuries. You will practice hands on care and treatment with special practice dummies that will have specific needs and scenarios. No two days are the same in this thrilling hands-on class!



Teacher: Mr. Matthew Soto  
MSoto@summbears.net



# Beginning and Advanced Law Enforcement

In these exciting and informative classes you will have the opportunity to explore a career in Public Safety.

- Hands On Activities including Traffic stops, arrest control techniques, officer safety and building searches.
- Laws and Police Codes
- Warrants and Arrests
- Narcotics Enforcement
- Conflict Resolution
- Courts Systems
- Guest Speakers



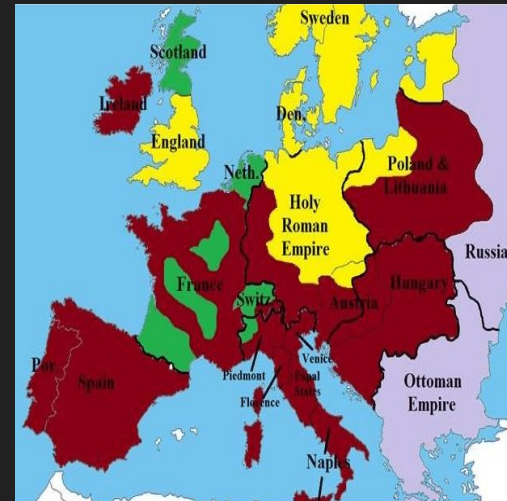
Teacher: Mr. Matthew Soto  
MSoto@summbears.net





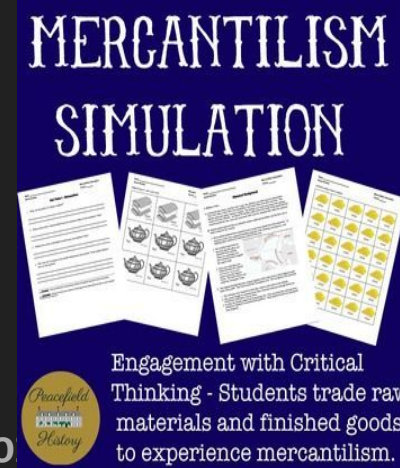
# What is AP Euro About?

Subject: Europe from 1450-2000



Exploring documents that tell the human experience

Learn history by doing with simulations and discussions



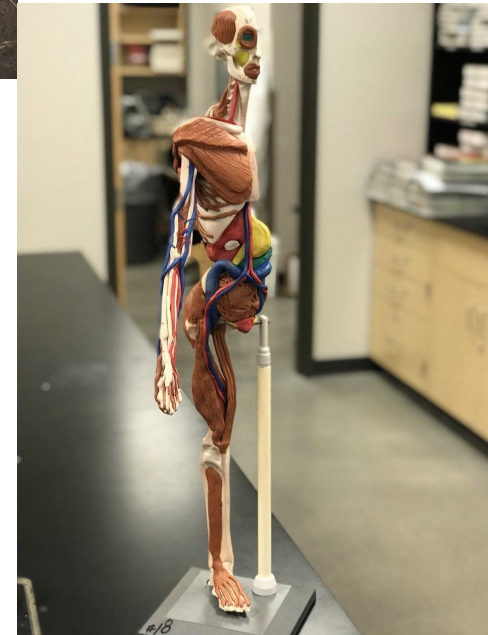
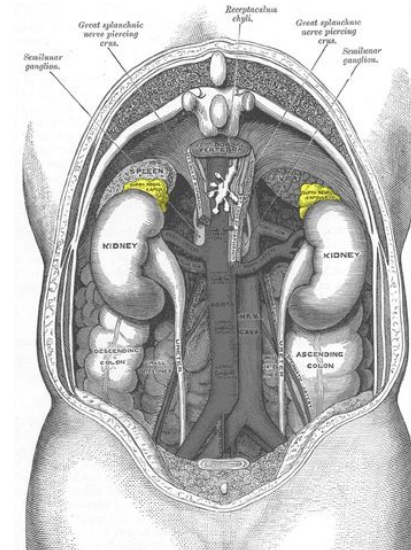
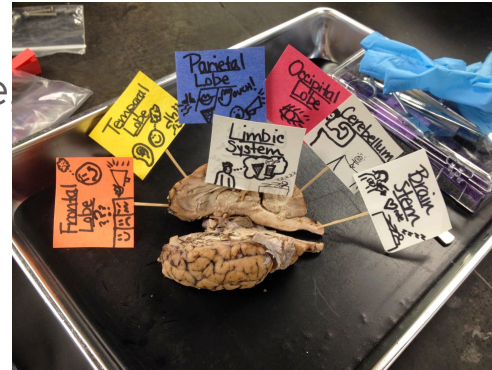
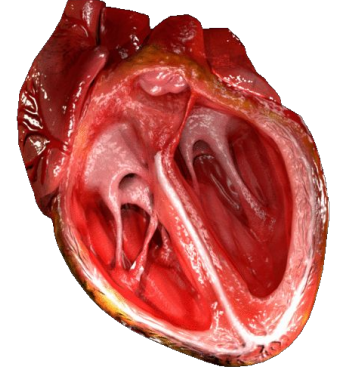
Delve into the history of Europe, from the 15th century to the present. Topics include the Renaissance, The 95 Theses, The French Revolution, Fall of Napoleon, World War I & II.

# Biomed 2: Human Body Systems

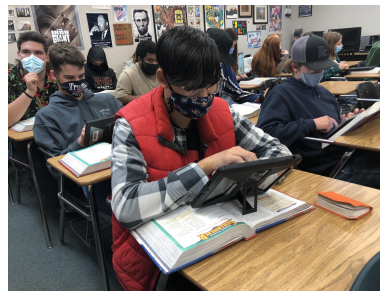
Step inside the human body and explore the systems that help us move, protect us from disease or injury and facilitate communication within the body and with the outside world.

- ❑ *Solve a medical mystery.*
- ❑ *Analyze a medical case file and diagnose disease.*
- ❑ *Design experiments to explore structure and function of the human body.*

*\*Must have completed Biomed 1 to enroll.*







# Yearbook

Creates the Yearbook each year, open to 10th to 12th Grade Students



# Entrance Requirements

- Make an appointment with Mr. Atkins between now and mid-April.  
20-30 minute interview/meeting with student in person or Zoom
  - [datkins@summbears.net](mailto:datkins@summbears.net) 928-4228 ext 6229
- Forms- *Bring pre-filled out as much as possible*
  - Course selection sheet
  - Registration form
  - Academic Agreement
  - Report card from last semester (C's and above in all classes is a requirement)

# Helpful Resources

- [www.summbears.net](http://www.summbears.net)
  - tabs- parents
- [Facebook.com/Connectionsvpaa](https://www.facebook.com/Connectionsvpaa)
- PowerSchool- Student Grade Check
- Google Classroom- Student Assignments posted



# Dear Parents,

Thank you for entrusting your student with us. We know these are uncertain times and we want and need your help to make your child's education a success! Please communicate with teachers and staff when there are struggles and issues that your student is having. The more we know the better we can help.

- Your work is not done 😊
- Transition towards autonomy
  - Your kids still need your help
  - Help your student create calendar and schedule on the "fridge"
- Take part
  - Talk daily and check in
  - Discuss their future
- Powerschool, Google Classroom Codes
  - Be annoying
- Let's work together for a great experience!