



## Northern York County School District

### Curriculum Overview

<b>Course: Psychology</b>	
<b>Grade Level: 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 12<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Development/Revision Date: February 2024</b>	<b>Length of Time: 90 Days</b>
<b>Course Description:</b> Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. This course is an opportunity to become more self-aware, improve critical thinking skills, & be introduced to this field of study before post-secondary education. Topics covered include approaches to psychology, the life span, the workings of the mind & body, learning & cognitive processes, and personality & individuality. Class participation is a critical element of this course.	
<b>Course Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn the history of psychology as a field of study</li><li>• Examine &amp; apply the contemporary approaches to the psychology</li><li>• Analyze research &amp; data collection methods of psychologists</li><li>• Understand &amp; apply ethics to psychological research</li><li>• Apply developmental psychology to the lifespan including physical, linguistic, cognitive, social, &amp; emotional development</li><li>• Examine the effects of parenting styles on development</li><li>• Explain how the nervous system operate &amp; how this impacts behavior</li><li>• Understand how the parts of the neuron function &amp; how this impacts behavior</li><li>• Demonstrate how the parts of the brain function &amp; how this impacts behavior</li><li>• Examine the methods for studying the brain &amp; nervous system</li><li>• Analyze the impact of nature vs. nurture on behavior</li><li>• Determine the impact sensation &amp; perception have on our behavior &amp; understanding of the world around us</li><li>• Explain how the senses take in information</li><li>• Apply the principles of Gestalt</li><li>• Examine &amp; apply monocular &amp; binocular depth cues</li><li>• Understand how the way our brain processes information leads to incorrect conclusions</li><li>• Explore the stages of awareness, including sleep, reactions to drugs, daydreaming, &amp; controlled conscious process</li><li>• Demonstrate how we make changes in our behavior through experience with the environment</li><li>• Analyze how we remember as well as improve our memory</li></ul>	
<b>Course Units:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introducing Psychology &amp; Research Methods</li><li>• Developmental Psychology: Infancy &amp; Childhood</li><li>• Biological Psychology: Body &amp; Behavior</li><li>• Sensation &amp; Perception</li><li>• Alternate States of Consciousness</li><li>• Memory &amp; Thought</li></ul>	
<b>Related Standards:</b>	

## **American Psychological Association National Standards for High School Curricula (2022)**

### Scientific Inquiry and Research Methods

1. The nature of psychological science
2. Research methods and measurements used to study behavior and mental processes
3. Ethical issues in research with human and non-human animals
4. Basic concepts of data analysis

### Life Span Development

1. Methods and issues in life span development
2. Physical, cognitive, and social development across the life span (prenatal, infancy, childhood, adolescence, emerging adulthood, adulthood, and older adulthood)

### Language

1. Structural features and development of language
2. Language and the brain

### Biological Bases of Behaviour

1. Structure and function of the nervous system and endocrine system in human and non-human animals
2. The interaction between biological factors and experiences

### Sensation

1. The functions of sensory systems
2. The capabilities and limitations of sensory processes

### Perception

1. The process of perception
2. The interaction between the person and the environment in determining perception

### Consciousness

1. The different states and levels of consciousness
2. Characteristics and functions of sleep and theories that explain why we sleep and dream
3. Categories of psychoactive drugs and their effects

### Cognition

1. Fundamental processes of thinking and problem solving
2. Effective thinking processes

### Memory

1. Processes of memory
2. Factors influencing memory

### Learning

1. Classical conditioning
2. Operant conditioning
3. Observational learning, social learning theory, and mental processes in learning

## **Pennsylvania Department of Education Academic Standards for English Language Arts**

- 1.2.11-12.J. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college- and career-readiness level; demonstrate

independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

- 1.2.11-12.L. Read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text on grade level, reading independently and proficiently.

**Concepts:**

- Psychology is a social science, which utilizes specific research & data collection methods & upholds a set of ethics that ensure humane treatment of all participants
- There are 6 contemporary approaches to psychology that are utilized to analyze & understand human behavior
- Human beings develop physically, linguistically, cognitively, socially, & emotionally over the course of their lifespan
- Parenting styles effect development
- The physiological constructs of our nervous system impact behavior
- Various technologies have developed to study our brain & nervous system
- Significant studies have occurred to determine the impact of nature versus nurture on behavior & mental processes
- Our understanding of the world around us is a combination of sensation & perception
- Our brain has consistent patterns by which we organize the information in order to make sense of the world around us. These patterns influence our behavior & mental processes.
- The various stages of consciousness impact our behavior & mental processes
- The way our brain processes & stores information can be used to improve our behaviors
- The way our brain processes & stores information can be used to improve memory

**Competencies:**

- Explain the history of psychology as a field of study
- Examine & apply the contemporary approaches to the psychology
- Analyze research & data collection methods of psychologists
- Understand & apply ethics to psychological research
- Apply developmental psychology to the lifespan including physical, linguistic, cognitive, social, & emotional development
- Examine the effects of parenting styles on development
- Explain how the nervous system operate & how this impacts behavior
- Understand how the parts of the neuron function & how this impacts behavior
- Understand how the parts of the brain function & how this impacts behavior
- Examine the methods for studying the brain & nervous system
- Analyze the impact of nature vs. nurture on behavior
- Analyze the impact sensation & perception have on our behavior & understanding of the world around us
- Explain how the senses take in information
- Apply the principles of Gestalt
- Examine & apply monocular & binocular depth cues
- Understand how the way our brain processes information leads to incorrect conclusions
- Analyze the impact of the stages of awareness, including sleep, reactions to drugs, daydreaming, & controlled conscious process
- Create a behavior modification plan
- Apply knowledge about how we remember, as well as improve our memory

**Learning Activities:**

- Teacher led demonstrations & explanations
- Simulations
- Note-making (Jig-Saw, Class Discussion, Direct Instruction)
- Practice sheets
- Writing Prompts
- Collaborative Activities

**Performance Tasks:**

- Unit Tests
- Projects
- Reflection Papers

**Other Assessment Measures:** Bellringers, Classwork, Homework, Demonstrations, Labs, Participation, and Exit Slips

**Textbook/Primary Resource:**

Understanding Psychology by Richard Kasschau

**Supplemental Resource Materials:**

*Brain Games* Episodes

Online articles

Online resources

Teacher generated notes and presentations

Teacher-generated activities