Program Guide 2025-2026

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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Graduation Requirements

(Effective with the Class of 2018)

English: *4 credits*
Social Studies: *4 credits*
Religion: *4 credits*
Fine Arts: *1 credit*
Electives: *1.5 credits*

Math: *4 credits*
Science: *4 credits*
Foreign Language: *2 credits*
***Physical Education:** *1 credit*
Health: *.5 credit*

TOTAL Credit requirement: 26 credits

*P.E. credit is acquired through participation in Athletics; each season of playing on or managing a sports team counts as .25 credit.

ALL MSJ STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE 25 HOURS OF SERVICE EACH ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR

Religious Studies

Religion 9: The History of Salvation: An Introduction to the Bible	
This course serves as an introduction to a foundational study of the Bible as the revealed Word of God. Students will learn to read and appreciate the Bible through the Catholic Church's approach to the study of scripture. A particular focus will be given to the theme of God's covenants with the human family, beginning with the People of Israel, and finding fulfillment in the final covenant through his son Jesus Christ. The course is designed for all 9th grade students.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 1st Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

Religion 10	
This course is divided into two semesterized classes: The Mystery of Redemption and Christian Discipleship (semester 1) and The Sacraments of the Church (semester 2). **The Mystery of Redemption and Christian Discipleship (Semester 1) Course Description:** This course examines systematically how God redeems fallen humanity. The redemption of Christ is a central truth of our Catholic faith: God assumed our human nature and dwelt among us as a true man; he suffered, died, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven to save us from sin and to raise us to the status of adopted children of God. **The Sacraments of the Church (Semester 2) Course Description:** Jesus Christ instituted the Sacraments and entrusted them to his Church as a primary means of transmitting grace, which helps us to live the Christian life. This course presents each of the Seven Sacraments in its own chapter, explains how it is celebrated, and describes its purpose in the Christian life as an intimate encounter with Jesus Christ. It also examines Christian liturgy as well as popular prayers, devotions, and sacramentals.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

Religion 11: History of the Church	
This course offers a comprehensive history of the Catholic Church includes every major event in the Church's history from the life of her founder, Jesus Christ, to the present day. This course places the Church in her context throughout history and explains the role that the Church and her leaders have played in the shaping of history for better and worse. The History of the Church is a critical historical study for Catholic and non-Catholic students alike.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

Religion 12: Faith, Science, and Reason	
This year-long course (Faith, Science, and Reason) will help students to develop a proper understanding of the relationship between religious faith and scientific knowledge. Despite the culture around us accepting the false belief that faith and reason cannot be reconciled, with many even believing that science has shown that the Christian faith is irrational, this course aims to provide our students with the tools to show that both scientific inquiry and the Christian faith ask questions and seek knowledge about the same universe, working together to come to know the truths of God wherever they may be found.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

English Language Arts

English 9 *[Honors and CP]*	
This course presents a basic survey of various literary genres, including short stories, satires, essays, poetry, plays, and novels. Literary terminology is reviewed, and writing skills are developed with a focus on paragraph and essay development. Focus will be placed on developing a student's writing style through various creative and academic writing assignments. Essentials of grammatical forms, structure, and mechanics are reviewed. Students will also learn about research techniques.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 1st Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

English 10 *[Honors & CP]*	
This course is designed as a survey of literary genres, including short stories, poetry, plays, novels, and more. Class discussions emphasize the factual, literal, symbolic, and thematic levels of the works as well as how these elements are seen throughout the chosen literature selections. The processes of grammar and composition are emphasized, requiring all students to complete both analytical and creative writing assignments. Specific research techniques are taught which enable students to write a research essay using MLA format. Emphasis is also placed on building vocabulary, oral presentation, and active participation in class discussions.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *English 9* **Duration: Full Year**

British Literature CP (2026-2027 Course Study)	
This course is a survey of selected works from British literature from Old English through contemporary literature. An emphasis is placed on reading literature within its cultural context. Emphasis will also be placed on interpreting, analyzing, and responding to literature through the study of rhetorical strategies. It is expected that students will demonstrate and develop their writing skills and will participate fully in class discussions. Multiple in-depth writing assignments will be required, demonstrating the student's analytical and interpretive skills in addition to their ability to write a well-developed analytical paper using MLA format.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *English 9 & 10* **Duration: Full Year**

British Literature Honors (2026-2027 Course Study)	
This course is a survey of selected works from British literature from Old English through contemporary literature. An emphasis is placed on reading literature within its cultural context. Emphasis will also be placed on interpreting, analyzing, and responding to literature through the study of rhetorical strategies. Students will develop their writing skills through analysis and structured rhetorical thinking. It is expected that students will demonstrate and develop their writing skills and will participate fully in class discussions. Multiple in-depth writing assignments will be required, demonstrating the student's analytical and interpretive skills in addition to their ability to write a well-developed analytical paper using MLA format.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *English 9 & 10* **Duration: Full Year**

American Literature CP (2025-2026 Course Study)	
Through the exploration of the American character and the diverse voices that have shaped that character, students develop an understanding of what makes American literature unique throughout the world. By delving into a variety of genres and literary techniques students develop an ability to recognize themes and styles as used in poetry, short stories, novels, plays, journals, and essays. Close reading of the texts, critical thinking and analysis, discussion, creative projects, and expository writing are required. Creating college-ready, independent readers and effective writers is the major focus of this course. Emphasis is placed on grammar and the broadening of each student's vocabulary. This course requires the completion of outside reading assignments. A seven to ten page term paper is required, using in-text citations and MLA format as noted in the course syllabus.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *English 9 & 10* **Duration: Full Year**

American Literature Honors (2025-2026 course study)	
This course introduces students to the major themes and periods of American literature. Through the exploration of a variety of genres and literary techniques, students develop an ability to recognize themes and styles used in poetry, short stories, novels, plays, journals and essays. Emphasis is placed on analysis in both discussion and writing through close readings of the texts. Throughout the course students examine the American character and the diverse voices which have shaped the American tradition in literature. Students also must concentrate on improving grammatical structure in their written work and broadening their vocabulary through word study. Students are expected to work independently and cooperatively. This course requires the completion of outside reading assignments. A lengthy term paper is required, using in-text citations and MLA format as noted in the course syllabus.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *English 9 & 10* **Duration: Full Year**

Advanced Placement English, Literature & Composition	
From the College Board: “AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Students cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works.” This college-level class focuses on the ability to think critically, write and read independently, and synthesize analysis of ideas through class discussion, presentations, and analytical and creative writing. By utilizing these avenues of learning, the students experience growth and build confidence in their abilities to think at critical, analytical, and interpretive levels. Written assignments, both short and long term, are an integral part of this course. Close attention is paid to each student’s growth as a writer and their use of prescriptive grammar. Students work with both canonical and modern fiction throughout this class. This class places particular focus on style analysis and to the understanding of the literary techniques employed in great works of literature. Writing assignments are the foundation to this course, and will be structured in the latest MLA formatting. All students are required to take the National AP Literature & Composition Exam through the College Board in May. Students should check the credit-and-placement policy at the schools they are considering for AP credit acceptance information. For further information about CollegeBoard’s AP program, including student and parent resources, access https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/.	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *English 9 & 10 and Teacher Recommendation* **Duration: Full Year**

Mathematics

Algebra IA	
This course is designed to provide students with the skills and concepts needed for further study of mathematics by strengthening their fundamental skills. This course is designed to provide students a firm foundation in the fundamentals. Topics to be covered include but are not limited to: order of operations, signed numbers, fractions and decimals, simplifying expressions, and solving equations. Considerable emphasis will be placed on the process of problem solving.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 1st Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

Algebra IB	
This course begins with a review of basic mathematics operations including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, exponentiation with monomial expressions and the relation of these operations to the properties of real numbers. Applications of rational numbers and algebraic techniques to solve real-world problems are mastered. Initial study of linear equations and inequalities in one variable, their solutions and methods of presenting solutions is extended into solving systems in two linear variables and the forms of a line. Factoring is mastered. Students are introduced to rational algebraic expressions, quadratic equations, radical expressions, and exponential expressions.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 1st or 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra 1A or Qualifying Mathematics Placement Test Score* **Duration: Full Year**

Geometry CP	
Geometry is the branch of mathematics that covers deduction of properties, measurement and relationships of points, lines, angles and figures in space. This course focuses on the postulates and theorems of Euclidean geometry with the goal of expanding on each student's understanding of geometric terms and concepts. Deductive reasoning and comparison are incorporated into hands-on and collaborative explorations. Students use constructions, pattern matching and geometric axioms in two-column proofs to better understand the relationships of congruence and similarity. Basic algebra is required to calculate length, radius, angles, area and volume of two and three dimensional figures. Students are also introduced to the properties of right triangles, which is a precursor to Trigonometry.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 1st or 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra IB or Qualifying Mathematics Placement Test Score* **Duration: Full Year**

Geometry Honors	
Geometry is the study that begins with very basic definitions of points, lines, and planes, and extends to the study of any and all two dimensional figures in a plane. The coordinate plane is used extensively to study and to prove the properties of various figures, particularly triangles and quadrilaterals. Geometric theorems are used in two column proofs to verify the congruence or the properties of various figures. Circles and all of their properties are also discussed. Calculating the area of any two dimensional figure is examined. The trigonometric ratios are introduced in right triangles, along with their applications in real world scenarios.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 1st or 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra IB or Qualifying Math Placement Test Score* **Duration: Full Year**

Algebra II	
Algebra II begins with a review of the topics learned in Algebra I. Algebra II emphasizes systems of equations and inequalities in two and three variables and multiple methods of finding their solutions. Real exponents, higher degree equations and an introduction to coordinate geometry are also emphasized. Functions as mathematical models are used to represent and solve problems. Polynomials, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions are introduced as well as basic counting and probability theory as time allows.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 2nd or 3rd Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I A/B & Geometry* **Duration: Full Year**

Algebra II Honors	
Algebra II Honors begins with a review of topics learned in Algebra I. Algebra II Honors emphasizes systems of equations and inequalities in two and three variables and multiple methods of finding their solutions. Polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions are studied using geometry, numerical techniques and algebraic methods. Technology is employed in the study of functions. The concept of the inverse is used to introduce logarithms and their applications to problem solving. Additionally, counting theory and basic probability are studied as time allows.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 2nd and 3rd Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I A/B & Geometry* **Duration: Full Year**

Pre-Calculus	
Pre-Calculus expands on the concepts learned in Geometry and Algebra II, emphasizing non-linear functions as they apply to circular motion, trigonometric (equations, identities, graphs, inverse relations), complex numbers, polar coordinates, conic sections, logarithm and exponents, sequences, series and an introduction to limits. The course lays a foundation for students planning on taking calculus or other advanced mathematics courses. Included are calculator-based activities which are used to teach scientific concepts such as vector addition, calculation of angular velocity, instantaneous rates of change and slopes of nonlinear relations.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd and 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I A/B, Geometry & Algebra II* **Duration: Full Year**

Advanced Placement Calculus	
Advanced Placement Calculus develops an understanding of the concepts of Calculus using verbal, geometric, numerical and algebraic techniques. Graphing calculators and computer applications are used as aids to understanding both computations and results. Emphasis is placed on the concept of functions, limits of functions, differentiation, and integration. The intention is to foster competence in our students which is equivalent to what they would attain when taking Calculus as a college freshman. The curriculum is closely aligned with the AP Calculus curriculum promulgated by the Educational Testing Services (ETS). All students are required to take the National AP Calculus AB Exam administered by the College Board in May. Most colleges and universities grant three to six college credits and allow for advanced mathematics placement for students who score well on the ETS AP Calculus examination. Students should check the credit-and-placement policy at the schools they are considering for AP credit acceptance information. Further information about CollegeBoard's AP Program, including student and parent resources, is accessible at https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I A/B, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus* **Duration: Full Year**

Statistics	
This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics. Topics include the measures of central tendency, standard deviation, combinations and permutations, probability, sampling, and various distributions. Emphasis is on applications of statistical concepts in real-world situations.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I A/B, Geometry, & Algebra II* **Duration: Full Year**

Personal Finance	
The topics are not limited to but include: checkbook exercises with reconciliations, budgeting, savings and investing, CD's, bonds and securities (short term and long term), credit cards, taxes including 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ returns, insurance and annuities. Student development of financial responsibility is the objective in this course.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I A/B, Geometry, & Algebra II* **Duration: Full Year**

Science

Earth Science CP & Honors	
This is a required science course which examines the physical features of the Earth as well as the processes which are responsible for their formation. Between a mixture of lecture and lab, students will be given the basic background of geology, meteorology, hydrology, and many more Earth related sciences. Topics studied include: space, Earth's anatomy, the rock cycle, weather, glaciers, volcanoes, earthquakes, minerals, geologic time, streams and groundwater, environmental issues. Also covered are the techniques and methods scientists use to learn more about the Earth.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 1st Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

Health	
This course is all about you and the important decisions you make. It's also about having the correct information before making those decisions. We'll deal with real issues like nutrition, substance abuse, coping with stress, and sexual abstinence. Good health is both mental and physical. Making good decisions starts with knowing the facts, understanding the consequences, and having the confidence to choose well. A series of signposts will take you through the course providing information, direction, and a little encouragement. We'll also offer some important tools for communicating your feelings and opinions. We'll even talk about being a savvy consumer in a world of advertising, credit cards, and focus on earth friendly practices that will help the environment. This course comes with a long-term payoff. The good decisions you make now will set a positive direction you can follow for a lifetime.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Biology	
Biology is an introductory level course. The goal of this course is to make Biology interesting and accessible to students. This course will give students a strong basic understanding about the world around them. Students will learn to make observations, plan and carry out experiments, represent data in meaningful ways, and analyze conclusions that they make based on experimentation. Students will also participate in group activities, discussion groups, and lab team activities. Topics that will be covered in this class include: cellular foundations of life, cell division and genetics, molecular biology and biotechnology, evolution and diversity of life, animal structure and function, and ecology.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

Biology Honors	
This course is designed for the highly motivated science students interested in learning the biological principles of life. This course is rigorous and fast-paced and covers the same components of the Biology class listed above but at a much more in-depth level. This course also emphasizes critical thinking skills and laboratory skills.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

Chemistry CP	
Chemistry students explore the development of concepts, descriptive and mathematical as they relate to matter. Students learn atomic theory, atomic structure, periodic law, chemical nomenclature, equations, gas laws and modern electronic structure. Students are also taught to understand chemical bonding, solutions, acids and bases, reaction rates and equilibrium. As time allows the class explores nuclear chemistry, electrochemistry and basic organic chemistry.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I* **Duration: Full Year**

Chemistry Honors	
Chemistry Honors students explore the development of concepts, descriptive and mathematical as they relate to matter, however, in a detailed manner. Students in honors chemistry are taught to master concepts of matter, problem solving skills, critical thinking and laboratory skills. Students learn atomic theory, atomic structure, periodic law, chemical nomenclature, equations, gas laws and modern electronic structure.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I* **Duration: Full Year**

Environmental Science CP	
This optional higher level course discusses the complex world around us that we know as our home planet, Earth. Using what they have learned in Earth Science and Chemistry; students will develop an in-depth understanding of environmental issues and what efforts have been made to counteract them in the ongoing climate crisis that we continue to face. This course features a mix of lecture and lab, group work will be encouraged. Topics are guided and will include extreme weather, water, climate change adaptation, energy, the atmosphere, and toxic chemicals.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Earth Science* **Duration: Full Year**

Human Anatomy & Physiology CP	
This course is designed to expand each student's knowledge of the structure, function, and complexity of the human organism. Topics covered include anatomical structures in various body systems. Emphasis is placed on the interactions of organs as they work together to maintain balance of homeostasis. Additional topics may include cellular and tissue organization, skeletal and muscle design and function, respiratory, circulatory, urinary, integumentary, endocrine, lymphatic, and the excretory and digestive systems. Pathology which is the study and effects of disease is integrated into the discussion of each of the systems. Students also receive an orientation to the various allied health fields. Students are expected to participate in lectures and discussions, conduct laboratory investigations, which may include microscopy and human performance, and to gather information on a variety of medical and health related topics. Computer technology is used to aid the learning process in general, and more specifically in completing assigned lab work.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I* **Duration: Full Year**

Physics Honors	
Physics is a science which studies matter, motion, forces, and energy. The first half of the course studies the mechanics of motion, and the forces which affect this motion. Newton's Laws of Motion are used to analyze motion and forces that act on an object. The use of vector analysis and trigonometry are employed to study forces and motions in two dimensions. The study of circular motion is extended to examine and learn about the motions of planets and satellites, which are all governed by the force of gravitational attraction. The second half of the course studies rotational motion, and the concepts of momentum and energy. Periodic motion is used to introduce the study of vibrations and waves. Properties of sound and light are also examined as time permits. Although the mathematics used in the course are not complex, only students with a strong aptitude for mathematics are encouraged to register for this course. Physics is primarily the learning of concepts and applying those concepts by analyzing situations as described in word problems.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd Year, 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus (may be taken concurrently)* **Duration: Full Year**

Advanced Placement Biology	
This course is designed to offer high school students a solid foundation in Introductory biology. This course is designed to expose students to many different biological concepts such as: the scientific method, genetics, botany, ecology, evolution,and taxonomy. Science is a process, and it is best learned that way rather than as unrelated facts. How scientists use their own experimental observations and results to continue their inquiries will be emphasized. Experiments and labs will be done when practical and available. This course is designed to assist students in developing an appreciation for the study of life and to help them identify as well as understand the unifying principles within the biological world. The process of inquiring and developing critical thinking skills are crucial for this course. All science, especially biology is a way of seeking additional knowledge, all Current knowledge pertaining to biology is simply a result of inquiry. By the end of this course students should be able to connect new scientific concepts obtained in this class and have built a solid framework of biological knowledge and lab techniques. In May of each year all students are required to take the National AP Biology Exam created by the College Board. Students should check the credit-and-placement policy at the schools they are considering for AP credit acceptance information. Further information about CollegeBoard's AP Program, including student and parent resources, is accessible at https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Biology, Chemistry, and Statistics (can be taken concurrently)* **Duration: Full Year**

Social Studies Course Descriptions

World Geography & Cultures	
World Geography and Cultures invites students to examine the diversity of the natural environments and the diversity of cultural landscapes in the world today. Emphasis will be given to the geographical themes of location and place. Students will study about many different countries, their landscapes as well as the human characteristics that make each place unique. Students will gain an understanding and a respect for the governmental, economic and societal differences that contribute to the World's diversity. The second semester will have a greater emphasis on American and Global issues. A lot of these issues, ie. terrorism, education, immigration, international peace and human rights, are issues that will directly impact your students in the coming years and even now. We will look at the majority of the global issues from the White House and the majority of the global issues from the United Nations, as well as other sites. We are doing this not only to promote learning about different cultures but to learn about the issues around the globe.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 1st Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

World History CP	
This course is designed to study important events and eras of World History. This course takes an in depth look at the World from events such as the first civilizations, Greece and Rome, and the Middle Ages all the way up to more modern events, ie., the Enlightenment and Revolutions, the Industrial Revolution and the World Wars. Students will familiarize themselves with the important movers and shakers that played a role in developing the modern.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

Advanced Placement World History: Modern	
AP World History: Modern is an introductory college-level modern world history course. Students cultivate their understanding of world history from c. 1200 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovationAll students are required to take the National AP World History Exam created by the College Board in May. Students should check the credit-and-placement policy at the schools they are considering for AP credit acceptance information. Further information about CollegeBoard's AP Program, including student and parent resources, is accessible at https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/.	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *World Geography* **Duration: Full Year**

United States History CP	
This course teaches American History from the discovery of America up to the present. Students ``interact" with many different characters throughout American History as they learn about Columbus' discovery of the continent, the torments of winter in Jamestown, the infamous Salem Witch Trials, the patriotism of the American Revolution, the creation of the American government, the seeds of change and the impending crisis that transformed into the Civil War. Students participate in historical events like the "Fire of the Revolution" as they jump from step to step in an attempt to discover one of the major "fire starters". They follow clues in a "Race to Discovery History " in order to be the first to arrive in the far west. They learn the torments of slavery through an in-depth study in the fight for equality for all men and women. They will learn the repercussions of the end of the Civil War and understand why John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln. Students ``interact" with people who lived through the Industrial Revolution and will see clearly America's hesitation in entering The Great War (World War I). Students are taught to understand the return to normalcy and the roaring twenties, the impacts of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, rejoicing over the election of FDR and the changes that emerged with the onset, and eventual victory in World War II, both at home and abroad. Students learn to understand the functions of the modern American government, and how these functions have evolved. Students come to appreciate individuals such as Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Buzz Aldrin, Lyndon Johnson, General MacArthur, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and many more important Americans of the modern era. Students receive new perspectives on events like Watergate, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Iraqi Wars, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the impeachment of William Clinton, as well as current economic issues. This course is rigorous in reading, note taking, and writing. A lengthy term paper is required as reflected in the course syllabus. Students are given homework on a daily basis and tests and quizzes are given weekly.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd Year **Prerequisites:** *World Geography & World History* **Duration: Full Year**

Advanced Placement United States History	
In preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in May, this course provides an analytical perspective on the history of the United States. Students are provided with information on the various eras, beliefs, cultures, peoples, and governmental bodies that have made up the history of the United States. The course is designed around tracking the development of the United States from her discovery through the modern age. The course will focus on themes including foundations for American democracy, diversity, conflicts both foreign and domestic, America's role in world affairs, and the development of modern	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 3rd Year **Prerequisites:** *World Geography & World History* **Duration: Full Year**

American institutions. This class is rigorous and students are expected to complete primary source readings, novels, and textbook readings every day. Students must be able to interpret, discuss and offer opinions on a variety of writings. A lengthy writing assignment is a part of this course which includes MLA in-text and works cited citations as noted in the class syllabus. All students are required to take the National AP United States History Exam from the College Board in May. Students should check the credit-and-placement policy at the schools they are considering for AP credit acceptance information. Further information about CollegeBoard's AP Program, including student and parent resources, is accessible at https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/.	

Government, Politics and Current Issues	
This course is designed to prepare the youth of America to become citizens of the United States and the World. The course takes an indepth look at the many different types of governments in the modern world including Republics, Monarchies, Dictatorships, Totalitarianism, Nazism, Fascism, Anarchies and Parliament. Students will familiarize themselves with the workings of the American Government's Constitution and Constitutions around the world. Students will define "active citizenship" and comprehend the importance of being an "active citizen." We will focus on politics, and its role in government and citizenship, by discussing the birth and development of political parties. Students will also discuss the current events that shape our world daily, by educating themselves about the world around them. Students will be required to listen to and/or watch daily news broadcasts. Key events will be highlighted. Throughout all, students will learn to become participants in the world.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *US History* **Duration: Full Year**

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics	
AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis. All students are required to take the National AP United States History Exam from the College Board in May. Students should check the credit-and-placement policy at the schools they are considering for AP credit acceptance information. Further information about CollegeBoard's AP Program, including student and parent resources, is accessible at https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/.	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *U.S. History* **Duration: Full Year**

World Language

Spanish I	
This course introduces students to basic communication in Spanish and covers lessons on; numbers, days of the week, months and seasons, gender of nouns, plural forms of nouns, definite and indefinite articles, adjectives and adjective correspondence, present tense regular verb conjugations, and vocabulary and pronunciation. Students will also be introduced to Spanish speaking countries and geographic locations. The course is designed to have students develop basic conversational ability and reading comprehension, as well as learning basic writing skills. During the second semester, students will begin to learn irregular verbs in present tense, and direct and indirect object pronouns. They will continue to work on their conversational skills and learn about the culture.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 1st Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: Full Year**

Spanish II (CP & Honors)	
Spanish II is designed to build upon the skills acquired in Spanish I. This course continues the development of the basic skills of listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing through the study of grammatical structures and vocabulary. Additionally, the curriculum contains readings of relevant dialogues and stories as well as a presentation of individual projects. Spanish culture and geography are taught which helps the students to become more immersed in the subject manner.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 2nd Year **Prerequisites:** *Spanish I* **Duration: Full Year**

Spanish III: Advanced Grammar and Conversation Honors	
Spanish III combines the study of Spanish grammar with the development of the basic skills of listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Students develop these skills through grammar analysis, readings, compositions and presentations of student projects. The primary language used in teaching this class is Spanish.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 2nd, 3rd, 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Spanish II* **Duration: Full Year**

Spanish Language and Latin American Culture 4 Honors	
Spanish Language and Latin American Culture 4 focuses on training students to become more fluent so that they can speak with ease in the target language. Structures learned in earlier levels are reviewed and practiced, while new formations are introduced through the four basic language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Throughout the course, students will learn, examine, and analyze the cultural aspects of the countries where Spanish is spoken. Learners will also have the opportunity to interact with students and adults from Latin American countries. This course is conducted primarily in Spanish with interactive materials that support 21st-century learning objectives and ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) standards.	**Credits:** 1.0 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Spanish III and Teacher Recommendation* **Duration: Full Year**

Fine Arts

Art I: Introduction to Art	
Explore the visual arts in this survey course that will expose students to a wide variety of media and techniques used in visual communication. Topics/mediums that will be explored include: history of art, composition, fine motor vs. gross motor skills, friendship bracelets, crocheting, drawing, ink, calligraphy, printmaking, color theory, still life, tie dye, portrait drawing, and landscape drawing. This course will end in an art show where students will be able to showcase their masterpieces.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** Open **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Art II: Continued Introduction to Art	
This course is designed to continue building upon the skills and knowledge learned in Art I. Topics/mediums that will be explored include: graphite, still life, linear perspective, ink, flaura and fauna illustration, loomis method, and portrait drawing. Students will also have time to pursue self-driven, independent projects. This course will end in an art show where students will be able to showcase their masterpieces.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** Open **Prerequisites:** *Art I* **Duration: One Semester**

Music	
This introductory music course allows students to explore a wide variety of music skills. This may include individual instrument lessons, playing in a band, or vocal work. Students are encouraged to try a variety of instruments (including their voice) to find their passion within music and develop their unique musicianship. Performing in the concert each semester is a requirement of this course.	**Credits:** 0.5 or 1.0 **Level:** Open **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester or Full Year**

Cursive Handwriting & Practical Penmanship	
Until recent cutbacks and the advent of text messaging, The Spencerian Guide To Practical Penmanship had been a staple in many school systems since its creation in the 1840's and quickly became a worldwide staple since its publication in 1866. This 5 volume book series and instructional worksheets offer a step by step guide to building the fine motor skills and muscle memory required to transform students handwriting into beautiful and elegant Spencerian Script. In 5 Modules over the course of 1 semester, students will explore in detail the following: Module 1: Introduces all short letters. Only four strokes—or principles, as Spencer called them—are needed to produce these letters. Module 2: Adds some tall letters (t and d) and numerals 1-9. Module 3: Completes the lower-case alphabet and introduces most capitals. Module 4: Completes the capital alphabet and practices full words. Module 5: Presents sentences and sayings for writing practice including biblical verse, poetry, and positive affirmations.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** Open **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Drawing the Human Form: Anatomy	
Anatomical drawing is considered by many artists the most important and difficult aspect of creating realism in art. Learning the human form and more specifically, the way light wraps around it, can be both incredibly challenging and illuminating at the same time. So much understanding of individual ideas and disciplines can be grasped through exploration in this one subject matter. In this course, students will literally draw the human figure from bones, to muscle, to skin to better understand not only the proportions of the body's parts but also how they work together as part of a living machine. Using constructive drawing techniques, students will systematically learn to create simple shapes, to organic shapes, and then abstract shapes to build their comprehension of human anatomy. In this course students will learn concepts and begin to approach, meet, or exceed in proficiencies in the following: -A core knowledge of the basic principles of art and design. -Gesture Drawing	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** Open **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

-Cross Contour Line Drawing. -Constructive Anatomical Drawing -Anatomical Perspective. Foreshortening and Forelengthening. -Names and placement of the bones in the human skeleton -Names and placement of the muscles in the human body. -Understanding how muscles work and move underneath the human body. -Being able to properly convey the human body on a two dimensional surface in an accurate and proportionality correct manner.	

Illustration and Graphic Art	
Whether chisling images into stone, drawing with charred sticks on cave walls, or painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, man has been telling stories through images for thousands of years. In this course students will learn the history of storytelling through visual art and then practice their own practical uses in the modern age. Students will receive assignments in the form of “design briefs” much like real life clients commissioning them for work. This will include projects that require students to design things such as book covers, character concepts and elements for game design, package labeling, logo creation, advertisements, and web design. In Illustration and Graphic Design students will learn: -A core knowledge of the basic principles of art and design. -Elements that make for impactful and universal storytelling. -Color theory and palette creation. -Facial studies and human expressions -Concept art and character creation -Package, label, and logo design elements -Effective theory behind website design and creation within Google Sites. -Working directly and communicating professionally with clients. -Using verbal communication for describing visual ideas.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Art 1 & 2 or Teacher Recommendation* **Duration: One Semester**

Mural Painting: Large Format Design	
In this course students will explore both traditional and modern methods for creating large format works of art as well as the different materials used to aid in the production. Whether it be on a large canvas, a billboard, an indoor wall, or the side of a building participants in this course will go from concept to sketch to rendering large format artwork. Students will be able to learn methods used by Michalangelo in the creation of The Sistine Chapel as well as methods used by mural artists actively working today. In the design process students will learn how to take a client's brief and place a bid to win the commission. As well as the skills and mathematics needed to not only create the piece but to estimate the cost of materials and labor and time it will take to complete. The course culminates with	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** Open **Prerequisites:** *Art 1* **Duration: One Semester**

students working together to design and create a large format mural to be displayed in the hallways of Mount Saint Joseph for years to come. Students can expect to learn the following: -A core knowledge of the basic principles of art and design. -Color Theory & Paint Mixing -Proportional Image Expansion -Scalable Vector Graphics -Grid Method -Image Guide Method -Cost, design, and material analysis -Writing a proposal and placing a bid for winning a commision -Working within a client's brief to create concept designs -Placement and creation of a painted mural	

Studio Art: Independent Study	
Studio Art caters to students whose skill level and/or discipline is to the point where they are motivated to independently create work in a studio environment. This independent study not only capitalizes on Mount Saint Joseph Academy's magnificent art space but also allows students to both experiment and explore their creative process in a safe and open environment more akin to a college or higher education studio. Due to the largely independent nature of this course, it can be offered alongside the same block or period as other art classes. Students who are interested in this course should be able to demonstrate a desire to consistently create and are required to complete the following: -A core knowledge of the basic principles of art and design. -The ability to work with their preferred medium or mediums in either a progressive way or through positive exploration. -Willingness to take constructive criticism and critique in order to improve technique, method, and overall quality of work produced. -Willingness to 'workshop' and collaborate with other student artists to create a sense of community, understanding, and appreciation for creative endeavors other than their own. -A breadth of work (at least 5 pieces) in which exploration takes place in a concentration of either subject matter, medium used, color palette, composition, setting, style, or an element of design desired to learn more thoroughly. -The requirement to complete a total 10 - 20 pieces of independent work finished and ready for display.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Art 1 & 2* **Duration: One Semester**

Advanced Placement 2-D Art & Design	
Design involves purposeful decision-making about using the elements and principles of art in an integrative way. In 2-D Design Portfolio, students must demonstrate an understanding of design principles as applied to a two-dimensional surface. The principles of design (unity/variety, balance, emphasis, contrast, rhythm, repetition, proportion/scale, and figure/ground relationship) are articulated through the visual elements (line, shape, color, value, texture, space). Any 2-D process or medium may be submitted, including but not limited to graphic design, digital imaging, photography, collage, fabric design, weaving, illustration, painting, printmaking, etc. Students are required to submit a digital portfolio to the College Board in May.	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 3rd Year, 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Art or Teacher Recommendation* **Duration: Full Year**

Advanced Placement Drawing	
AP Drawing teaches a very broad interpretation of drawing issues and techniques. Drawing is interpreted through types of painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Additionally drawing is examined in forms of design, abstract and observational works. Students work on a drawing portfolio which demonstrates their depth of investigation and process of discovery through the concentration section. In the breadth section, the student is asked to demonstrate a serious grounding in visual principles and materials techniques. The quality section permits the student to select their works that exhibit a synthesis of form, technique, and content. All students are required to submit their portfolio to the College Board in May.	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 3rd Year, 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Teacher Recommendation* **Duration: Full Year**

Advanced Placement 3-D Art & Design	
Design involves purposeful decision-making about using the elements and principles of art in an integrative way. In the 3-D Design Portfolio, students must demonstrate an understanding of design principles as applied to a three-dimensional object. The principles of design (unity/variety, balance, emphasis, contrast, rhythm, repetition, proportion/scale, and figure/ground relationship) are articulated through the visual elements (line, shape, color, value, texture). These issues are to be explored through additive, subtractive, and/or fabrication processes. Examples of approaches include figurative or non figurative sculptures, architectural models, metalwork, ceramics, and three-dimensional fiber arts, among others. Students are required to submit a portfolio to the College Board in May.	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 3rd Year, 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Teacher Recommendation* **Duration: Full Year**

Advanced Placement Music Theory	
AP Music Theory is an introductory college-level music theory course. Students cultivate their understanding of music theory through analyzing performed and notated music as they explore concepts like pitch, rhythm, form, and musical design. It is intended for students with substantial musical backgrounds (either formal, notation-based training, or significant amounts of self-taught or “by ear” knowledge) who wish to become more familiar with the technical aspects of music. Students are required to take the AP Music Theory exam in May.	**Credits:** 1.5 **Level:** 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Teacher Recommendation* **Duration: Full Year**

Elective Courses

Astronomy	
An exploratory course introducing students to the wonders of the universe. Students will study the fundamentals of space science, including space technology, the origins of the universe, planetary systems, lunar phases, constellations, and other celestial bodies. This course emphasizes both theoretical knowledge and practical observation, providing students with a deep understanding of the cosmos and its mysteries.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** All Grades **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Dystopian Literature	
Over the semester, students will learn the definition and purpose of the dystopian genre and apply these ideas to some popular dystopian novels. The works on the table for consideration are Ready Player One, Uglies, and The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (a prequel to The Hunger Games). The main coursework will include reading and analysis of these texts under the context of the dystopian genre. Students will be evaluated on understanding of the text and the quality of analysis included in larger projects like essays or presentations. Be advised that this corner of literature is inherently politically charged and is designed to encourage readers to reflect on and discuss potentially controversial topics.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 2nd, 3rd Year, or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Forensic Science	
An engaging and hands-on course that introduces students to the world of criminal investigation and the scientific methods used to solve crimes. In this course, students will explore topics such as toxicology, criminal law, crime scene investigation, and the roles of various professionals in solving criminal cases.Through a combination of theory and practical labs, students will gain a deeper understanding of real-world applications of forensic science and how it contributes to the justice system.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Biology* ***Concurrent:*** *Chemistry* **Duration: One Semester**

Introducing Anthropology: What Makes Us Human?	
Anthropology explores what it means to be human. It is a science that is concerned with every aspect of human life, showing us who we are and what we will become in the future. This is an introductory course through which we will explore major concepts used by current-day anthropologists to understand human culture and society in a global context. Major themes covered include culture and language, human interactions and relationships, identity, rituals, gender, social inequality and stratification, food, and material culture in a digital world. We will also explore how anthropologists do their work and research. This course will not be based solely on lecture, but time will be planned for discussion of readings and related components. We will draw from a variety of materials, including academic and newspaper articles, websites, media clips, and documentaries. Students will be encouraged to expose ideas and arguments through journals, article analysis, documentary analysis, presentations, as well as an independent research project. It is available for Junior and Senior students, and may be taken at Honors level with instructor approval.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 3rd Year, 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Introduction to Computer Science	
This introductory course is designed for high school students with no prior knowledge of computer science, offering a hands-on exploration of the fundamental concepts of computing. Throughout the semester,	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** All Grades **Prerequisites:** *None*

students will learn to think critically and creatively to solve problems using technology, starting with the basics of problem-solving and progressing to the exciting worlds of web development and interactive animations and games. The course is divided into three key areas: Problem Solving and Computing: Students will develop problem-solving skills through logical exercises and puzzles. They'll learn how computers work and how they help us solve problems by processing and managing information. This foundation will prepare students for more complex topics in technology. Web Development: Students will dive into the basics of web development, learning how websites are created. By the end of this section, students will be able to build simple, interactive web pages and understand how the web functions. Interactive Animations and Games: Students will explore the creative side of computer science by creating interactive animations and basic games. Students will learn the basics of coding, animation, and game design, gaining hands-on experience in making their own interactive projects. By the end of the course, students will have a strong foundational understanding of computer science, equipped with practical skills in problem solving, web development, and creating fun, interactive applications. This course is perfect for those looking to get a taste of what computer science has to offer, regardless of their future career interests.	**Duration: One Semester**

Introduction to Criminal Justice	
This course provides an overview of the American criminal justice system including law enforcement, the court system, and the correctional system. Emphasis is placed on crime in the U.S., the criminal justice process from arrest through sentencing, and the roles and responsibilities of criminal justice actors. Current events in the criminal justice system are addressed such as the death penalty, offender treatment, and criminal justice reform among others.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 3rd Year, 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Introduction to Discrete Mathematics	
This course is a gentle introduction to the foundational topics of discrete mathematics, designed for students who like the logic and problem solving side of mathematics, rather than the computational and algebraic side. Discrete mathematics focuses on the study of distinct, separate objects and is essential for fields like computer science, logic, and cryptography. Throughout the course, students will develop critical thinking and logical reasoning skills by exploring three key areas: set theory, combinatorics, and graph theory. Set Theory: Students will learn the basics of sets, including set operations, relations, and functions. They will explore how sets are used to organize data and solve problems in mathematics and computer science. Combinatorics: This section introduces the principles of counting, including permutations, combinations, and the pigeonhole principle. Students will apply these concepts to solve problems related to arrangements, selections, and probability. Graph Theory: Students will explore the study of graphs, which are mathematical structures used to model pairwise relations between objects. Topics will include basic graph types, connectivity, and traversability, with applications in networking, social media, and computer algorithms. In addition to these topics, a core focus of the course will be learning how to write rigorous mathematical proofs. Students will practice constructing clear, logical arguments, using proof techniques such as direct proof, proof by contradiction, and induction. By the end of the course, students will not only understand the foundational concepts of discrete mathematics but also gain confidence in presenting their own mathematical reasoning in written form. This course provides an exposure to higher-level mathematics. This will help students in computer science and will strengthen their problem-solving and analytical skills across a wide range of disciplines.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 2nd, 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *Geometry* **Duration: One Semester**

Introduction to Psychology	
This course introduces students to the major ideas found in psychology and develops an appreciation for how psychologists try to understand the world, make new discoveries, and apply psychological knowledge to solve problems. Students will	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *None*

explore psychological perspectives related to biology, cognition, development and learning, social structures and personality, as well as mental and physical health.	**Duration: One Semester**

Journalism	
The primary goal of any journalism program should be for students to improve both oral and written communication skills. Journalism programs should offer students the opportunity to improve speech skills, research skills, grammar usage, and interview skills as well as production skills for both print and broadcast.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Plant Identification	
In this engaging and hands-on elective course, students will explore the fascinating world of plant identification with a focus on plant anatomy and family-level classification. Through detailed study of plant structure students will gain the foundational knowledge needed to accurately identify various plant species. They will also learn plant taxonomy, and what plant features we use to classify and relate different species of plants. **Throughout the course, students will engage in both classroom instruction and outdoor fieldwork, using tools such as field guides and microscopes to observe and classify plants in their natural habitats. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing plant families and understanding their significance in the broader ecosystem. By the end of the course, students will develop a deeper appreciation for the diversity of plant life and the crucial role plants play in maintaining environmental balance. This course will inspire budding botanists, future ecologists, and nature enthusiasts alike, equipping them with valuable skills for future studies and careers in biology, agriculture, and environmental science.** **Key Topics Include:** **Plant Anatomy: students will be able to define and identify the stamen, anther, style, carpel, petal, stem, floral cup, etc.** **Plant Classification: Students will be able to visually identify an unknown wild flower to the family level.**	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 2nd, 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Tools for Identification: Field guides, dissection, and identification keys **Local Flora: Field trips and hands-on identification exercises/homework plant identification exercises for hybrid students.** **Ecological Importance: The role of plants in ecosystems and biodiversity** **No prior botanical knowledge is required, just a curiosity for the natural world and a willingness to explore!**	

TED Travels the World	
This course focuses on the exploration of global themes through TED talks from around the world. We will investigate global topics in-depth and from multiple perspectives throughout the semester. Topics such as gender, poverty, and human rights will be explored, as well as conflict, revolution, technology, and innovation, among other themes. Students will have a chance to critically analyze issues and events through journals, video responses, projects, and presentations. Students will also have a unique opportunity to explore an idea/topic in-depth and deliver their final presentation in a TED Talk format. This course serves as an interdisciplinary elective that focuses on the incorporation and development of 21st-century learning skills.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 3rd or 4th Year or Teacher Recommendation **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Theatre History	
Over the semester, students will get an overview of the history of performing arts starting from Ancient Greece and (time permitting) ending with Modernism and Musical Theatre. For each major dramatic era, students will engage with the historical significance or context, read (or watch) an important play from the era, and will be expected to analyze each play within that historical context via an appropriate summative project (an essay/a one-pager/a presentation/etc). Students will be evaluated on understanding of the text and the quality of analysis included in those larger projects. Major eras include: Ancient Greece, Shakespeare, Absurdism, Realism, and Modernism.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 3rd Year, 4th Year or Teacher Recommendation **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**

Visual Literacy	
The goal of this course is to interpret visual forms of media and to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the various types. Visual forms of media can include film, print, photography, stage productions, short videos, and graphic design. These forms of media will be used to develop the student's ability to understand messages conveyed through images. Throughout the course, students will examine and analyze the effect of various forms of media in order to broaden a student's cultural literacy.	**Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** 2nd, 3rd or 4th Year **Prerequisites:** *None* **Duration: One Semester**