



Critical thinking and communication skills are the foundation of a future in Law & Justice. Careers in this arena are very diverse, ranging from paralegals to attorneys to judges to Federal Agents, meaning there are many ways to specialize in the fast-paced and ever-expanding field of law.



## **Career Pathway: Lawyer**



#### **Job Summary**

Lawyers (also called attorneys) provide legal advice to individuals, government agencies, and businesses. Lawyers may work for law firms, governments, or corporations. They prepare legal documents, analyze laws, and research rulings in order to guide their clients through legal complexities. Lawyers file or respond to lawsuits, and represent their clients in court. Attorneys sometimes specialize in a particular area of expertise, such as tax, intellectual property, family, or environmental law.



#### **Colleges & Universities to Consider**

Dickinson College | Fordham University | George Washington University | Michigan State University
Northwestern University | Nova Southeastern University | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
University of Chicago | University of Toronto | Yale University

\$120,910
MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARY

\$88,945

AVERAGE STARTING SALARY

'Bachelor's Degree and Law Degree Required

**+6%**GROWTH BY 2028



## **Career Pathway: Judge**



Judges are attorneys who oversee the legal process in the court system. They research legal issues, analyze information and evidence presented by lawyers, instruct jurors, and write opinions or decisions about court trials and cases. Judges whose work involves criminal cases may be responsible for determining the sentence for a guilty party. Most judges are employed in government jobs.



### **Colleges & Universities to Consider**

American University | Columbia University | Georgetown University | Harvard University

New York University | Stanford University | University of California - Berkeley | University College London

University of Maryland | University of Virginia

**\$117,190**MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARY

\$52,414

STARTING SALARY (MAGISTRATE)

'Law Degree and Extensive Work as a Lawyer Required

**+3%**GROWTH BY 2028



## Career Pathway: Federal Agent



Federal agents represent government organizations such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Agents work to uphold the law and protect U.S. citizens. While federal agents have some similar requirements in terms of training, what they do each day as part of their jobs can vary widely. For example, a federal agent may work undercover for the DEA, analyze suspicious internet use for the CIA, or track down crime leads for the FBI.



#### **Colleges & Universities to Consider**

American University | George Mason University | George Washington University | Florida State University | Northeastern University | Rutgers University | University at Albany, SUNY University of California - Irvine | University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill | Washington State University

\$63,380
MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARY

\$41,000

AVERAGE STARTING SALARY

+5% GROWTH BY 2028



## **Laurel Springs Core Course Offerings**

#### **American History**

Students in this course study the political, cultural, and social development of the United States through a variety of writing assignments, discussions, and projects. Students examine conflicts with Britain and the ideas that lead to the American Revolution including the pivotal people, events, and outcomes of that war. Students will also explore the importance of the Bill of Rights and its impact on American citizenship, the effects of European migration on Native American cultures, the causes and effects of the Civil War as well as reconstruction, immigration, and industrialization. Students will differentiate the domestic impacts of World War I and World War II, progressive reform, U. S. foreign policy, the causes and effects of the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and culminating with leaders and issues of the contemporary United States.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of one year of high school social studies

#### **American Government**

American Government is the study of the historical backgrounds, governing principles, and institutions of the government of the United States. The focus of this course is on the principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded as well as the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. Students will study the principles of popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, republicanism, federalism, and individual rights. They will also examine the roles of individuals and groups in the American political system with a focus on voting, the electoral process, polling, and interest groups.

#### **AP English Language & Composition**

AP English Language and Composition prepares students to become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. The reading and writing assignments in this course will make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as how language choice contributes to the effectiveness of a piece of written work. At the end of the course, they will be prepared not only for the AP exam in English Language and Composition, but any situation requiring critical thinking, clear communication, and analysis of multiple - and sometimes conflicting - viewpoints.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing; A or B in English

#### **AP English Literature & Composition**

In AP English Literature and Composition, students will read, analyze, write, rewrite, and discuss creations by world-renowned authors. With intensive concentration on composition skills and on authors' narrative techniques, this experience equips students with recipes for success in college, career, and the AP exam in English Literature and Composition.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing; A or B in English

#### **AP Psychology**

Advanced Placement Psychology is a college level course providing students with an overview of the development of human behaviors and thoughts. Along with preparation for the AP Psychology exam, the goals of this course are to immerse students in modern psychological investigation techniques, to accentuate the ethics and morality of human and animal research, and to emphasize scientific critical thinking skills in application to the social sciences.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology

#### **AP Statistics**

AP Statistics provides students with hands-on experience collecting, analyzing, graphing, and interpreting data. This course draws connections between all aspects of the statistical process, including design, analysis, and drawing conclusions. Students will use the vocabulary of statistics to communicate statistical methods, results and interpretations. They will also use graphing calculators and read computer output to further the development of their statistical skills. Students will learn to effectively design and analyze research studies by reviewing and evaluating real-world examples taken from an array of professional disciplines including meteorology, medicine, politics, and athletics.

Pre<mark>requi</mark>site: Successful completion of Algebra 2

#### **AP US Government & Politics**

Students will study the intricacies of the American Political Culture in this course. Students will examine primary source documents, research the roles of the president, congress people, Supreme Court justices, the role of the media, political parties, interest groups, states, candidates, bureaucracy, and the public in the governmental process. Finally, students will learn about the large- scale production of policy building in the areas of economic/social policy, foreign policy and public administration. Prerequisite: Successful completion of American History



## **Laurel Springs Core Course Offerings**

#### **AP US History**

In AP U.S. History, students investigate the development of American economics, politics, and culture through historical analysis grounded in primary sources, research, and writing. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP U.S. History prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in history, political science, economics, sociology, and law. Through the examination of historical themes and the application of historical thinking skills, students learn to connect specific people, places, events, and ideas to the larger trends of U.S. history.

Prerequisite: "A" or "B" in Social Studies

#### **Psychology**

This course will provide a solid foundation for success in later psychology courses. The concepts discussed here will help you know yourself better; understand your family members, friends, and people you encounter; and improve your relationships. Students will learn how psychologists develop and validate theories and will examine how hereditary, social, and cultural factors help form an individual's behavior and attitudes. Students will also evaluate the effectiveness of different types of psychological counseling and therapy. Highly interactive content includes online discussions that help develop critical thinking skills.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology

#### Sociology 1 & 2

The Sociology course takes a fresh and accessible theoretical approach appropriate to our contemporary world. While the course emphasizes the interactionist perspective, students learn a range of theoretical thought, including postmodernism. Students will put into practice what they are learning through innovative methodological exercises in each chapter. This course will allow students to make profound analytic connections between their individual lives and the structure of their society.



## **Laurel Springs Elective Course Offerings**

#### **Archaeology: Detectives of the Past**

George Santayana once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." The field of archeology helps us to better understand the events and societies of the past that have helped to shape our modern world. This course focuses on this techniques, methods, and theories that guide the study of the past. Students will learn how archaeological research is conducted and interpreted, as well as how artefacts are located and preserved. Finally, students will learn about the relationship of material items to culture and what we can learn about past societies from these items.

#### **Careers in Criminal Justice**

Most of us have watched a sensationalized crime show at one time, but do we really know how things work behind those dreaded prison bars? The criminal justice system is a very complex and serious field that requires many dedicated people willing to pursue equal justice for all. Careers in Criminal Justice will begin to illuminate exactly what those career choices are and how the juvenile justice system, the correctional system, and the trial process all work together to maintain social order. Find out exactly what happens when the television show ends and reality begins.

#### **Criminology: Inside the Criminal Mind**

In today's world, crime and deviant behavior rank at or near the top of many people's concerns. In this course, we will study the field of Criminology – the study of crime. We will look at possible explanations for crime from the standpoint of psychological, biological and sociological perspectives, explore the categories and social consequences of crime, and investigate how the criminal justice system handles not only criminals, but also their misdeeds. Why do some individuals commit crimes why others do not? What aspects in our culture and society promote crime and deviance? Why are different punishments given for the same crime? What factors... from arrest to punishment...help shape the criminal case process?

#### Cybersecurity 1A & 1B

Ever wonder what it's like to be a hacker? Or think about who is trying to steal your passwords while you're shopping online using the free Wi-Fi at your local coffee shop? Unmask the cybersecurity threats around you by understanding hackers and identifying weaknesses in your online behavior. Learn to avoid the various types of cyber attacks, including those to your social media accounts, and to predict the potential legal consequences of sharing or accessing information that you do not have rights to. Dig into these crimes in depth by taking a look at cyber forensics and other cybersecurity careers. In a world where such threats have no boundaries, cybersecurity will

undoubtedly play an increasingly larger role in our personal and professional lives in the years to come.

#### Forensic Science 1

Fingerprints. Blood spatter. DNA analysis. The world of law enforcement is increasingly making use of the techniques and knowledge from the sciences to better understand the crimes that are committed and to catch those individuals responsible for the crimes. Forensic science applies scientific knowledge to the criminal justice system. This course focuses on some of the techniques and practices used by forensic scientists during a crime scene investigation (CSI). Starting with how clues and data are recorded and preserved, the student will follow evidence trails until the CSI goes to trial, examining how various elements of the crime scene are analyzed and processed.

#### **Forensic Science 2**

Although the crime scene represents the first step in solving crimes through forensic science, the crime laboratory plays a critical role in the analysis of evidence. This course focuses on the analysis of evidence and testing that takes place within this setting. We will examine some of the basic scientific principles and knowledge that guides forensic laboratory processes, such as those testing DNA, toxicology, and material analysis. Techniques such as microscopy, chromatography, odontology, entomology, mineralogy, and spectroscopy will be examined.

#### Law and Order: Intro to Legal Studies

Every society has laws that its citizens must follow. From traffic laws to regulations on how the government operates, laws help provide society with order and structure. Our lives are guided and regulated by our society's legal expectations. Consumer laws help protect us from faulty goods; criminal laws help to protect society from individuals who harm others; and family law handles the arrangements and issues that arise in areas like divorce and child custody. This course focuses on the creation and application of laws in various areas of society. By understanding the workings of our court system, as well as how laws are actually carried out, we become more informed and responsible citizens in our communities and of our nation.



## **Laurel Springs Elective Course Offerings**

#### **Military Careers**

Most of us have seen a war movie; maybe it had a hotshot aviator or a renegade private or a daring Special Forces operative. But outside of these sensationalized portrayals, do you really understand how the military works or what it can do for you? The military offers far more career diversity than most people imagine, and Introduction to Military Careers will provide the information you need to gain a broader understanding of how to find the right fit. You will learn about the five military branches—Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines Corps, and Navy—and examine which jobs you might like to pursue. From aviation, to medicine, to law enforcement, the military can be an outstanding place to achieve your dreams in a supportive and well-structured environment.

#### **National Security**

Do you know what it takes to keep an entire nation safe? It not only requires knowledge of how to handle disasters, but it also demands a cool head and tremendous leadership abilities. In National Security, you will have the opportunity to learn about the critical elements of the job, such as evaluating satellite information, analyzing training procedures, assessing military engagement, preparing intelligence reports, coordinating information with other security agencies, and applying appropriate actions to various threats. Put yourself in the position of the country's decisive leaders and develop your own knowledge base and skill set necessary to meet the requirements of our nation's most demanding career.

# Principles of Public Service: To Serve & Protect

Ambulances scream along, heading toward those in need. But who makes sure someone is there to answer the 9-1-1 call? When you take a pill, who has determined that drug is safe for the public? All of these duties are imperative to our comfort and success as a society. Public service is a field that focuses on building a safe and healthy world, and in Principles of Public Service: To Serve and Protect, you will be introduced to its many different career choices. The protection of society is not only one of our greatest challenges, it also provides ways for people to work together to ensure safety and provide indispensable services. If you've ever contemplated being one of these real-life heroes, now is the time to learn more.

#### Social Problems 1

Students will become aware of the challenges faced by social groups, as well as learn about the complex relationship among societies, governments and the individual. Each unit is focused on a particular area of concern, often within a global context. Possible solutions at both the structural level as well as that of the individual will be examined. Students will not only learn more about how social problems affect them personally, but begin to develop the skills necessary to help make a difference in their own lives and communities, not to mention globally.

#### **Debate Club**

CLUB | There is nothing more lively at Laurel Springs than the Debate Club. Members learn what it means to cultivate and maintain your own individual voice, as the opinions of members can be heard echoing down the virtual halls of Laurel Springs School. Using contemporary topics introduced by the advisor, club members then vote, choose, briefly research, take a pro or con position, gather their arguments, and debate the topic until consensus and resolution is reached. Proper debate techniques are used, as well as expanding into the unique opportunities available in a virtual setting as students explore civic literacy, global awareness, and individual liberties through the utilization of critical, creative, and innovative thinking. This club meets in a supervised setting with feedback and guidance from an advisor who is a seasoned member of the debate community. This club is open to students in grades 9-12.