# The Ideal School Project: Curriculum Descriptions

**Assignment:** For each of your special magnet programs, you will need a curriculum description. Write a summary of what students will study. This means that each grade in the magnet program, 9 – 12, needs a summary of what students will be learning in that class. Your school is required to have (at least) three magnet programs, which means your group will have written curriculum descriptions for 12 different classes (four classes per magnet program).

EXAMPLE: **TLI’s Curriculum Description**

All students in the TLI program are enrolled in Regents level classes. Students take the core subjects in self-contained clusters as much as possible. The distinguishing courses of the program are the TLI Seminars. These seminars in education are similar in nature to the college study future teachers perform. Seminars include topics and issues discussed at the college level, and prepare students with the skills necessary for success in college.

In the 9th grade seminar, students concentrate on what teaching and learning are; they learn organizational and study skills, peer mediation, cultural and interpersonal awareness, and team building. Additionally, 9th grade students take Computer Essentials, a course designed to give them the fundamentals in computer operations and software use.

In the 10th grade seminar, students study the issues in education and the organization of schools. Students perform an in depth ethnographic study of their own community, identify the greatest needs of children in our neighborhoods, and create the Ideal School to address the needs of our children. The skills of leading in the classroom are further reinforced by the study of lesson plan writing, community building activities and public speaking.

The 11th grade seminar has students concentrate on the sociology of education. It’s the most theoretical of the seminars, with an emphasis on looking at issues of equity in the current educational system. Students study at how race, class, gender, and disability effect education. Through a detailed mock trial and a series of debates, students must show a command of the county’s demographics and politics behind education.

The 12th grade seminar prepares students for their role as a professional in the workplace. Students perfect their knowledge of lesson and unit planning, lesson organization, preparation of materials, delivery of instruction and reflection upon classroom performance. Students must also prepare their portfolios for graduation interviews. The last 10 weeks of the seminar students are performing a paid internship at one of the district’s elementary schools or in the 7th grade classroom at the high school.