Courses with the Social Impact designation directly align with the four pillars of community engagement, community service, service learning, and social entrepreneurship that define the Institute for Social Impact. These courses emphasize real world experiences and outcomes such as strong advocacy skills, increased community interactions, and hands-on practice in designing solutions, while exploring purpose and building empathy. Throughout each course, students will complete alternative assessments to evaluate 21st Century skills such as empathy, creativity, collaboration, and purpose as well as measure the overall social impact experienced by our community partners.

ENGLISH
Before "Me Too": Literature as Protest
Engage in a class co-taught with Irma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership Academy, a local public all-girls school
• Explore novels that concentrate on the empowerment of women and build empathy through shared experiences and storytelling
• Form a partnership with Break Bread, Break Borders, a non-profit whose mission is to promote personal growth in women

Literature of Minorities
Explore the powerful works of black, Muslim, Jewish, Hispanic, and other ethnic, religious, and cultural identities and interrogate the category of “minority.”
• Examine how underrepresented people in a society respond to the dominant power structure through readings
• Show how the texts themselves act as subversive forces while at the same time resist conforming to the rigid standards of the literary canon
• Move from reading to action and make an impact in the Dallas community.

MATHEMATICS
Integrated Math III Enriched
Establish a working partnership with Marsh Preparatory Academy, a local public school serving students from predominately low-income families
• Recognize that mathematics studied in class is visible all around us. Design and implement "Math Walks" at Marsh Preparatory Academy that merge virtual reality with algebraic concepts
• Decrease identified learning barriers by enhancing student understanding of the role of math in their daily surroundings and understanding how to use mathematical concepts for social impact

Statistics
Collaborate and engage in a class where data combined with mathematical ideas transform the way one looks at the world
• Explore different ways of visualizing, modeling, and making sense of data from daily life, the community, and the world.
• Address issues of choice through data collection, visualizations, analysis, and interpretation to develop the tools to raise awareness and instill empathy within the individual and the community.

WORLD LANGUAGES
Spanish in the Community
Help the Dallas Spanish speaking community through practicum work in education, geriatrics, and healthcare
• Analyze and address issues specifically related to healthcare access within the Spanish speaking population
• Enhance your own language fluency through community engagement

HISTORY
Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Economics and Social Entrepreneurship
Participate in a class based in economic principals and the incubation of a business
• Engage in real world learning from co-teachers who are Hockaday alumnae and industry leaders
• Develop and pitch a culminating socially conscious business plan that addresses a current world issue, and compete for funding
THE CULTURE OF THIS CLASS ISN’T FOCUSED ON THE END RESULT OF THE GRADE, IT IS FOCUSED ON THE LEARNING. I WAS EXCITED TO APPLY WHAT WE WERE LEARNING OUTSIDE OF CLASS. EVERYTHING FELT SO APPLICABLE TO MY WORLD. AS THE YEAR PROGRESSED, I HAVE FOUND MYSELF LESS CONCERNED ABOUT GRADES IN MOST OF MY CLASSES AND MORE FOCUSED ON MY LEARNING.

IN MY LIFE, THE TYPICAL WORK AND GRADES I HAVE IN CLASS WOULDN’T SHOW THAT I UNDERSTOOD THE MATERIAL, EVEN IF I DID. IN THIS CLASS, I WAS ABLE TO BE EVALUATED FAIRLY ON MY STRENGTHS AND HOW THEY PRESENTED THEMSELVES IN MY WORK, AND NOT JUST BY THE NUMBER OF ANSWERS I GOT RIGHT IN A TIMED SETTING. THIS CLASS MADE ME FEEL SUCCESSFUL AND VALUABLE TO MY PEERS, WHICH MADE ME FEEL CONNECTED TO A LARGER PURPOSE. THE PROCESS OF FINDING A SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM REALLY BOOSTED MY CONFIDENCE WHICH HELPED ME TO FOCUS ON MY LEARNING FOR THE FUN OF IT.

THE 2021 – 2022 COURSES

U.S. Government
Participate in a civics based class that features lecturers from city, state, and federal government
• Identify a local, national, or world issue and draft a bill to create change, applying working knowledge of democracy
• Propose mock legislation to local government officials and use their own advocacy skills to take action.

Global Issues
Collaborate in a current events seminar and grapple with major sociopolitical issues facing our world today.
• Understand global events in their historical and international contexts to become better-informed citizens and leaders.
• Raise awareness of contemporary world events and how they impact local communities by identifying and implementing concrete action in the community to help address a global issue.

SCIENCE

Biology, Impact, and the Zoo
Engage in a biology class co-taught with W.T. White High School, a local public high school and learn the similarities and differences between living organisms
• Collaborate and apply design thinking to solve environmental issues in partnership with experts from the Dallas Zoo
• Produce a culminating pitch to area industry leaders in a “shark tank” setting that addresses an identified environmental problem and competes for funding

AP Environmental Science
Analyze the role of food and food systems in our world
• Consider how the nature of a particular environment impacts access to food, and identify the food issues currently impacting our community
• Engage in a yearlong study focused on creating and implementing change within Dallas’ food issues and environmental projects.

Infectious Diseases: Microbiology of Public Health
Engage in the study of microbiology, globally and locally with a focus on public health
• Design and lead a research project on the short and long-term effectiveness of public health initiatives in partnership with our DISD elementary schools.
• Analyze data and identify solutions to improve the public health for students’ access to healthcare and wellness

Biology
Help find solutions to the global problem of antibiotics that are no longer effective
• Contribute to The Small World Initiative (SWI) program to find and isolate bacteria from soil that produce new types of antibiotics.
• Educate our local community on what we can do to reduce antibiotic-resistant bacteria

FINE ARTS

Chamber Orchestra
Apply musical knowledge and skills to design and teach a weekly music enrichment course for a local public elementary school without access to music education
• Inspire future musicians
• Improve school readiness and engagement through music

Hockaday Theater Company: Drama
Perform and teach the art of drama and storytelling at a local public elementary school without access to performing arts
• Decrease the standardized testing gap by exposing students to language and theater terminology
• Ultimately improve school readiness

Advanced Studio Art
Develop visual literacy and design concepts that foster connections across the community
• Extend previous understanding and experience of three-dimensional design in the form of at least one sculptural project.
• Create individual or group conceptual pieces modeled on most recent developments in the visual arts
• Engage in projects to consider how artwork can be used with purpose to foster critical consciousness, community engagement, and social impact.