



**Program of Studies  
2014-2015**

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## **Vision Statement**

Saint John's Catholic Prep will be the leader of college preparatory institutions in Frederick and surrounding communities by providing a quality Catholic education to students with a diverse range of learning needs and abilities. From its rigorous advanced placement programs to its active service in the community, Saint John's challenges each and every student through an innovative curriculum implemented by a dedicated faculty and staff.

## **Mission Statement**

Saint John's Catholic Prep is part of a rich Jesuit tradition beginning in 1829 with our founding by Father John McElroy. As a Catholic, co-educational, independent, college preparatory school, Saint John's is dedicated to the development and education of the total student and sensitive to the needs of each student and a diverse society. Saint John's fosters a commitment to academic excellence, service, and leadership while inspiring lifelong learners.

## **School Philosophy**

Saint John's Catholic Prep enjoys a long tradition of service to its students, its community, and to the kingdom of God. That tradition is rooted in the values established by its Jesuit founder, Father John McElroy, which in turn reflects both the message of Jesus and the way he taught through wisdom, reason, story and personal example.

We believe that our responsibility is to bring knowledge of the past to our students, to engage them in the present, and to prepare them for the future. The purpose of our effort is to create good citizens, sensitive to the needs of others, morally and intellectually responsible for our world and ready to account to God for their lives. To those ends we strive to offer a strong academic program intended to endow our students with the intellectual, spiritual, athletic, and aesthetic qualities needed to maintain the world as God intended at its creation.

## **Objectives**

To recognize the Magisterium of the Church in matters of faith and morals

To provide opportunities for prayer, reflection, and service to others as an expression of one's faith

To maintain a code of conduct that creates an atmosphere of self-discipline and self-direction

To develop within the individual a respect for self and for others in a family environment

To encourage the student to grow as a critical thinker and to foster the fullest development of the individual's academic and personal potential

To encourage students to assume a responsible role in planning their course of study

To guide students as they progress academically to appreciate the relevance of the past as it applies to both present and future experiences

To motivate the student to strive not only for academic excellence but also for personal satisfaction and social fulfillment

To support qualified instructors who, through a variety of techniques and experiences, assist students to reach their maximum potentials.

To provide for each student a core curriculum which is regularly evaluated based upon the needs of the student.

To provide resources which develop skills enabling students to pursue a lifetime of learning

To enhance the academic program by providing extracurricular experiences which foster spiritual, intellectual, physical and social development

## Academic Requirements

In order to graduate and receive a Saint John's diploma, a student must pass (65% or better) all required courses and fulfill all academic requirements for graduation. These academic standards shall be consistent with state requirements for granting of a high school diploma. The school reserves the right to impose academic requirements above and beyond those set by the Maryland State Department of Education. The school offers several diplomas: a College Preparatory diploma, a diploma with Honors and a diploma with High Honors. Furthermore, students working towards an Honors or High Honors diploma may focus on one of two tracks. The credit requirements for these diplomas are as follows:

### College Preparatory Diploma

<b>Theology</b> (1 credit for each year of enrollment at Saint John's)	4 credits
<b>English</b>	4 credits
<b>Social Studies</b>	3 credits
<b>Mathematics</b> (including 1 credit each of Algebra, Geometry, & Algebra II)	4 credits
<b>Foreign Language</b> (must be continuous unless approved by administration)	2 credits
<b>Science</b> (including 1 credit Biology & 1 credit Chemistry)	3 credits
<b>Physical Education</b>	½ credit
<b>Health</b>	½ credit
<b>Fine Arts</b>	1 credit
<b>Technology</b>	1 credit
<b>Electives</b>	2+ credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>26+ credits</b>

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#### Diploma with Honors

To be awarded a "Diploma with Honors" a student must have at least 4 of the advanced classes listed below and a GPA of 3.0.

#### Diploma with High Honors

To be awarded a "Diploma with High Honors" a student must have at least 6 of the advanced classes listed and GPA of 3.5+.

#### Qualifying Advanced Courses:

- Any Advanced Placement course
- Foreign Language above 3<sup>rd</sup> level
- Honors Pre-Calculus
- Honors Philosophy

## College Preparatory Diploma with Honors Math/Science Track

<b>Theology</b>	4 credits
<b>English</b>	4 credits
<b>Mathematics</b> (including 1 credit each of Algebra, Geometry, & Algebra II) (plus one math elective course)	4 credits
<b>Science</b>	4 credits
<b>Social Studies</b> (including 1 credit each of Government, US & World)	3 credits
<b>Foreign Language</b> (must be continuous unless approved by administration)	3 credits
<b>Fine Arts</b>	1 credit
<b>Technology</b>	1 credit
<b>Physical Education</b>	½ credit
<b>Health</b>	½ credit
<b>Electives in Math/Science</b>	2 credits
<b>Other Electives</b>	1+ credit
<b>Total</b>	<b>28+ credits</b>

## College Preparatory Diploma with Honors Humanities Track

<b>Theology</b>	4 credits
<b>English</b> (plus one elective course)	4+ credits
<b>Mathematics</b> (including 1 credit each of Algebra, Geometry, & Algebra II)	4 credits
<b>Science</b> (including 1 credit Biology & 1 credit Chemistry)	3 credits
<b>Social Studies</b>	4 credits
<b>Foreign Language</b> (must be continuous unless approved by administration)	4 credits
<b>Fine Arts</b>	1 credit
<b>Technology</b>	1 credit
<b>Physical Education</b>	½ credit
<b>Health</b>	½ credit
<b>Electives in English, Theology, Social Studies or For Lang</b>	2+ credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>28+ credits</b>

## Graduation Requirements

1. Students will meet all State of Maryland course and attendance requirements necessary for graduation. The State of Maryland sets "Acceptable Attendance" at 94% percent; that means students can miss no more than 12 classes in a semester course or 24 classes in a year-long course.
2. Students will meet all requirements for graduation set forth by the Archdiocese of Baltimore.
3. Students will meet all course and attendance requirements necessary for graduation as set forth by Saint John's Catholic Prep.
4. Students will not be permitted to take examinations or participate in any graduation activities unless their financial obligations to the school have been met (tuition, fines, uniforms, etc.).
5. Seniors must participate in an over-night class retreat.
6. In order to be considered for Class Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must be enrolled at Saint John's Catholic Prep for at least two full years.
7. Participation in graduation activities is a privilege which may be denied to students due to unseemly behavior, discipline record, failure to attend graduation practice, etc.
8. Students must receive a passing grade on the Saint John's Basic Math Skills Test.
9. Students must complete approved community service as outlined in the handbook. All students must complete 80 hours of approved community service as a graduation requirement.

## Advanced Placement Courses

AP classes are taught at a higher level than normal high school classes. Ideally, they are as challenging as many freshman level college classes. For example, AP English Literature is designed to be as challenging as a freshman English class at a typical college.

At the end of an AP class offered at Saint John's Catholic Prep, **students must sit for the AP Exam in May**. The fee for each exam is \$89; this price is set by the Collegeboard and must be paid by parents. By taking the exam, students have an opportunity to earn college credit for the course.

The AP Exams are scored on a scale from 1 to 5, with a score of 5 being the highest. Each college determines whether or not they will accept AP credit and, if so, what score is needed. When earning college credit for a course, it means that student will not be required to take that course in college. This allows students who earn credit the opportunity to take higher level courses in their freshman year and saves money that would be invested in those beginning level courses.

In order to register in an AP course at Saint John's, a student must have his/her teacher's approval and the department chair's approval. The student must also write a letter to the department chair explaining why he/she would excel in an AP Course.

## Enrolling in Courses at Saint John's

The course selections requested by students determine how the master course schedule is developed. Effort will be made to schedule students with their original course requests though some conflicts are unavoidable. Please be sure to list alternate electives on the course selection sheet.

After completing the course selection sheet, students then submit course requests through Edline. It should be understood that just because a student requests a course doesn't guarantee that he or she will be placed in that course. Courses often require departmental approval.

In terms of scheduling, the master schedule is developed in May. At the end of the school year, each student receives a tentative schedule for the coming school year. In some cases, students are short credits because they have incorrectly selected courses through Edline or have not requested required courses. Freshmen should have eight credits listed on their schedule; upperclassmen, seven credits.

Because of the real possibility of conflicts or student errors, it may be necessary to meet with or discuss a student's schedule over the phone with the Academic Dean. With the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday week, when the entire school is closed, the Academic Dean is available to adjust schedules over the summer.

# COURSE OFFERINGS

## ENGLISH

A summer reading and vocabulary assignment are part of the required English curriculum and reflect our desire to develop proficient readers and writers. Each year students complete their summer reading and vocabulary cards over the summer and submit their work on the first day of class.

### **English 9 (1 credit)**

The ninth and tenth grade curriculum provides a foundation course in Western Literature from its beginnings through the twentieth century. The ninth grade course will begin with masterpieces of The Ancient World and extend through the Renaissance. Volume One of *The Norton Anthology of Western Literature* will be the principal text. Selections will include excerpts from or complete works such as *The Odyssey*, *The Hebrew Bible*, *Ovid's Metamorphoses*, *Beowulf*, *The Divine Comedy*, Shakespeare and others. Students will focus primarily on critical writing, using the grammar and vocabulary workbooks as supplements to their study of writing. In conjunction with the library staff, they will also receive instruction in research techniques and the MLA format for research paper documentation. They will be expected to master the five-paragraph format for essays of literary analysis.

### **English 9 Honors (1 credit)**

Students who perform in the superior range on the entrance exam and who demonstrate advanced reading and composition skills will be selected for this course. Students also use the *Norton Anthology, Volume I*, but will read significantly more selections than the regular course. More extensive practice in research and critical writing, and participation in classroom dialogue will also be required. Students will focus primarily on critical writing, using the grammar and vocabulary workbooks as supplements to their study of writing. In conjunction with the library staff, they will also receive instruction in research techniques and the MLA format for research paper documentation. They will be expected to master the five-paragraph format for essays of literary analysis.

### **English 10 (1 credit)**

The ninth and tenth grade curriculum provides a foundation course in Western Literature from its beginnings through the twentieth century. The tenth grade course uses the *Glencoe Literature Textbook, Course Five*. Authors and works include James Joyce, Leo Tolstoy, The English Romantics, Walt Whitman, Anton Chekhov, Franz Kafka. Sophomores in this course continue to develop the writing skills taught in ninth grade with further emphasis on use of parenthetical citations in the five-paragraph essay. Research projects using the MLA format are assigned in conjunction with the readings. Students also will use grammar and vocabulary workbooks throughout the year.

### **English 10 Honors (1 credit)**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 9 Honors and department approval

English 10 Honors is an accelerated course for sophomores who have the approval of the English department and who have demonstrated skill in writing and in analysis of literature. Honors students will be required to read more extensively from the *Glencoe Literature Textbook, Course Five*.

Authors will include Leo Tolstoy, Anton Chekhov, Jane Austen, Franz Kafka, The English Romantics as well as Victorian authors and Modernists such as James Joyce and Samuel Beckett and contemporary authors such as Chinua Achebe. More reading, more writing, more research, and generally higher performance expectations will distinguish the Honors from the Regular course.

**English 11 (1 credit)**

A chronological approach to the study of American literature is the focus of this survey course. Students will read and discuss the development of an American voice from the early colonial period through the modern era. In addition to the novels, students use vocabulary and grammar workbooks and read Shakespeare's *Othello*. Students will continue their development of literary essays, and will do a research paper on a major American author in the second semester. Oral presentations are a requirement during a selected drama unit.

**English 11 Honors: American Themes (1 credit)**

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of English 10 Honors and department approval.

This honors course focuses on the analysis of the novel and two dramas and is a prerequisite for AP English Literature. Students will begin the year's novel analysis with an American novel, *The Scarlet Letter*. Students will also analyze satire in both short essays and in Twain's novel. Students will continue the analysis of an author's tone in works by Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and Faulkner.. Shakespeare's *Othello* is the drama read for this course. A vocabulary textbook completes the texts used by students. A research paper that analyzes a work by an American author or presents an analysis of a literary question is required in the second semester. Students who are successful in this course will be eligible for either AP Literature or AP Language and Composition.

**English 12: Social Consciousness through Literature (1 credit)**

A study of literature that deals with a variety of socially relevant issues is the focus of this survey course, which concentrates heavily on contemporary fiction and drama as well as the graphic novel, such as *The Complete Maus*. Students will be refining writing skills in preparation for college and there will be assignments that give practice in research and the MLA format. Students in this course will also use both grammar and vocabulary workbooks.

**English 12 Honors: Poetry and Film (1 credit)**

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of English 11 Honors or AP Language and department approval. Seniors in this accelerated course study poetry, literature, and film – and how all three explore the nature of imagination. This course will begin with a survey of great poetry in the English language and attempt to develop a concept of Imagination, and how artistic forms capture and express it. Major poems will be analyzed as we explore the wealth of poetic language and its power to move the mind, the body and the soul. Techniques of literary analysis which are applicable to other genres such as the short story, the drama, and the novel will be studied. Poems will also be the focus of vocabulary and word study in a context of poetic meaning. Students will also study the way literary works are transformed into film as a way of exploring the nature of Imagination. Images on the page, in the mind, and on the film will be compared and contrasted. Students will read classic stories and novels which have provided the basis for motion pictures and films which have been composed primarily for the screen in order to contrast the work of imagination in poem, story, drama, novel and film

**English 12 AP Literature and Composition (1 credit)**

**Prerequisite:** successful completion of the English 11 Honors course or AP Language, letter of application, teacher recommendation, and department approval.

Recommended seniors in this accelerated course study the various modes of drama (Greek tragedy, comedy, revenge tragedy, Shakespearean, satirical, realistic, and modern) and the various forms and techniques of poetry through readings and discussions of works of literary merit. In addition, to practice analytical and composition skills, students undertake a number of writing projects based on the literature under study and are introduced to Critical Theories. Vocabulary enhancement is offered, as is individualized instruction in usage and mechanics. Students also complete three outside reading projects based on novels recommended by the College Board. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

**AP Language and Composition (1 credit)**

Prerequisite: successful completion of the English 11 Honors course, letter of application, teacher recommendation, and department approval. Recommended seniors and a handful of highly recommended juniors in this college-level writing course are expected to develop their abilities as critical readers and writers, while preparing for the AP Language and Composition exam.

Understanding effective communication - both oral and written - is the goal. The class will achieve its goal through the following: analysis of non-fiction literature, rhetorical techniques, and literary devices; annotated reading and writing process development; grammar and vocabulary. This course requires students' best efforts consistently and emphasizes their developing independence of thought and mature habits of critical thinking.

**Creative Writing (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This class aims to make its students better writers of fiction, poetry and non-fiction. Writing is about steady discipline, attention to detail and love of the work. We want to perform skillfully and not mechanically. We wish to improvise when necessary and revel in the words. To achieve all of this, the class will concentrate on skill. By learning the basics, the class will attempt to produce both skillful and talented writing. This means students must first become better readers, which should include all assignments as well as outside reading students determine on their own. Within the boundaries of this course, students will respond to poems and stories, write creative pieces based on exercises, prompts, and homework assignments; submit work to be evaluated by their peers; and participate in class during discussion. Discussion will be respectful and honest. The classroom environment should be such that students are willing to take risks.

**Journalism (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course is a workshop for those interested in writing for newspapers, magazines, or online news outlets. Assignments may include a short factual report, longer researched article, personal reportage, editorial, obituary, profile, critical review, and query letter. Reporting, interviewing, researching, and writing effectively are stressed. Students write for print, online, and broadcasting news outlets. Ethical, multicultural, and legal concerns for a journalist are addressed.

## **Fine Arts: Visual Arts**

### **Art Fundamentals (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course explores basic concepts in visual arts through a variety of projects. These are hands on, enabling students to experience diverse media and techniques. Media to be used include charcoal, pen and ink, Acrylic and watercolor paint, and printmaking. Students explore the substance behind the basics such as perspective, light-dark modeling, color dynamics, public art, collage, right-brain activities, commercial art, faith based imagery, and pure imagination.

### **Art Foundations (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course is designed for upper class students who didn't take Fundamentals as a Freshman. In it students explore basic concepts in visual arts through a variety of projects. These are hands-on, enabling students to experience diverse media and techniques. Media to be used include charcoal, pen and ink, Acrylic and watercolor paint, and printmaking. Students explore the substance behind the basics such as perspective, light-dark modeling, color dynamics, public art, collage, right-brain activities, commercial art, faith-based imagery, and pure imagination.

### **Drawing and Dry Media (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course builds on Art Fundamentals and enhances the drawing skills with further study of modeling/shading, perspective, and more advanced drawing techniques. Still life, figure drawing, and all dry media will be incorporated into the class. Art historical references will be appropriately integrated into the studio projects and lessons.

### **Painting (1 semester, ½ credit)**

Building on Art Fundamentals experiences, students will develop skills in painting using various wet media (acrylic, watercolor, oils, etc.). Projects included are self-portraits, landscapes, murals, abstracts. Historical references, materials, and techniques of master painters will be integrated into the course and the studio projects.

### **Mixed Media (1 semester, ½ credit)**

Students continue their course of study using diverse media; concentrating on form/dimension. Varied material will be utilized. Examples include paper-mâche, clay, mosaic, collage, wood, glass and environmental objects. Historical Art references and the study of modern artists will be incorporated into the studio lessons and projects.

### **Advanced Placement Art History (1 credit)**

In this course, students will survey the development of painting, sculpture, and architecture in Western cultures. The specific objectives of this course are to acquaint students with the historical settings within which great works have been produced. Students will develop observational and writing skills necessary for recognizing, critically evaluating, and comparing major works. The course covers the earliest art of prehistoric Europe and early art of the East through modern art of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

## **Fine Arts: Performing Arts**

Each guitar student is required to pay \$20.00 to the Music Department to cover expenses incurred during the semester for maintenance and music. Each student is required to own or have access to a guitar for practice at home.

### **General Music (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course encompasses music appreciation, music history, music theory, and basic instrument performance. Students do not need to know how to play an instrument to participate in this course.

### **Beginning Guitar (1 semester, ½ credit)**

Enjoyment of the instrument and excitement in playing is the goal of this course. Sight reading, learning notes, and timing will be stressed. Projects including performance in guitar will be required. Performance opportunities will be available year round for the students.

### **Advanced Guitar (1 semester, ½ credit)**

Blues, rock, Celtic and classical music will be available for the student. Rock band and Swing band have performances throughout the year. Improving technique and learning a large repertoire of music will be stressed. Chordal theory will be studied and used to create music. Sight reading either the notes or tabulation is required. These students will be expected to perform. Juries will be held for a grade in this class.

### **Beginning Keyboard (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course teaches the fundamentals of piano while also learning basic music theory. Students do not need to have prior experience on the piano to participate. Students will have the opportunity to play a variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary pop.

### **Beginning Music Theory (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course will study note notation so that the students can compose rhythms and melodies. Students will learn the note names in both treble and bass clefs. Students will learn the language of music which will enhance their musical appreciation and performance skills.

### **Advanced Theory and Composition (1 semester, ½ credit)**

Students will start by reviewing and applying much of what they already know about music theory. We will then study interval quality, key relationships, chord functions, and cadences. Students will use this knowledge to compose music.  
Prerequisite: Beginning Theory

### **Band (2 semesters, 1 credit)**

The SJCP Band of Vikings represents the school at several events during the year, including sporting events and concerts. Students in this course must apply to be members before registering. Students are expected to have prior knowledge and experience playing an instrument.

# Foreign Languages

## French I

This year-long course introduces students to functional basic French and the culture(s) of the people(s) who speak French. It aims to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing for active and passive use of the language. Tenses covered include present and passé composé.

## French II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French I

This course is designed to continue the development of the four language skills. The language skills of Level I are reviewed and expanded. Students are presented with a variety of oral and printed materials which will help increase their understanding of the French culture.

## French III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French II

This course is designed to increase the competence in the four foreign language skills. Students will read a variety of cultural and daily life materials. Opportunities are provided for students to communicate in French and to practice their skills. French culture is studied.

## French: Advanced Placement Program

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French IV Honors and/or recommendation of the department. Students who enroll in the Advanced Placement Program in French Language should already have a good command of French grammar and vocabulary and have competence in listening, reading, speaking and writing, although these qualifications may be attained in a variety of ways, it is assumed that most students will be in the final stages of their secondary school training, and will have substantial course work in the language. This is an advanced level course with major emphasis upon spoken language, the extension of literary and cultural experiences, and reading for comprehension. It also includes a thorough review of the essentials of French grammar. It requires considerable self-discipline. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

## Spanish I

This course is intended to introduce students to functional basic Spanish and the culture(s) of the people(s) who speak Spanish. It aims to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The present and preterit tenses are covered.

## Spanish II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I at SJPH or by demonstrating the skills of Spanish I on tests or in an interview. This course begins with a review of the highlights of Spanish I. It continues the development of the four language skills with a variety of oral and printed material. The imperfect, future, and progressive tenses are covered.

## Spanish III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish II. In this course, the foreign language skills are further developed and refined. Skills will involve active use of the language in conversation and written practice. All tenses covered in the first two years are reviewed and the imperatives are introduced.

## Spanish III Honors

Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish II with a grade of A or B and/or recommendation of the department. In this course the foreign language skills are further developed and refined. Skills will involve active use of the language in conversation, listening comprehension, reading comprehension and written practice. All tenses covered in the first two years are reviewed and the imperatives are introduced. This course will include the study of the subjunctive and an introduction to literature in the target language and increased instruction in the target language.

### **Spanish IV Honors - Language and Culture**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish III. This honors level course is designed to address the needs of students who seek an alternative fourth level of Spanish study. The curriculum will include conversational components, lectures, readings, long written assignments and oral presentations in the target language. The course will encompass Spanish history from the Middle Ages through the modern era, and will include historical and cultural elements. It will include a primary text, as well as ancillary materials such as videos, music, periodicals and literature in the target language. In addition, examples of Spanish and Latin American art will be integrated into the curriculum. The course will be designed to cover multiple disciplines while fulfilling the need for foreign language instruction. Students will be expected to read, comprehend and comment on readings in the textbook and ancillary readings from various newspapers, magazines, and literature. Literature will include prose and poetry from the Middle Ages through the modern era, and will include both peninsular and Latin American sources and authors. Students will be expected to take quizzes and tests in the target language, and all writing assignments will also be completed in the target language. Students will give one oral report for each semester period, which will be weighted as a test grade, in addition to tests and quizzes.

### **Spanish Conversation**

This class is designed to develop effective communication skills, to increase vocabulary, and to teach students to express and justify facts, opinions, ideas, and emotions in Spanish. The teaching focuses on basic language skills needed in common daily situations with emphasis on listening and speaking. The class will be conducted in Spanish and will include discussion of current events and a wide variety of cultural and everyday topics. The conversation class, with its emphasis upon spoken language and an extension of literary and cultural experiences is for the more proficient Spanish speakers whose skills exceed the Level 3 class. It requires considerable self-discipline.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish III and a C or higher on the final exam.

### **Spanish: Advanced Placement Program**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish IV, a B or higher on the final exam, and/or recommendation of the department.

Students who enroll in the Advanced Placement Program in Spanish language should already have a good command of Spanish grammar and vocabulary and have competence in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. The course is intended to be the equivalent of a third year college course in advanced Spanish composition and conversation emphasizing the use of Spanish for active communication. The course objectives are to comprehend formal and informal spoken Spanish, to acquire vocabulary and structure, to allow easy, accurate reading of newspapers, magazines, and literature in Spanish, to compose expository passages, and to express ideas orally with accuracy and fluency. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

### **Latin I**

The Latin I course has three major objectives. First, students will learn comprehension of the Latin language through practice in reading it. Second, the students will learn about the social and political history of the Romans through the readings. Third, the students will increase their English vocabulary by studying derivatives of the Latin vocabulary. Latin I will cover the direct three declensions, simple case uses, three degrees of adjectives, personal pronouns, present, imperfect, perfect, and pluperfect verb tenses, relative clauses, imperatives, and the irregular verbs volo, possum, and sum.

### **Latin II**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin I. The Latin II course will further expand the student's knowledge of the Latin language and culture. By the end of the course, students will be reading short selections from ancient authors. Latin II will cover the last two declensions, participles, adverbs, additional case uses, passive voice, imperfect and pluperfect subjunctive, infinitives, passive paraphrastics, ablative absolutes, and the irregular verb fio.

**Latin III**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin II

The Latin III course will cover more complex Latin grammatical structure. There will also be an emphasis on typical Latin (and English) literary devices as the majority of the course will be comprised of reading authentic Latin, both prose and poetry.

**AP Latin (Advanced Placement)**

This course prepares students for the AP exam in May which focuses primarily of Vergil. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

# Mathematics

## **Algebra 1A (1 credit)**

This year long course covers the first half of the standard Algebra 1 course. It provides an introduction to the language and applications of algebra, including development of the real number system, operations with integers, rational numbers, variables, mathematical expressions, linear equations, and problem solving. Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade math course and departmental approval

## **Algebra 1B (1 credit)**

This course continues the study of Algebra 1. It reviews the previous material and includes solving equations, inequalities, operations with polynomials, factoring, statistics, probability, graphs, and functions. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1A

## **Algebra I (1 credit)**

Algebra I is a standard introductory course which includes working with integers, irrational numbers, polynomials, rational expressions, equations, inequalities, systems of linear equations, and some graphing. Translating from an English sentence to an algebraic sentence is emphasized, students are introduced to probability and statistics, and word problems are assigned throughout the year. Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade math and departmental approval

## **Geometry (1 credit)**

The objectives of this course include the traditional goals of logical thinking skills, geometric relationships, and the mathematical concepts needed for more advanced mathematics classes. This course also emphasizes skills in problem solving, algebraic connections, and proof. Students will acquire knowledge of basic concepts in geometry, including triangles, polygons, and circles. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I, Algebra A and B, and department approval

## **Algebra II/Algebra II Honors (1 credit)**

The second year of algebra deals with a review of Algebra I topics and also covers the quadratic formula, complex numbers, and logarithms. The class will include an introduction to trigonometry, polynomial functions, radicals, and graphing. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry and/or department approval.

## **Topics in Mathematics (1 credit)**

This course begins with a SAT preparation and continues with a review of algebraic operations involving monomials, polynomials, and factoring. An investigation of the properties of real, imaginary, and complex numbers follows. Exponential functions, a review of plane geometry, trigonometry, and probability will also be studied. Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II

## **Precalculus/Precalculus Honors (1 credit)**

This course will consist of a study of algebraic, logarithmic, and exponential functions as well as the conic sections and trigonometry including circular functions, radian measure, and the use of trig identities. The goal of this year's study will be to thoroughly prepare the student for college mathematics. A graphic calculator will be required. Prerequisite: A grade of A or B in Algebra II and/or department approval

## **Advanced Mathematics: Honors (1 credit)**

This course will continue the preparation for college calculus – working with functions, additional emphasis on advanced trigonometry, and an introduction to calculus. A graphic calculator will be required. Prerequisite: Completion of Pre-Calculus and/or department approval

**AP Calculus AB (1 credit)**

This advanced Placement course teaches the basic concepts of differential and integral calculus and their applications. Also included are transcendental functions. This course will prepare students to take the AP exam. Prerequisite: A grade of A or B in Pre-Calculus and/or department approval. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

**AP Calculus BC (1 credit)**

This course reviews basic limits, derivatives and integrals. It then expands on their applications. It covers L'Hopital's Rule, improper integrals, partial fractions, series, vectors, and parametric and polar functions. Students will be prepared to take the AP exam. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Calculus AB and department approval. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

**AP Statistics (1 credit)**

The purpose of this AP course in statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. This course will be equivalent to an introductory, non-calculus based, college course in statistics. It is typically required for majors such as social sciences, health sciences, and business. Science, engineering, and mathematics majors usually have to take an upper level calculus based course in statistics, for which the AP Statistics course is effective preparation. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra 2 honors and department approval. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

**Data Analysis (1 semester, ½ credit)**

*An elective in addition to required math*

Read, understand, and interpret information from graphs, data, and statistical calculations. Look at real world application of information presentation and misrepresentation using basic statistics, graphing, and simple probability.

**Introduction to Personal Finances (1 semester, ½ credit)**

*An elective in addition to required math*

An introduction to personal finances using bank accounts, checking accounts, credit, investments, and budget. The course will look at managing money and making sound financial decisions.

## Physical Education

### **Physical Education (1/2 credit)**

Incoming freshmen will complete the PE and Health credit in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Physical education is an integral part of a student's total educational program. The physical education curriculum provides a planned sequence of learning experiences in which human movement concentrates on the individual's maximum physical potential and the related social, emotional, and intellectual growth. The Health Education program is an integrated part of the Physical Education course of study.

### **Health 9 (1/2 credit)**

Health Education provides students with an awareness of health standards for living including bodily functions and develops a conscious awareness of contemporary problems which affect general health and well being. Graduation Requirements: Students are required to successfully complete PE/Health 9 for a total of 1 credit. Each semester class is worth half a credit.

### **Team Sports: (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This elective course provides students and athletes with the opportunity to develop skills in a variety of sport activities and to build foundations for a quality lifestyle.

### **Weight Training (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This elective course provides students with the opportunity to improve muscle strength and weight control while gaining an understanding essential to developing a basic weight training program.

### **10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education: (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This elective course provides student with the opportunity to develop skills, including physical development in the areas of strength, flexibility, coordination, endurance, balance, agility, range of motion, and power.

## Sciences

### **Conceptual Physics / Conceptual Physics Honors (1 credit)**

Students study the principles and laws governing the behavior of the inanimate world around us. Knowledge is gained through experimentation, reasoning, and mathematical analysis. The course will cover the concepts behind the natural laws which explain the behavior of forces, motion, work, energy, electricity, light, sound, and heat. Also students will receive instruction on the physical description of elements on the periodic chart. Development of appropriate lab and computer abilities will be an integral part of the course. Honors sections will include more mathematical analysis of physics concepts. Ninth grade, regular and honors sections.

### **Biology/ Biology Honors (1 credit)**

This course covers life from the molecular level of the cell through the human organism. In addition to cell biology, topics studied include cellular respiration, genetics and protein synthesis, evolution, and the Kingdoms Plantal and Animalia. Lab work is stressed. Prerequisite: One year of high school science or with administrative permission

### **Chemistry/ Chemistry Honors (1 credit)**

Chemistry is the study of the properties and the behavior of matter. The behavior of all three phases of matter is studied, as well as why we believe there to be atoms. Concepts include Stoichiometry, Radiation, Reaction Rates, Solutions, Acid/Base reactions and Organic Chemistry. The laboratory experience is stressed and is integrated with discussion and lecture. Prerequisite: two years of high school science or departmental permission and completion of Algebra I.

### **Physics (1 credit)**

Students study the principles and laws governing the behavior of the inanimate world around us. Knowledge is gained through experimentation, reasoning, and mathematical analysis. The course will cover the concepts and mathematics behind the natural laws which explain the behavior of forces, motion, work, energy, electricity, light, sound, and heat. Development of appropriate lab, computer, and calculating abilities will be an integral part of the course. Recommended for all students anticipating a career in science, engineering, or science related areas.

Prerequisite: Concurrent Enrollment in Pre-Calculus, B average in Science and/or Departmental Permission.

### **Advanced Placement Physics C (1 credit)**

This course is a 2nd year Physics course intended for students with an interest in engineering or science. Strong emphasis is placed on solving a variety of challenging problems, some requiring calculus. The subject matter is principally mechanics; equivalent to a first semester college physics course. This course can lead to the opportunity to pursue and receive credit for college level work by successfully taking the advanced placement exam in physics at the end of the course.

Prerequisite: Completion of first year Physics, Concurrent Enrollment in Calculus and Departmental Permission. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

### **Advanced Placement Biology (1 credit)**

The AP Biology course is a national program that gives high school students the opportunity to experience a college level course and to take the AP exam for college credit. General course topics include chemistry of life, cell, cellular energetics, heredity and evolution, organisms, populations, and ecology. The course will examine chemical processes essential to life, structure and functions of organisms, causes of adaptations. This course will teach students how to identify relationships and apply concepts rather than simply to memorize facts. The format for AP Biology is lecture and laboratory. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

Prerequisite: Biology (B average), overall B average in science, departmental approval.

Co-requisite: Chemistry

**Advanced Placement Chemistry (1 credit)**

AP Chemistry is designed to be the equivalent of the general Chemistry course usually taken during the first year of college. Successful completion of the AP examination at year's end may allow students either to undertake second year Chemistry courses in the freshman year or to fulfill lab science requirements and free time for other courses. General topics include Evidence for the existence of atoms, Chemical bonding, Nuclear Chemistry, Gases and gas laws, Solutions, Reaction types, Stoichiometry, Equilibrium, Reaction Kinetics and Thermodynamics. The course will include both lecture and a laboratory program which will expect the student to think analytically and reduce problems to identifiable, answerable questions. Students enrolled in this course must sit for the AP exam in May.

**Advanced Placement Environmental Science (1 credit)**

AP Environmental Science is divided into two parts. The first part examines how nature operates through the creation and recycling of various substances and the interrelationships of various species of plants and animals. The second part of the course is the effect that humans have on their environment. The topics covered include carbon and nitrogen cycles, food chains, sources of pollution and the fate of pollutants in the environment, population and resource management and dynamics, waste management and recycling, water resources and pollution as well as climate change and ozone depletion. The course will have a lab component, and many important topics will be debated in team format. Completion of Biology is required and current enrollment or completion of chemistry is also required. Students enrolled in the class must sit for the AP exam in May.

**Forensic Science (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This is a one semester course that is designed to expose students to the field of Forensics Science. Course work may include the following subject materials: crime scene set up and observations, evidence collection and analysis, the use of DNA analysis, finger printing, ballistics, blood typing and blood splatter analysis. One semester. Grades 11 and 12.  
Prerequisites: Chemistry and Biology or departmental approval

**Nutrition Science (1 semester, ½ credit) May not be offered annually**

This course is the study of the nutrients in foods and how the body handles each of these nutrients. Mendel defined nutrition science as "the chemistry of life", where the process by which food components are digested, converted and utilized is analyzed and understood chemically for better life management. Students who apply what they learn about food and its effects on their bodies may develop a healthier lifestyle and an improved future. One semester. Grades 11 and 12.  
Prerequisite: Chemistry (concurrent)

**Introduction to Sports Medicine (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course is to provide students with an overview of the field of sports medicine. This course will be specifically geared toward those who are interested in sports medicine or another allied health related fields. A variety of teaching methods will be utilized and the coursework will cover basic anatomy, physiology, nutrition, evaluation of injuries and professional preparation. A one semester course opened to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
Prerequisites: Chemistry (concurrent) and Departmental permission

## Social Studies

### **World History (1 credit)**

This course surveys a wide range of history from the origins of ancient civilizations in the East and the West through the Renaissance. Special emphasis focuses on major cultural traditions, historical forces, and dynamic turning points that have affected the human condition from the Classical Period to the emergence of the modern state and the scientific revolution in the seventeenth century. World history introduces students to the study of original source documents. Students use a textbook as well as source writings and non-written material to begin to develop a direct understanding of the way historians interpret and analyze evidence. Analytical writing assignments begin to develop the skills necessary to complete a five-paragraph essay by the end of the freshman year. *Required for all ninth graders.*

### **World History Honors (1 credit)**

Honors world history begins a two-year sequence of enriched and accelerated instruction designed to prepare students to take AP US history as early as the 11th grade. In addition to the period surveyed in other world history sections, the world history honors sections accelerate coverage to permit the introduction of some US history to students in 10th grade honors sections. Honors world history students participate in more far-ranging discussions that involve a wider selection of readings. Honors-level writing assignments develop the ability to write a five-paragraph essay sooner and involve more original analysis of sources. Students use a textbook as well as a collection of source writings and non-written material to begin to develop a direct understanding of the way historians interpret and analyze evidence.

### **Government (1 credit)**

American Government will conduct an in-depth analysis on the overall structure of American government from its inception in 1781 to present day. The course will focus on the three main bodies of government as well as critique the rolls and checks and balances that each possess. The Question as to whether America remains a true Popular Will democracy will be answered and students will engage in numerous exercises to examine the validity of this democracy. Has America truly benefited from the roles that democracy has set forth, or, as the quote explains, has it only created a government of achievements that has been less than appealing? *Required for all tenth graders.*

### **United States History (1 credit)**

This course begins with a study of the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, and the U.S. Constitution and the debate surrounding its adoption in 1789. It then concentrates on the presidencies of Washington, Jefferson, and Jackson; the Civil War and Reconstruction; the Industrial Revolution; the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt; World War I; the Great Depression; World War II; the beginnings of the Cold War and the global conflicts of the 1950's and 1960's. The Civil Rights Movement, America's involvement in Vietnam, and the global responsibilities of the United States today are topics that conclude the course. *Required for all eleventh graders.*

### **Advanced Placement United States History (1 credit)**

This college-level course covers most of the same topics as US history, but with the additional detail and rigor necessary to successfully take the AP US history examination. Beginning with early migrations of Europeans to the Americas, topics include the Seven Years' War in the US (the French and Indian War), the American Revolution, and the U.S. Constitution and the debate surrounding its adoption in 1789. Other topics focus on the presidencies of Washington, Jefferson, and Jackson; the Civil War and Reconstruction; the Industrial Revolution; the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt; World War I; the Great Depression; World War II; the beginnings of the Cold War and the global conflicts of the 1950's and 1960's. More contemporary topics include the Civil Rights Movement, America's involvement in Vietnam, and the global responsibilities of the United States today. Although AP US history focuses on critical and analytical thinking, reading, and writing, students need to be able to master significant volumes of facts. Prerequisite: Departmental approval

**Advanced Placement European History (1 credit)**

AP European History focuses on major themes in European history from the Renaissance to the present. In addition to overviews of factual information, special attention is given to the political, social religious, artistic, and economic trends throughout this time period. Students are expected to recall and identify these events while also noting how these trends and narratives developed through history and continue to define modern-day society. Students will also be introduced to the concept of historiography and be exposed to how present-day event can shape the interpretation of the past. Prerequisite: World History Honors *and* Departmental approval

**AP Government (1 Credit)**

AP Government is a college level introductory course on United States Government and Politics, designed for 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. This course will focus on the Constitution; political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, interest groups, and mass media; the Congress, presidency, bureaucracy, and the federal courts; public policy; and civil rights and liberties. Course material will be taught through a variety of means including: lecture and note taking, class discussion, intensive reading, group and individual projects, and current events. Prerequisite: Departmental approval

**AP Economics**

This course is intensive in both reading and logical thinking skills and is not recommended for students who are not strong in these areas. AP Economics is a combination of two AP courses: AP Macroeconomics and AP Microeconomics. The AP course in macroeconomics gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Such a course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. The AP course in microeconomics gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Major concepts include marginal analysis, supply and demand, theory of consumer choice, production and costs, firm behavior, and market structure. Students take both the AP Macroeconomics and the AP Microeconomics exams at the end of the year.

**Civil War (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course is comprehensive study of one of the most defining moments in United States history, The American Civil War. Students will gain an appreciation of all sides of the war and an in-depth understanding of the events that shaped the ever changing American landscape. The course is designed to help the students achieve academic excellence in reading and critically analyzing primary source documents in order to gain a full appreciation of the depth of the Civil War. Students will be required to write three major essays throughout the course of the year. Students will be trained to define key events and figures. They will explain concepts and ideas individually and within a group or panel. They will be required to categorize information provided by primary sources and to evaluate the war and its affect socially, politically, economically, diplomatically, artistically, religiously and scientifically on America.

**Introduction to Sports Administration/ Business (1/2 credit)**

This course will provide students a basic overview of the Nation's fastest growing field, Sports Administration. This course will be specifically geared toward those students who are interested in; athletics, a career in athletics, and a potential career in business. A variety of teaching styles will be utilized during this course, from projects to presentation, all enhancing the students' knowledge in a truly fun and education course.

**Introduction to Psychology (1/2 credit)**

Intro course introducing modern psychology by presenting scientific and humanistic interpretations of the human mind and behavior. Topics to be covered are: biological and environmental bases of behavior, motivation, sensation and perception, learning, personality and social influences.

**World War II (1/2 credit)**

This class will be a worldwide study of the Second World War. Specific areas of examination will be: World War I, the Rise of Totalitarianism, the European Theater, the Pacific Theater, the American Home Front, the Holocaust and other War Crimes, the Atomic Bombs, and the Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials. This class will also pay special attention to the construction of popular memories surrounding the war through an examination of World War II memorials and cinema. Guest speakers could include Holocaust survivors, weapons experts and war veterans.

**Modern American History : 1945 to the Present (1/2 credit)**

This semester-long course surveys the major political, social and artistic events of the United States, from the late 1940s to the mid-1970s. Topics that receive extra attention include the atomic bomb, McCarthyism, suburbanization and *Brown v. Board of Ed.* This section will also pay attention to social movements such as rock n' roll music, communism and beat poetry. The 1960s portion addresses the issues surrounding the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War and subsequent civil rights movements from women, Native Americans, Latinos, prisoners and peace activists. The 1970s on the whole will inform students about the importance of the de-escalation of forces in Vietnam, the spillover war in Cambodia and the Watergate scandal.

**Genealogy (1/2 credit)**

The purpose of this course is to learn how to research your family tree using the Internet, libraries, and other sources. In the process of learning the research fundamentals, strategies on how to organize and source the information will also be learned. This course will require the student to analyze and organize data, complete projects and write papers concerning the research they are doing. There will be a nominal fee for this course to cover the cost of course materials.

# Technology

## **Intro to Technology (½ credit, semester)**

Required for all students

This course provides an overview of microcomputer applications including a brief introduction to computer concepts, Microsoft Windows 7, Microsoft Office 2010, Microsoft Word 2010, Microsoft Excel 2010, Microsoft Access 2010, Microsoft PowerPoint 2010, and Microsoft Outlook 2010.

## **Intro to HTML (½ credit, semester)**

This course is intended as an introductory course on creating Web pages. The objectives of this course are, to teach the fundamentals of developing Web pages using HTML, to encourage independent study and help those who are learning how to create Web pages in a distance education environment.

## **Video Production (½ credit, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester)**

In video production class students will learn the process of editing video with Windows Movie Maker. While learning to do video editing the students will be exposed to the terminology associated with video editing and the importance of team work. Students will learn how to map their productions, learning the importance of clarity in the video production process. In video production class projects will vary from broadcasting assignments to short films, and the projects will always adhere to copy right laws and standards.

## **Game Design (½ credit, semester)**

This course will provide a step-by-step introduction to programming games using software provided by MIT. Whether you are a video game enthusiast, an artist breaking into the world of video games, or a game programmer ready to model your own characters and sets, this course is the ideal introduction to 3D modeling for video games

## **Publications (1 credit, year for seniors - ½ credit, fall semester juniors)**

This course is designed to help the students achieve proficiency in the art of producing a yearbook. Publications class is offered to juniors and seniors. Each student must request admission to the class and acceptance is established by the teacher and the Dean of Academics. Juniors participate in the course for the first semester and with approval, are asked to return to the class for their senior year. The class is a full year for the seniors. Each year, the yearbook is produced on a website called Yearbookavenue.com. Skills that are taught and reinforced include organization, time management, editing, photography, photography editing, writing, design, computer graphics, advanced computer skills, attention to detail, delegating and team work.

The class also produces a slideshow of pictures set to music that is shown at the senior recognition dinner. Each senior receives copy of this slideshow. Publications is a challenging class, yet fun and educational for the students.

## **Digital Photography (½ credit semester)**

This course is designed to help the students achieve proficiency in the art of digital photography. The class is one semester long and begins with teaching photographic composition. The students learn more than 40 techniques and styles of composing a photograph. This knowledge is then put to use as the students are taught how to properly use their cameras and all of its functions. Students are taken around campus on photo assignments and they begin creating photographs. Home photo assignments are also included. The students are taught how to "manage" their pictures on a free program from Google called Picasa. By the end of the class, each student has an in-depth understanding of what makes a "good" photograph and how to take one themselves.

# Theology

Theology (def.): The study of God; his nature, his works, his relation to humans, his plans for our salvation.

## **Theology I--Hebrew Scriptures (1 credit)**

The goal for freshmen in Theology I is to describe the setting and content of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and then to explain their meaning. Students will comprehend two levels of meaning: first, what the inspired authors intended to convey to the people of their time, and second, what the Scriptures mean for us today, with emphasis on moral behavior and the fruits of violence. The second part of the course, prayer and liturgy, focuses on people's relationships with God today. The theme of the entire course is "The living God gathers a people to himself."

## **Theology II--Christian Scriptures (1 credit)**

This course provides sophomores a scholarly introduction to the Christian Scriptures (New Testament). The life, message, and significance of Jesus the Christ are explored through a critical reading of the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles, and Revelation. Specific areas of study include: sin and redemption, Jesus as Son of God, Son of Mary; the teachings and miracles of Jesus; discipleship; the Last Supper and the Eucharist; the Passion, Death, and Resurrection; Pentecost and the mission of the Church, Christian leadership, and the moral and spiritual values of the early Church. Extended reading from the Christian Scriptures is foundational to this course.

## **Theology III: Church History (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This one semester course for juniors follows the growth and development of the Catholic faith from the death of the Apostle Paul to the present age. Six models of the Church (Body of Christ, Herald of Good News, Institution, etc.) provide a framework to understand the various circumstances and events faced by the Church through its 20 centuries of existence. Other Christian traditions are considered in their historical context. Using the models of the Church, students determine how the Church has responded to challenges in the past, then draw lessons applicable to the challenges of today. The course attempts to detect the role of the Holy Spirit working through ordinary people, clergy, and designated leaders to grow and shape the Church and to inspire and guide its work in the world.

## **Theology III: Christian Morality (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This one semester course, also for juniors, pursues the challenges of Jesus' life and teaching as presented in the Gospels. Also considered are the moral revelations in the Hebrew Scriptures, natural law, the development of conscience, the requirements of freedom, the quality of one's intentions, the prevalence of law and custom in both Church and society, the nature of values, the process of making moral decisions, the definition of sin, and the necessity of forgiveness as practiced and preached by Jesus. Students are expected to have daily, in-class access to their Bible.

## **Theology IV: Social Justice (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This one semester course, also for seniors, moves into the study of Catholic Social Teaching as it relates to fundamental issues of human rights and social justice. Emphasis is on a Christian response to global problems of war and peace, wealth and poverty, plenty and hunger, resources and work, population and urban life, escalating violence, and environmental stewardship. Students are expected to have daily access to a Catholic Bible.

## **Theology IV: World Religions (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This one semester course for seniors is a survey, analysis, and comparative study of the major World Religions. Objective is to enable students to distinguish one religion from another and to identify common beliefs between other faiths and Christianity.

**Life Paths (1 semester, ½ credit)**

In this one-semester course, students begin with an assessment of personal, cultural, and Church beliefs about the three states of life, at least two of which everyone experiences. Biblical guidance in Genesis, Proverbs and the letters of Paul opens our exploration of wise ways to discern and pursue one's path in life. Successful—and less successful—examples of choosing and living out one's vocation from Isaac and Rebekah to Karol Wojtyla to Kevin and Brittany will be considered. Topics include assessing personal knowledge/attitudes/inclinations, discernment processes, God's call to each person, finding a mate—what to look for, what to avoid, four loves, five love languages, stages of relationship, and more. The curriculum includes presentations by guest speakers in each walk of life, discussion in class, reference to Scripture and related information, evaluations, and reflection papers. Students must have both parental permission and departmental approval before enrolling in the course.

**Philosophy Honors (1 credit)**

This elective course, intended for upperclassmen, has several aims. The first is for you to become acquainted with some of the major characters in the history of western philosophy including Socrates, Plato, Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, and Sartre. You will also learn some basic philosophical tools and increase your ability to use them. Finally, you will become acquainted with some perennial and contemporary issues raised by western philosophers. It is NOT the objective of this course to convince or dissuade you of a particular position. Rather, we will critically examine various positions by constructing arguments. It is of crucial importance for the success of the class that respect be given to views that are not your own. Of course, it is not necessary to agree with another person's view to respect it.

**Defending the Faith ( ½ credit)**

The full title of this course is "Bellatores Fides" (Warriors of the Faith). This course will assist the students in developing an in depth comprehensive understanding of Christian Catholic Doctrine for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The students will be able to prepare themselves to refute any attacks and false statements in regard to the faith. They will have a knowledge base which will enable them to promote, vindicate and clarify the Catholic position on doctrine and teachings.

## **Introduction to High School (Freshmen Only)**

### **Introduction to High School: (1 semester, ½ credit)**

This course is designed to develop and apply basic study skills: to build reading, listening, writing skills, as well as computer skills, so that students are able to handle the demands of their high school course work successfully. Offered during the first semester only, Intro to High School is a required course for all 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

There are three components to this course:

- 1) study skills
- 2) computer ethics and research
- 3) character development

#### Study Skills Component:

Topics include concentration, time management, active listening, note taking, reading textbooks, writing papers, using MLA style citations, preparing for exams, and text taking. Students will learn reading and writing strategies, as well as strategies designed to improve memory and retention.

#### Computer Ethics and Research:

Topics include a variety of ethical issues surrounding computers, including piracy, intellectual theft, plagiarism, hacking, responsibility and liability for the use of software. Students will study the St. John's at Prospect Hall User Policy and will become experts in conducting responsible and scholarly internet research. Students will also become familiar with school software (such as Inspiration) and other resources (such as Gaggle) that are available to help them succeed in high school.

#### Character Development:

Topics include working with others, building a community within the school, improving dependability, taking responsibility for one's actions, and making sound ethical decisions. This component of the class will be taught in conjunction with the counseling office at Saint John's.

