

Northwest Catholic High School

Northwest Catholic High School offers an outstanding college preparatory curriculum rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition of faith in dialogue with reason. Offering a large selection of advanced courses in both the humanities and STEM, we prepare our students to be well-rounded individuals ready for the challenges of college study.

The core of the course of study at Northwest Catholic includes Religion, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Modern and Classical Languages, and Fine Arts.

We also incorporate leadership development and Christian service into the curriculum through our LEADS program and classes like *Christ in Society*, *ACTS*, and the *Honors Institute for Leadership in Life*. It is our goal to prepare our students to be leaders of high moral character, guided by their faith, prepared to serve God and others.

The faculty and staff at Northwest Catholic are lifetime learners who have made a commitment to excellence, guiding our students to the knowledge and skills they need to be successful at the next level. Through the use of differentiated teaching methods, technology, and personal experience, our teachers engage and challenge students to think critically, creatively, and collaboratively. These are skills that help our students not only in college, but also in life.

Northwest Catholic has a long tradition of excellence not only in the classroom but on the athletic fields, on stage, and through service to the community. Our students consistently outperform national and state averages in college readiness and Advanced Placement exams. They go on to attend prestigious colleges and universities around the country.

Northwest Catholic is a community where tradition “bleeds green,” where students know they belong, and that they make a difference.

It’s a great day to be a Lion!

Christopher Stuck
Dean of Academics

Leadership Team

President and Head of School
Dean of Academics
Dean of Student Life & Formation
Director of Athletics
Director of Campus Ministry
Director of Admissions & International Programs
Director of Advancement
Director of Technology & Operations
Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships
Director of LEADS/ Link Crew
Director of Student Leadership/ Alumni LEADS
Director of School Counseling

Mr. Christian Cashman
Mr. Christopher Stuck
Mrs. Jennifer Montoney
Mr. Matthew Martorelli '03
Mrs. Kristina Gillespie
Mr. Andrew Selig '06
Mrs. Patricia Walsh
Mr. Patrick Williamson '99
Mrs. Nancy Bannon '73
Mrs. Mary Roberts '96
Mrs. Beth Boyle '96
Mrs. Joyce O'Rourke

Academic Staff

School Counselor
School Counselor
School Counselor
School Social Worker
School Social Worker
Librarian
Registrar

Mrs. Joyce O'Rourke
Mrs. Mary Jo Foran
Mrs. Betsy Quinn
Mr. Michael Tyler '73
Mrs. Mary Roberts '96
Mrs. Helga Phillips
Mrs. Katie Rose

Academic Department Chairs

Religion
English
Social Studies
World Language
Mathematics
Science
Fine Arts
Performing Arts

Deacon Richard Santos '82
Ms. Joan Keating-McKeon
Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick
Mrs. Ana Barrett
Ms. Claudia Hart '78
Mr. Mark Dodd
Ms. Celina Marquis '08
Mrs. Sara Avery

Questions regarding scheduling should be directed to the School Counseling Office.

COUNSELING PROGRAM

Mrs. Joyce O'Rourke - Director, B.S. Physical Education, M.S. School Counseling
Mrs. Mary Jo Foran - Counselor, B.A. English, +30 School Counseling
Mrs. Elizabeth Quinn - Counselor, B.A. English, M.S. Special Education
Mr. Michael Tyler '73 - Licensed Clinical Social Worker, B.S. Business Economics, M.S.W.
Mrs. Mary Roberts '96 - Social Worker, B.S. Human Services, M.S.W.

Guidance and Counseling

Northwest Catholic school counselors are dedicated to ensuring that each student reaches his or her potential while in high school and is prepared to meet challenges of the future.

Counselors utilize individual and group counseling techniques and programs to assist in the development of a student's academic progress, extracurricular activities, and social interactions. Our goal is to prepare and advise students to become successful and well-rounded with the necessary skills to compete in college and beyond.

Counselors maintain an active role during each student's four-year academic journey. Additionally, informational programs are offered to parents at each grade level.

Freshman year: The primary focus is to assist freshmen with the transition to high school and to help create a strong academic foundation. Counselors meet periodically with students to discuss study skills, time management, learning styles, decision-making, and goal setting. Additionally, an assessment and career exploration program is administered. Students are introduced to Naviance and the Career Exploration tool. The PreACT test is administered.

Sophomore year: Counselors actively work with sophomores to define academic and personal goals and implement a plan of action. Students are introduced to and prepared for the PSAT in preparation for the college planning process. Sophomores participate in group discussions with graduating seniors who offer "Words of Wisdom." A personality assessment 'Do What You Are' is administered via Naviance.

Junior year: The focus of the program in junior year is the college admissions process. An evening presentation for juniors and their parents/ guardians is held in October to provide information and materials regarding aspects of the college search. Information and preparation about standardized tests utilized for college admissions is reinforced. Juniors are presented with a variety of materials that will serve as a resource and assist them through the college admissions process. Counselors conduct individual sessions with each student and his/her family to review the student's academic achievement and to identify potential college choices. Students utilize Naviance for researching colleges.

Senior year: Counselors assist seniors with the college application process. An information night for parents of seniors occurs at the beginning of the school year to address all aspects of applying to college. Counselors conduct small group sessions with seniors to review college admissions procedures. Counselors hold individual appointments with students to review the college selection list and application requirements. Counselors continue to advise seniors as needed in choosing their college destination.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: Advanced Placement Program courses are offered in English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Calculus, Statistics, U.S. History, U.S. Government and Politics, Comparative Government, French, Spanish, Music Theory, and Studio Art. The Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to obtain college credit while still in high school. Students should be aware that AP Courses are taught at a college level and require significantly more outside, independent work than even Honors Courses. Students should consider their overall academic program and outside commitments when enrolling in AP Courses. (Students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP Exam.) AP fees are \$94 and will be billed to your account.

HONORS PROGRAM: The Honors Program at Northwest Catholic is offered to challenge students of superior academic ability. Honors courses are offered in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Fine & Performing Arts, and Religion. Students have the opportunity for full participation in a four-year honors curriculum. Other students are selected for honors courses on an individual basis in those subjects in which they excel.

COLLEGE NOW PROGRAM: Advanced students are offered the opportunity to take college courses at area college campuses through the "College Now" program. Applicants for this program must have the approval of parents and the Academic Dean. These classes are taken at the University of Hartford and University of St. Joseph.

ONLINE COURSES: Select courses may be taken online for credit through Northwest Catholic's online program. Course offerings and descriptions are available through the Academic Dean's office. All online courses must be approved by the Academic Dean, who will facilitate the registration process.

SUMMER READING: All students are required to complete additional reading during the summer. The goal of the program is to encourage individual reading and to demonstrate the critical importance of reading. Each selection will be integrated into the curriculum of the subject area during the first weeks of school. There will be written summer assignments and in-school assessments of the readings. Additional readings will be required for students taking Advanced Placement Courses.

COURSE LEVELS: Courses at Northwest Catholic are offered at three levels, designed to challenge each student to his or her maximum capability. Placement at the different levels is primarily determined by the student's performance in class and on standardized tests.

LEVEL1: Courses at this level offer students the opportunity for very advanced intellectual challenge, particularly in the areas of conceptual and analytical reasoning, research, and independent study. Honors and Advanced Placement courses are offered at this level.

LEVEL2: Courses at this level offer the opportunity to develop thinking and study skills at a college preparatory level. Students are challenged to grow in knowledge, and to apply that knowledge by the development of problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

LEVEL3: Courses at this level focus on developing the basic skills of communication and computation. Development of independent thinking and basic research skills is also included. Courses at this level are college preparatory in nature.

CREDIT REMEDIATION: If a student fails a course, that course must be remediated via the Northwest Catholic online summer program or the West Hartford school district no later than August 31st. All summer school arrangements must be arranged through the Office of the Academic Dean.

TRANSFER STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS

When a student transfers to Northwest Catholic High School, that student's credits will be transferred to a Northwest Catholic Transcript. The transfer student's grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) from the former school will not be transferred. Successful completion of classes in the previous school will be indicated with a Pass (P) on the Northwest Catholic transcript. The student's GPA at Northwest Catholic will be calculated only on classes taken at Northwest Catholic. When a transfer student submits a transcript to colleges, etc. that student will submit a transcript from the previous school as well as a Northwest Catholic transcript.

COURSE WEIGHTING SYSTEM

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
A+	4.83	4.33	3.83
A	4.50	4.00	3.50
A-	4.17	3.67	3.17
B+	3.83	3.33	2.83
B	3.50	3.00	2.50
B-	3.17	2.67	2.17
C+	2.83	2.33	1.83
C	2.50	2.00	1.50
C-	2.17	1.67	1.17
D+	1.83	1.33	0.83
D	1.50	1.00	0.50
D-	1.17	0.67	0.17
F	0	0	0

Portal Grade Ranges, Equivalents, and Scales: These grades, equivalents, and ranges are for use only on the Portal Gradebook. The Report Card Grading Scale is A through F including pluses and minuses.

Range Scale	Letter Equivalent	Range Scale	Letter Equivalent
A+ 100-98	A+ = 99	D+ 69-67	D+ = 68
A 97-93	A = 95	D 66-63	D = 65
A- 92-90	A- = 91	D- 62-60	D- = 61
B+ 89-87	B+ = 88	F 59-50	F = 55
B 86-83	B = 85		
B- 82-80	B - = 81		
C+ 79-77	C+ = 78		
C 76-73	C = 75		
C- 72-70	C- + 71		

HONOR ROLL: Students who receive a Grade-Point-Average (GPA) of at least 3.67 qualify for First Honors. Students with a Grade-Point-Average of 3.33 qualify for Second Honors. Any other students who receive no grade lower than B- qualify for Honorable Mention. The Honor Roll is published after the first quarter, the first semester, the third quarter, and the second semester.

COURSE AVAILABILITY: Northwest Catholic reserves the right to cancel any of the following courses based on student interest and enrollment numbers. All courses are subject to availability.

PASS-FAIL GRADING: Physical Education, LEADS, Sports PE, and Pep Band are graded on a pass-fail basis.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY: The National Honor Society recognizes students for scholarship, good character, leadership, and service. The qualifications for consideration in the NHS at Northwest Catholic High School are a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 after a minimum of five marking periods at NWC, strength of character, demonstration of leadership and service in school, church and/or civic activities (beginning with the class of 2020 students must have a GPA of at least 3.67 to qualify for NHS). Transfer students must have attended Northwest Catholic for at least a complete school year before being considered for National Honor Society. Students must have been enrolled for at least three and a half (3.5) years to be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

COURSE SELECTION PROCESS: For incoming students, the process consists of a meeting with an advisor, the student, and the family. Prior to this meeting, students receive a Program of Studies and their scores from the entrance exam. Classes are selected based on school/state requirements, student interest, middle school performance, and achievement on the entrance exam. Families will be provided with a list of initial placements to help guide the course selection process. All freshman students are placed into an Algebra I class pending the results of the entrance exam or a placement test. Placement tests for advanced classes in world languages and mathematics are in June. Academic advisement meetings occur during February and March.

It is important to consider an entire academic year during the course selection process. For ninth graders, the transition to high school

involves a larger environment, more complex concepts, and more homework. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities also have a greater time commitment than they did in middle school. For current students, the transition from grade to grade also involves an increased work load and more difficult concepts. Again it is important to consider an entire academic and extracurricular year. Higher level classes, honors courses, Advanced Placement work, and leadership roles in the arts and athletics all require more time and effort.

It is important to carefully consider the courses before committing to a schedule for the year. Student registration for courses determines allocation of teaching personnel. Students may not drop or change a course unless an exceptional situation exists. This decision will be made by the Academic Dean, after consultation with the student's school counselor, the department chair, and the teacher. A written note from a parent is also required. A student may not elect to withdraw from a class after 10 academic days into the semester. All schedule changes after the first 10 academic days will be administratively initiated and must be approved by the Academic Dean.

PLUSPORTAL: The focus at Northwest Catholic High School is on student learning and achievement. It is a Learning Community where the faculty work together to identify and develop goals and competencies to guarantee student mastery. The portal provides a place for faculty members to share ideas, techniques, and strategies to achieve these goals.

The Northwest Catholic faculty is working on the skills and information that a student should possess at the end of a course, developing instructional methods and strategies to help students achieve these goals, and creating common assessments to measure individual and group achievement. It is an educational goal at Northwest Catholic that each student who successfully completes a class possesses the same set of skills, information, and competencies.

PlusPortal is a key ingredient of this educational process. PlusPortal is a web portal with several components. First, PlusPortal provides an educational calendar and planner. Teachers post student assignments, worksheets, and class notes on PlusPortal which students can access through the internet. When a student views his or her personal PlusPortal calendar, his or her can see assignments in all his or her classes, access worksheets that need to be completed, and view class notes and information. A second component of PlusPortal is that students and parents can view "live" grades and averages. Both students and their parents have access to PlusPortal. New students and parents are given an activation code in the beginning of the year and instructions on how to establish their accounts. PlusPortal is a tool which allows the Northwest Catholic students to assume more responsibility for their learning and prepares them for college.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department's objective is to challenge students with a college preparatory curriculum throughout the four years of instruction. Students are expected to master the following skills: critical reading, analytical and expository writing, thesis statements, organization, editing, research procedures, vocabulary development, grammar and usage, and PSAT and SAT preparation. The core values of spirituality, respect, and leadership comprise the foundation for the school as a whole and for all English Department activities, both academic and extracurricular.

ENGLISH I (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 9 1 Credit Course number 102

The primary purpose of this college preparatory course is to improve critical reading and written expression. Students will be instructed on such grammatical concepts as parts of speech, parts of a sentence, phrases, and clauses. Students will read a variety of literary genres (including myth, epic, play, short story, novel, and poetry) and use common literary devices to analyze selections. In addition, vocabulary enrichment, writing development (contextual sentences, well-constructed paragraphs, full essays), and study skills will be included.

HONORS ENGLISH I (Level 1)

Grade 9 1 Credit Course number 101

The primary purpose of this advanced college preparatory course is to improve critical reading and written expression. Students will be instructed on such grammatical concepts as parts of speech, parts of a sentence, phrases, and clauses. Students will read a variety of literary genres (including myth, epic, play, short story, novel, and poetry) and use common literary devices to analyze selections. Students at this honors level are expected to complete more challenging and fast-paced work, read additional selections both in class and independently, complete more difficult writing assignments, and master more vocabulary in each unit. Placement is based primarily on entrance test scores as well as previous academic performance and teacher recommendations.

Prerequisite: Placement determined by entrance exam score and previous course work.

ENGLISH II: AMERICAN LITERATURE (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 10 1 Credit Course number 126

Emphasizing American literature from the colonization to the 20th century, this course focuses on expository writing and critical reading skills. It includes the genres of poetry, essay, short story, drama, and the novel, as well as the historical and philosophical backgrounds of the various time periods. PSAT preparation focuses on vocabulary, grammar, and usage. Expository writing requirements include an analysis of literary passages and a research paper. Major reading selections include *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, and *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger.

HONORS ENGLISH II: AMERICAN LITERATURE (Level 1)

Grade 10 1 Credit Course number 125

This course focuses on expository writing and critical reading and emphasizes American literature from colonization to the 20th century. It includes the genres of poetry, essay, short story, drama, and the novel, as well as the historical and philosophical backgrounds of the various time periods. PSAT preparation focuses on vocabulary, grammar, and usage. The expository writing includes an analysis of literary passages and a research paper. Major reading selections include: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and short stories by Ernest Hemingway.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep English I with a grade of A- or better or Honors English I with a grade of B- or better.

ENGLISH III: ENGLISH LITERATURE (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 11 1 Credit Course number 155

This survey course involves the study of representative British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the 20th Century with an emphasis on such works as *Beowulf*, the *Canterbury Tales*, *Hamlet*, the poetry of the Elizabethan and Metaphysical periods as well as the works of Eighteenth-, Nineteenth-, and Twentieth-Century writers, including Milton, Swift, Wordsworth, and Tennyson. Students will complete a variety of writing assignments, including a research paper. This course fulfills the English literature requirement.

HONORS ENGLISH III: ENGLISH LITERATURE (Level 1)

Grade 11

1 Credit

Course number 154

This course involves the study of representative British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the 20th Century with an emphasis on such works as *Beowulf*, the *Canterbury Tales*, *Hamlet*, the poetry of the Elizabethan and Metaphysical periods as well as the works of Eighteenth, Nineteenth, and Twentieth Century writers, including but not limited to Milton, Swift, Wordsworth, and Tennyson. This honors-level course requires critical reading and literature-based essays rich with textual evidence. Modern Language Association Handbook documentation requirements will be followed in all literature-focused essays as well as a research paper. This course fulfills the English literature requirement.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep English II with a grade of A- or better or Honors English II with a grade of B- or better.

AP ENGLISH III: LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (Level 1)

Grade 11

1 Credit

(AP Test Fee: \$94)

Course number 140

AP Language and Composition is a college-level course for highly motivated students in both effective writing and critical reading. It encompasses an investigation of language in its communicative capacity as well as artistic and creative scope. Writing assignments are widely varied and include analytic, argumentative, and reflective styles. Readings are based on non-fiction writings from a variety of international authors. In addition, students will develop and improve their skills in critical reading, composition, grammar usage, and knowledge of the development of rhetoric. SAT guidelines and preparation are part of the course work. The students will write one research paper in the form of a literary analysis. This course does not fulfill the British Literature requirement. Students who take AP Language and Composition must take a British Literature course senior year. Students may expect the College Board's recommendations of one to two hours of homework per night for this class. Students will be required to take the AP examination.

ENGLISH IV SPECIAL TOPICS: SURVEY OF LITERATURE (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 12

1 Credit

Course number 163

SEMESTER I: CLASSICAL AND MODERN LITERATURE

This class will explore the great books of literature through thematic connections to young adult literature. Students will engage in discussion of important themes presented in pieces of Young Adult fiction, and then read a novel from the "classic" canon that also explores these themes, focusing on comparative literary analysis. The goal is to help students better understand how to connect with literature and "great works" by using Young Adult literature to outline the process and engage the reader. (A sample pairing might include *Divergent* by Veronica Roth and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley). The class will culminate in a research paper in which students write a comparative literary analysis of a pair of novels backed by literary criticism and research.

SEMESTER II: FOLKLORE IN LITERATURE

This semester-long elective will study the original folk and fairy tales that have inspired countless modern book, film, and television adaptations. Using a seminal text in the theory behind fairy and folk tales as a touchpoint, this class will survey a variety of archetypal stories, folktales from around the world, and literary fairy tales. In short, this class will consider the original creators and audiences of these stories, the meaning of the tales, and the reason why these sometimes ancient stories have survived to the present day. To deepen our understanding of this evolving heritage, this course will consider various interpretive approaches of historians, folklorists, psychologists, and anthropologists. Readings include fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen, as well as folktales from around the world. Writing requirements include an analytical research paper.

ENGLISH IV SPECIAL TOPICS: PUBLIC SPEAKING AND RHETORIC (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 12

1 Credit

Course number 164

This course designed for seniors aims to examine how various texts can (and do) influence audiences to think and act in certain ways. Samples of texts covered in this course include commercial and political advertising, film documentaries, historical speeches, and war propaganda. Students can expect to analyze existing texts in said categories, as well as to create and discuss their own. Students will engage with research as they uncover how the contexts of time, audience, genre, and others affect persuasive capacity. While the core course projects are mainly written essays, students should also expect to periodically display what they are learning through visual, verbal, and tactile compositions.

Additionally, this course also requires further development in the writing and speaking skills necessary for college and career preparation. This course will examine the components of effective oral and written communication through the study of formal and informal speaking techniques. Students will analyze speeches for content and style, and will write and deliver various original speeches to suit a variety of occasions.

ENGLISH IV SPECIAL TOPICS: CREATIVE WRITING (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 12 1 Credit Course Number 166

Creative Writing is designed to develop creativity and the creative process through the study of both poetry and short fiction. Several poetic forms will be studied and employed. These will include, but not be limited to: pantoum, ode, elegy, blank, and free verse. Published poems by famous and lesser-known authors will also be discussed to further understanding of the genre. The short story and all its requisite components--plot, conflict, characterization, setting, point of view, and dialogue--will also be examined and exercised during this course. In addition, the work of short story writers like Salinger, Poe, Bradbury, and Crane will be read and discussed to further understanding of the genre.

This course is a workshop-style class, project-based and collaborative, with emphasis on encouraging and developing artistic expression as well as utilizing all steps of the writing process. The students' work will culminate in portfolios of their work due at the end of each semester.

Prerequisites: Completion of English III. Entry will also be predicated on a writing sample submitted in the spring.

HONORS ENGLISH IV SPECIAL TOPICS: CREATIVE WRITING (Level 1)

Grade 12 1 Credit Course number 188

Honors Creative Writing is designed to develop creativity and the creative process through the study of both poetry and short fiction. Several poetic forms will be studied and employed. These will include, but not be limited to: pantoum, ode, elegy, blank, and free verse. Published poems by famous and lesser-known authors will also be discussed to further understanding of the genre. The short story and all its requisite components--plot, conflict, characterization, setting, point of view, and dialogue--will also be examined and exercised during this course. In addition, the work of short story writers like Salinger, Poe, Bradbury, and Crane will be read and discussed to further understanding of the genre.

This honors course is a workshop-style class, project-based and collaborative, with emphasis on encouraging and developing artistic expression as well as utilizing all steps of the writing process. The students in this honors-level class will submit portfolios of their work at the end of each semester as well as be required to complete an additional research-based project in each semester, one being an author study and the other to be determined.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep English III with a grade of A- or better or Honors/ AP English III with a grade of B- or better. Entry will also be predicated on a writing sample submitted in the spring.

HONORS ENGLISH IV SPECIAL TOPICS: SURVEY OF DRAMATIC LITERATURE (Level 1)

Grade 12 1 Credit Course number 165

SEMESTER I: SURVEY OF DRAMATIC LITERATURE

This course studies the origin and development of drama from the Greeks to modern day. The class aims to expand students' experience in artistic, technical, and historical theater. Students will study at least eight full-length plays from literary and production standpoints. Students will be responsible for producing a "show concept": the final project, after studying types of theater, stagecraft elements, and historical costuming. Students are required to attend at least one theatrical production during the course of the semester.

SEMESTER II: SURVEY OF BRITISH DRAMA

This course is the study of British Dramatic Literature from the medieval period through the 21st Century, with an analysis of representative work by playwrights, such as Shakespeare, Wycherley, Wilde, Shaw, Coward, and Stoppard. Students are assigned a variety of writing assignments including analytical papers and a research paper. This course fulfills the British Literature requirement.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep English III with a grade of A- or better or Honors/ AP English III with a grade of B- or better

AP ENGLISH IV: LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (Level 1)

Grade 12 1 Credit (AP Test Fee: \$94) Course number 150

This college-level course is a chronological survey of major literary works from the Anglo-Saxon period to the 20th Century. Genres including the epic, poetry, drama, and novel will be read and analyzed critically. The student will be expected to write clear, evidence-based exposition and to exhibit an understanding of the English language and its tradition. Grammar and vocabulary from specific reading will also be addressed. In addition, students will read supplementary literature from American and International authors. Writing persuasively and critically will be required in preparation for the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition examination. Students will complete a literary research paper each semester. The College Board's recommendation of one to two hours of homework per night will be the guiding principle for this course. Students will be required to take the AP examination in May.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep English III with a grade of A- or better or Honors/ AP English III with a grade of B- or better. Students must have successfully completed an English-course research paper as well as earned at least a "B" on the objective test given to all applicants in the spring.

Historical films will be used to review the history of Rome (primarily the first century A.D. and the lives of the Julio-Claudian emperors). Study of mythology, etymology, and the geography of the Roman Empire. Students will read the novel *I, Claudius* in conjunction with the study of Julio-Claudian emperors.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Honors Latin III

FRENCH I (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11

1 Credit

Course number 232

The objective of this course is to begin to read, write, and speak French and to understand spoken French. Students will learn the meanings and conjugations of regular verbs in the present and past tenses. Irregular verbs include *aller*, *être*, *avoir*, and *faire*. Topics for vocabulary include school, home, friends and family, food, shopping, transportation, and sports. Cultural background is given through reading selections.

FRENCH II (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 242

The objective of this course is to pursue proficiency in French by learning more of its applications through the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). This course is a continuation of French I. This class may also include students who have had French every day in middle school and demonstrate proficiency in French I on the placement test. Cultural background is presented in each lesson through thematic vocabulary units.

Prerequisite: Freshmen: Results of placement test. Successful completion of French I.

HONORS FRENCH II (Level 1)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 241

The prerequisite of this course is outstanding achievement in French I with a final year average grade of A- or higher. This class may also include students who have had the language every day in middle school and demonstrate proficiency in French I on the placement test. Honors French II will continue with the four skills at a more rapid pace than French II. It will also include more supplementary readings and projects. The two major past verb tenses will be explored in depth. Cultural background will be addressed in each lesson.

Prerequisite: Freshmen: Results of placement test. Completion of College Prep French I with a grade of A- or better.

FRENCH III (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 252

The students will progress to more complex grammatical structures in the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Students will read excerpts from French newspapers and magazines. Students will gain an appreciation of literature through reading *Le Petit Prince* and excerpts from other French writers. There is a greater exposure to current events and cultural topics of France and French-speaking countries. Geared for students who have had two years of French at level 2 or higher and wish to continue the study of the language. Note - This course is often combined with Honors French III.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French II

HONORS FRENCH III (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 251

The students will continue their quest for proficiency in the four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) at a higher level. Students will read excerpts from French newspapers and magazines. Students will gain an appreciation of literature through reading *Le Petit Prince* and excerpts from other French writers. There is exposure to current events and cultural topics of France and French-speaking countries.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep French II with a grade of A- or better or Honors French II with a grade of B- or better.

HONORS FRENCH IV (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 264

This course will include survey of French history and literature from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century. The students will read literary texts, essays, poetry, and short stories in their original form and discuss them in the target language. The students will express their ideas in the target language. Grammar points are reviewed as needed. Students will analyze literary texts with an understanding of the author and the relationship between the work and the historical period in which it was written.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep French III with a grade of A- or better or Honors French III with a grade of B- or better.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT FRENCH V (Level 1)

Grade 12

1 Credit

(AP Test Fee: \$94)

Course number 260

The AP French Language course focuses on the mastery of communicative language skills and prepares students to take the AP French Language exam. Emphasis is on using the language to speak extemporaneously about oneself and the world. Students must read and comprehend French newspaper and magazine articles as well as literary selections. Students must also be well versed in many aspects of French culture. They must be able to express their ideas with accuracy and fluency. Students practice parts of previous AP exams frequently and their work is assessed using the same criteria as the College Board uses to score the AP exam. (Students are required to take the AP Exam.)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Honors French IV with a B- or better.

MANDARIN CHINESE I (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 9, or by appointment

1 Credit

Course number 255

This course is designed to help students build a solid foundation in basic language skills of Mandarin Chinese: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Tones and pronunciation will be a focus throughout. By the end of the year, students will have the ability to use very basic Chinese to greet others, tell about their hobbies, and ask for information. This course will also help students build their confidence in speaking through providing opportunities to put what they learn into practice through the interactive and hands-on activities conducted in class. Cultural background and comparison will be a major component. Students will learn simplified characters.

MANDARIN CHINESE II (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 10, or by appointment

1 Credit

Course number 256

This course is designed to help students further develop their foundation in basic language skills of Mandarin Chinese: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course will be quite intensive and very interactive. Tones and pronunciation will be further developed. By the end of the year, students will have the ability to use basic Chinese to introduce and tell about their interests and both ask for and provide information. This course will also help students build their confidence in speaking through interactive activities, including dialogues and presentations. Cultural background and comparison will be a major component. Students will learn simplified characters.

Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese I

HONORS MANDARIN CHINESE II (Level 1)

Grade 10, or by appointment

1 Credit

Course number 240

This course is designed to help students further enhance their foundation in the four communicative skills of Mandarin Chinese (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) through a contextualized approach. Students will continue to develop effective pronunciation and phrases to use in everyday life. By the end of the course, students will have the ability to use Chinese to communicate in real-life contexts, such as: discussing preferences, making an appointment, ordering food at a restaurant, counting money, and buying/selling items. This course will also help students further cultivate their *confidence* in speaking through providing opportunities to apply what they learn through the performance-based activities conducted in class. In addition to language skills, the objectives of understanding both Chinese and American culture and how people from these two cultures can effectively communicate.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep Chinese I with a grade of A- or better or Honors Chinese I with a grade of B- or better.

MANDARIN CHINESE III (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 11, or by appointment

1 Credit

Course number 262

This course is designed to help students further develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing Mandarin skills. Students will continue to develop effective pronunciation and phrases to use in everyday life. By the end of the course, students will have the ability to use Chinese to communicate in real-life contexts. In addition to language skills, the objectives of understanding both Chinese and American culture and how people from these two cultures can effectively communicate. Students will learn simplified characters.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Mandarin Chinese II

HONORS MANDARIN CHINESE III (Level 1)

Grade 11, or by appointment

1 Credit

Course number 257

This course is designed to help students further enhance their listening, speaking, reading, and writing Mandarin skills. Students will further build their language confidence through presentations, dialogues, and essay writing. By the end of the year, students will be able to use their excellent tones and pronunciation skills to initiate, engage, and maintain simple native-paced conversations about everyday tasks and events. Students will also learn to understand, predict, appreciate, and engage Chinese culture and its differences and

similarities with American culture. Students will learn simplified characters.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep Chinese II with a grade of A- or better or Honors Chinese II with a grade of B- or better.

SPANISH I (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11 1 Credit Course number 272

The objective of this course is to begin to read, write and speak Spanish and to understand spoken Spanish. Students will learn the meanings and conjugations of regular and irregular verbs; and the present and past tenses; the differences between ser and estar; and the usage of direct object pronouns. Students are exposed to Hispanic cultures through reading selections and thematic vocabulary units.

SPANISH II (Level 2)

Grades 9,10,11,12 1 Credit Course number 277

The focus of this course will be on proficiency to understand, read, and write Spanish with a higher degree of perfection. This course is a continuation of Spanish I. This class may also include students who have had Spanish every day in middle school and demonstrate proficiency in Spanish I on the placement test. Spanish II will continue with the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Cultural background is presented in each lesson.

Prerequisite: Freshmen: results of placement test. Successful completion of Spanish I.

HONORS SPANISH II (Level 1)

Grades 9,10,11,12 1 Credit Course number 276

The prerequisite of this course is outstanding achievement in Spanish I. This class may also include students who have had the language every day in middle school and demonstrate a high degree of proficiency in Spanish I on the placement test. Honors Spanish II will continue with the four skills at a more rapid pace than in Spanish II. It will also have more supplementary readings and projects. Cultural background will be addressed in each lesson.

Prerequisite: Freshmen: results of placement test. Completion of College Prep Spanish I with a grade of A- or better or Honors Spanish I with a grade of B- or better.

SPANISH III (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10, 11, 12 1 Credit Course number 282

The students will progress to more complex grammatical structures in the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). There is an emphasis on comprehension without translating word for word. Students should know the conjugations and usage of the preterit and imperfect of regular and irregular verbs. They must also know the usage of both tenses in a paragraph. Cultural background is presented in each lesson.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish II

HONORS SPANISH III (Level 1)

Grades 10, 11, 12 1 Credit Course number 281

The students will continue to be proficient in the four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) at a higher level. There is emphasis on comprehension without translation. Students should know the conjugations and usage of the preterit and the imperfect of regular and irregular verbs. They must also know the usage of both tenses in a paragraph. Honors Spanish III will also have more supplementary readings and projects. Cultural background will be addressed in each lesson.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep Spanish II with a grade of A- or better or Honors Spanish II with a grade of B- or better.

SPANISH IV (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course number 289

The students will go on to be even more proficient in the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) at a higher level. The emphasis will continue to be on comprehension without translation. The students will express their ideas in the target language. This course pursues a thorough, systematic presentation of the structures of the Spanish language as they appear in the lessons. The students will also acquire a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Spanish culture.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish III

HONORS SPANISH IV (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course number 290

A survey of Spanish literature from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. The students will read high school adaptations of original works and discuss them in the target language. The students will express their ideas in the target language. This course pursues a thorough and systematic review of the structures of the Spanish language as illustrated in reading selections. These have been chosen to give the students a deeper understanding and appreciation of culture, ideas, and achievements of Spanish speaking people.

Prerequisite: Completion of College Prep Spanish III with a grade of A- or better or Honors Spanish III with a grade of B- or better.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH V (Level 1)

Grade 12 1 Credit (AP Test Fee: \$94) Course number 291

The AP Spanish Language course focuses on the mastery of communicative language skills. Emphasis is on using the language, acquiring an excellent vocabulary, and using the dictionary as infrequently as possible. Students must read and comprehend Spanish newspaper and magazine articles as well as literary selections. They must speak with accuracy and fluency and express their ideas accurately and fluently in writing. Spanish culture is also an important part of this course. (Students are required to take the AP Exam.)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Honors Spanish IV with a B- or better.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics Department believes that each student should increase his or her ability to analyze real-life situations in mathematical terms and appreciate the beauty of math. The department strives to teach students to graphically, numerically, verbally, and analytically define functions that model the world around them. An in-depth analysis of these functions will foster a greater understanding of real-life phenomena. The Mathematics Department also commits itself to developing in each student the technological skills needed to help solve problems that would otherwise take substantial amounts of time. In addition, the Mathematics Department strives to develop a strong spirit of intellectual curiosity and to develop the confidence in each student to be a creative problem solver. The emphasis on technology will enable each student to adapt to the increasing demands of the workplace. Graphing calculators (TI-83 Plus / TI-84 Plus) will be required for all classes except Algebra I, Part 1, Geometry, and computer programming courses.

Required Courses: Most colleges expect at least three years of math that include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. A fourth year of math including Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus is often required for numerous majors including engineering, business, and mathematics.

ALGEBRA I, Part I (Level 3), Grade 9 1 Credit Course number 303
ALGEBRA I, Part II (Level 3), Grade 10 1 Credit Course number 304

These courses represent a comprehensive program in first-year Algebra that is designed to be studied over a two-year period. This two-year sequence is ideal for students who need extra time and step-by-step instruction to master first-year Algebra. It will reinforce fundamental math skills and integrate them into a thorough treatment of first-year Algebra, including probability and statistics. Successful completion of this two-year sequence meets the requirement for entrance into Algebra II. Placement will be determined by entrance test scores and previous academic performance.

ALGEBRA I (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10 1 Credit Course number 302

This course is for students who have mastered the fundamentals of arithmetic. The content of the course includes the following: operations with polynomials and fractions, linear functions, solving both linear and quadratic equations, graphing (both one- and two-dimensional) including slope, factoring and operations with radicals. There is a strong emphasis on problem solving throughout the course. Entrance exam scores and math grade will determine placement.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and grade of A- or better required for any students entering from Algebra I, Part I.

HONORS ALGEBRA I (Level 1)

Grade 9 1 Credit Course number 301

This is an in-depth coverage of the content of Algebra I, with greater emphasis on theory, complex problems, and examples. This course covers topics such as operations with polynomials; factoring; solving both linear and quadratic equations; functions (linear and quadratic); graphing (both one- and two-dimensional), including slope; operations with radicals; and solving systems of equations and inequalities. **Prerequisite:** Placement is determined by a placement test, entrance scores, and math grades.

LEVEL 3 GEOMETRY (Level 3)

Grades 10, 11

1 Credit

Course number 314

This course is open to those students who do not qualify for Level 2 Geometry (313). Geometric concepts are learned and applied to real-life situations. The rigor of proof is not emphasized, but discovery of the basic concepts will be emphasized.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students from Algebra I, Part II (304) or Algebra I (302) who have a D average or better.

GEOMETRY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11

1 Credit

Course number 313

This course presents a development of logic by means of the structure of Geometry, emphasizing precision of language, clear thinking, and proof. Spatial relationships, inductive and deductive reasoning and real life applications are also studied. The class will strive to discover geometric concepts by use of the Geo-Sketchpad program.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Algebra I (313) or Algebra II (323) with a grade of C or better. If a student is applying from Grade 8, demonstration of competency in Algebra I on a placement test is required.

HONORS GEOMETRY (Level 1)

Grades 9, 10

1 Credit

Course number 311

This course is a follow up to Honors Algebra I. The class will involve a rigorous approach to geometric theory and applications. The course includes two-column and paragraph proofs and also some coordinate Geometry. The class will also explore real-life situations in detail, using the Geo-Sketchpad program.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students from Honors Algebra I (301) who have a B- average or better, and to Algebra 1, Level 2 (302) who have an A- or better. Teacher recommendation is required. If a student is applying from Grade 8, demonstration of competency in Algebra I on a placement test is required.

LEVEL 3 ALGEBRA II (Level 3)

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 324

This is an Algebra II course taught at a slower pace and with less complexity than Algebra II, Level 2. The topics covered include inequalities, linear equations and functions, polynomials, complex numbers, quadratic equations and functions, exponents, conic sections, and statistics and probability.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Algebra I Parts 1 (303) and 2(304) and have completed or are concurrently taking Geometry (314), or have completed Algebra I (302) and Geometry (313).

ALGEBRA II (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 323

This is a standard level Algebra II course. The topics covered include inequalities, linear equations and functions, polynomials, complex numbers, quadratic equations and functions, variation, exponents, conic sections, and statistics and probability.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Algebra I (302) and have completed or are concurrently taking Geometry (313) with a grade of C- or better.

HONORS ALGEBRA II (Level 1)

Grades 10, 11

1 Credit

Course number 321

This is a rigorous course for advanced students covering the topics of Algebra II: polynomials, irrational and complex numbers, functions of degree to three, logarithms, quadratics, conic sections, and statistics and probability.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Honors Algebra I (301) with a grade of B- or better and have completed or are concurrently taking Honors Geometry (311) with a grade of B- or better, or students who have completed Algebra I, Level 2 (302) with a grade of A- or better and have completed or are concurrently taking Geometry, Level 2 (313) with a grade of A- or better.

PRE-CALCULUS/TRIGONOMETRY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 344

The first semester of this course will cover the study of Trigonometry: triangle measure, trig functions and their inverses and identities, graphs and equations of trig functions, the polar plane and deMoivre's Theorem. The second semester is designed to prepare students for success in Calculus, with emphasis on theory as well as application. Functions and their inverses are studied, including exponential,

logarithmic, and rational functions. Additional topics include sequences and series, math induction, linear programming, and limits.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Algebra II (323) and Geometry (313) with a C+ or better, or Algebra II, Level 3 (324) and Geometry, Level 3 (314) with a B or better.

HONORS PRE-CALCULUS/TRIGONOMETRY (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course number 333

The first semester of this rigorous course will cover the study of Trigonometry: triangle measure using the sine, cosine, and tangent functions, their reciprocals and inverses, and their graphs and equations. Additional topics include the polar plane and DeMoivre's Theorem. The second semester of this course is designed to prepare students for success in calculus, with emphasis on theory as well as application. Functions and their inverses are studied, including exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions. Additional topics include sequences and series, math induction, limits, linear programming and introductory Calculus work. Real-life applications will be demonstrated in class work and through projects.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Honors Algebra II (321) and Honors Geometry (311) with a B- or better, or Algebra II, Level 2 (323) and Geometry, Level 2 (313) with an A- or better.

STATISTICS & PROBABILITY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 0.50 Credit Course number 343

This is an introductory course emphasizing the interpretation and communication of statistical results, statistical literacy, and the development of statistical thinking, as well as elements of probability. Students will use technology for developing conceptual understanding and for analyzing data.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Algebra II (any level), or Algebra I and Geometry with a grade of C or better.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10, 11, 12 0.50 Credit Course number 351

This is a semester course designed to familiarize the student with the fundamental concepts of computer programming in the Q-BASIC language. Mainly a "hands on" course, topics to be introduced include flow charting, elementary commands in the Q-BASIC language, writing and executing programs on the computer, and mathematical applications of these techniques. Applications and a history of computers will be included. This course is a prerequisite for AP Computer Science

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Algebra I (any level) with a C or better. Ability to work independently and/or to spend time in the computer lab beyond class times is required.

357 FINITE MATH (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 12 1 Credit Course number 357

Topics to include statistics, logic, theory of sets, counting techniques, probability theory, linear equations, linear programming, matrix algebra, and graph theory. Emphasis will be placed on the construction of mathematical models and their applications. Application to real-world problems, such as financial topics and evaluating statistical reports, will be included.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Algebra II and is not open to students who are taking or have taken Pre-Calculus or Calculus.

CALCULUS (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 12 1 Credit Course number 329

This course focuses on the derivative and integral and their applications. It covers most of the topics of AP Calculus but at a slower pace.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Pre-Calculus 2A (336) and Trigonometry 2A (334) with a grade of B- or better or Pre-Calculus 2 (337) and Trigonometry 2 (335) with a grade of B or better.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit (AP Test fee \$94) Course number 331

A full academic year of work in Calculus and related topics. Most of the year is devoted to the topics in differential and integral calculus. Students will be required to sit for the Advanced Placement Exam.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus (333) with a B- or better.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER SCIENCE (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

(AP Test Fee: \$94)

Course number 355

This is a year-long course in algorithms, programming methodology, and data structures using the JAVA language. The curriculum will be guided to a large extent by the Course Description of the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in Computer Science (A). Students will be required to take this exam in the spring.

Prerequisite: The course is open to students who have completed Computer Programming (351) with a B- or better, or demonstration of programming competency on a placement test. Ability to work independently and/or to spend time in the computer lab beyond class times is required.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

(AP Test Fee: \$94)

Course number 350

This is a rigorous full-year course emphasizing the interpretation and communication of statistical results, statistical literacy, and the development of statistical thinking, as well as elements of probability. Students will use technology for developing conceptual understanding and for analyzing data. Focus will be on developing concrete data analysis skills that enable students to interpret, explain, justify, and draw conclusions. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test.

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have completed Honors Trig/Pre-Calculus (333), AP Calculus (331) with a B- or better, Calculus (332) with a A- or better, Pre-Calculus (344) with an A- or better, or math teacher recommendation. Trig/Pre-Calculus may be taken concurrently.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Most colleges require at least three years of science. More competitive colleges, as well as majors related to science, generally require or strongly recommend a four-year program including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Most colleges also look upon participation in Advanced Placement Biology, Advanced Placement Physics, UConn Physics, and/or Advanced Placement Chemistry very favorably. The laboratory experience is a vital part of our science curriculum.

AP Biology and AP Chemistry are offered in alternating years.

Required Courses: 3 years of science including Biology

Suggested: 4 years of Science

BIOLOGY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 9

1 Credit

Course number 412

A required lab science course designed to introduce students to the fundamental principles of Modern Biology. Emphasis is placed on the cellular and chemical basis of life, human anatomy and physiology, genetics, microbiology, vertebrate and invertebrate biology, botany, evolution, and ecology. These topics are explored through lecture, discussions, laboratory investigations, projects, and reports. Laboratory work is an essential component of this course and comprises at least one-third of the class time. Successful completion of this course fulfills the Biology graduation requirement.

HONORS BIOLOGY (Level 1)

Grade 9

1 Credit

Course number 411

A rigorous laboratory science course designed to introduce students to an in-depth study of the fundamental principles of biology. Emphasis is placed on the cellular and chemical basis of living things, genetics, biotechnology, DNA, microbiology, vertebrate and invertebrate biology, botany, evolution, and ecology. These topics will be explored through lecture, discussion, laboratory work, projects, and reports. Laboratory work is an essential component of this course and comprises at least one-third of the class time. Successful completion of this course fulfills the Biology graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: Placement determined by entrance exam score and previous course work.

CHEMISTRY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10

1 Credit

Course number 424

A laboratory science course designed to teach students the fundamental concepts of Chemistry. Content includes matter and energy, atomic structure, chemical formulas, bonding, and chemical reactions. Also included are behavior of gases, stoichiometry, solutions, acids and bases, and an introduction to organic chemistry. Laboratory emphasis is on developing chemical concepts.

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry with grades of C or better. Algebra II, Level 2 may be taken concurrently. *Completion of Algebra II, Level 3 with a grade of B or better.* Biology, Level 2 with a grade of C+.

HONORS CHEMISTRY (Level 1)

Grades 10, 1 Credit Course number 423

A rigorous laboratory science course offering an in-depth study of Chemistry. Content includes atomic theory, stoichiometry, behavior of gases, liquids and solids, chemical reactions, ionic and covalent bonding, thermodynamics, molecular geometry, and an introduction to organic chemistry. Laboratory work is an essential component of this course and comprises at least one-third of the class time.

Prerequisite: A minimum grade of B- in Honors Algebra I and Honors Geometry, or A- in College Prep Algebra I and Geometry. A minimum grade of B- in Honors Biology or A- in College Prep Biology. **Co-requisite:** Algebra II or higher math.

PHYSICS (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course number 432

A laboratory science designed course to familiarize students with the fundamental concepts of physics. Content includes mechanics, linear and circular motion, heat, electricity, magnetism, waves, nucleonics, quantum mechanics, and relativity. This course combines some mathematical emphasis with applications of physics to our daily lives. Laboratory work is an essential component of this course and comprises at least one-third of the class time.

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II and Honors Geometry with a grade of C+, Honors Chemistry with a grade of C, or College Prep Chemistry, with a grade of C+. Algebra II may be taken concurrently.

HONORS PHYSICS (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course number 431

A rigorous laboratory science course designed to familiarize students with the fundamental concepts of physics. Content includes mechanics, linear and circular motion, heat, electricity, magnetism, waves, quantum mechanics, and relativity. This course combines mathematical emphasis with attention to problem solving and the applications of physics to our daily lives. Laboratory work is an essential component of this course and comprises at least one-third of the class time.

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II, Honors Geometry and Honors Trigonometry with a grade of B-. Honors Trigonometry may be taken concurrently. Honors Chemistry with a grade of B- or College Prep Chemistry with a grade of A-.

HONORS ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course number 439

This course is an accelerated course in the study of human anatomy and physiology. This is a laboratory science course for students who have shown a high degree of achievement in prior laboratory science courses. This course is an in-depth study of major systems found in the human body, including but not limited to, the skeletal, muscular, nervous, digestive, immune, and circulatory systems.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry with a grade of A- or better or successful completion of Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry with a grade of B- or better in both classes.

ASTRONOMY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 0.50 Credit One Semester Course number 441

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the universe, the structures within the universe, motions of celestial bodies, and identification/interpretation of cosmic anomalies. Students will cover the vast idiosyncrasies of the universe from ancient epochs to the present. Approach includes class discussions, audio-visual materials, class project, and laboratory activities.

GEOLOGY & METEOROLOGY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 0.50 Credit One Semester Course number 442

The geology course will provide information on the forces that shape the earth, identification of rocks and minerals, and an analysis of specific creative and destructive erosion processes. Meteorology will concentrate on forecasting weather from data obtained from computer telecommunication links and understanding the components and tools used by meteorologists to accurately predict weather phenomena. Content includes weather forecasting, interpreting weather patterns, air mass studies, and instrument analysis. This approach includes class discussions, projects, lecture and lab activities, as well as internet research.

HUMAN BODY SYSTEMS (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 0.50 Credit One Semester Course number 443

A course designed for students who desire additional study in human body systems. The course includes study of cells, tissues and

systems of the body beyond that covered in previous Biology courses. Current topics in human biology and related diseases and conditions are discussed. The approach includes class discussions, projects, lectures, and lab activities, as well as internet research and system building on anatomical models.

Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in Biology.

OCEANOLOGY AND STREAM ECOLOGY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 0.50 Credit One Semester Course number 444

This course will introduce students to the concepts of marine and fresh water ecology. Topics explored are: chemical, physical, and biological oceanology with special emphasis on the organisms found in Long Island Sound. Various marine habitats will be studied in class and correlated with fieldwork on Long Island Sound. Students will participate in the collection and analysis of water quality data of a local stream. Special emphasis will be on the relationship between organisms and their environment and on the interdependence of organisms with each other. The class will also explore some environmental problems and possible solutions related to our water world.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit (AP Test Fee: \$94) Course number 435

This will be offered in 2020-21. The AP Biology course is the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. The course is designed around four underlying principles called the big ideas. Each big idea requires combining content with inquiry and reasoning skills consistent with science practices. Primary emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of biological concepts through personal experience of scientific inquiry, recognition of unifying themes that integrate major topics of biology and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns. Descriptive and experimental laboratory exercises that require higher order thinking and will provide maximum opportunity for students to learn a variety of skills and those facts, principles, and concepts of general biology covered in lectures, readings, and discussions. Students will work independently on much of the material and to assume responsibility for success in the course. Students will take the Advanced Placement exam.

STUDENTS TAKING AP BIOLOGY ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE PHYSICS BEFORE GRADUATION.

Prerequisites: Honors Biology with a B- or College Prep Biology with an A-, Honors Chemistry with an B- or College Prep Chemistry with an A-.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY II (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit (AP Test Fee: \$94) Course number 420

This will be offered in 2019-20.

This is an Advanced Placement course in general chemistry for students wishing to study a second year of chemistry in high school. The curriculum follows the recommendations established by the College Board. It is designed to be the equivalent of a first-year college level course. Topics covered include atoms and molecules, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, oxidation/reduction, transition metals and organic chemistry. Students are expected to work independently on much of the material. Students will take the Advanced Placement exam.

STUDENTS TAKING AP CHEMISTRY ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE PHYSICS BEFORE GRADUATION.

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II, Honors Geometry, and Honors Trigonometry with a grade of B- or Algebra II, Geometry and Trigonometry with a grade of A-. Trigonometry or Honors Trigonometry may be taken concurrently. Honors Chemistry I with a grade of B- or Chemistry Level 2 with a grade of A-.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit (AP Test Fee: \$94) Course number 430

A laboratory science course designed to familiarize students with the fundamental concepts of physics. Content includes mechanics, linear and circular motion, heat, electricity, magnetism, waves, quantum mechanics, and special relativity. This course features mathematical emphasis with much attention to problem solving as well as innovative lab experiences centered on ideas generated by students. Students are expected to work independently on much of the material. Admission to this course also requires the completion of an application and departmental approval. Students will take the Advanced Placement exam.

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II, Honors Geometry and Honors Trigonometry with a grade of B-. Honors Trigonometry may be taken concurrently. Honors Chemistry with a grade of B- or College Prep Chemistry with a grade of A-.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Social Studies department emphasizes a knowledge and understanding of complex relationships between people and cultures. By emphasizing the writing skills and technological competence, students are prepared to make a positive contribution as virtuous

citizens in a democratic society. The Social Studies Department believes that students learn in a variety of ways. Thus, the department works to accommodate diverse learning styles. Methods of presentation include lecture, discussion, role-play, debate, and various implementations of technological instruction. Interpretation of primary source materials, appreciation for global cultures, and emphasis on geographic themes are a few of the skills of historical detection and interpretation emphasized in the Social Studies Department.

Required Courses: 4 years including World History, Civics, and United States History.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND OUR CONTEMPORARY WORLD (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9 1 Credit Course number 505

Students will gain a general understanding of the histories and cultures of the world and how these histories relate to and affect our own world. Students will study the civilizations of Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, and the Middle East. The course will focus on the cultural, social, religious, and political developments in each of these areas. We will pay particular attention to how these developments created the world in which we live today.

Essential questions of the course include: How do fundamental beliefs and geographic location affect human interaction? How have these beliefs changed over time? How and to where do these ideas spread? What are the modern-day implications of the interplay among religion, geography, and politics? Students are introduced to key themes including globalization, democratization, population growth, economic development, gender, and environmental issues. The course focuses on developing analytical reading and writing abilities.

HONORS HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND OUR CONTEMPORARY WORLD (Level 1)

Grades 9 1 Credit Course number 518

In this honors level course, students will be required to read and write like an historian. The reading and writing rigor is aimed at preparing our students for future study in Advanced Placement level courses. Students will gain a general understanding of the histories and cultures of the world and how these histories relate to and affect our own world. Students will study the civilizations of Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and the Middle East. The course will focus on the cultural, social, religious, and political developments in each of these areas. We will pay particular attention to how these developments created the world in which we live today.

Essential questions of the course include: How do fundamental beliefs and geographic location affect human interaction? How have these beliefs changed over time? How and to where do these ideas spread? What are the modern-day implications of the interplay among religion, geography, and politics? Students are introduced to key themes including globalization, democratization, population growth, economic development, gender, and environmental issues. The course focuses on developing analytical reading and writing abilities.

WORLD HISTORY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10 (starting with the class of 2023) 1 Credit Course number 502

This course examines Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Civilizations. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of the following skills: note-taking, map reading, chronological awareness, and essay writing. Throughout the year, students will be challenged to interpret documents, assimilate information from other sources, and complete short-term projects. Preparation for mastering the higher-level thinking skills is a major emphasis of the course.

HONORS WORLD HISTORY (Level 1)

Grade 10 (starting with the class of 2023) 1 Credit Course number 501

This course offers a thematic and conceptual approach to the study of Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Civilizations. In addition to the textbook, students will read and analyze primary source material. Quarterly projects that require independent research will be assigned. This honors-level work emphasizes higher-level thinking skills: analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students will be expected to read with insight, write with clarity, and participate with interest. Placement is based primarily on entrance test scores with consideration also given to previous academic performance.

CIVICS (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10 (Grade 12 starting with the class of 2023) One Semester Course number 566

This course examines the structure and operation of the United States government as it is developed within the framework of the

Constitution. Students explore such topics as civil liberties, civil rights, the institutions of government, such as the presidency, Congress, the courts, and contemporary problems in government and politics. The students will be familiar with the functions and structure of the United States government and their individual roles and responsibilities within our system. Please note that this class is mandatory for graduation.

U.S. HISTORY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course number 512

This course is designed to give students information and experience in order to help them develop an understanding of the present, an appreciation of our cultural heritage, and to build those attitudes and ideals, which will enable them to participate as responsible citizens in our democratic society. Further emphasis is placed on the reinforcement of related skills (essay writing, note-taking, map analysis) considered to be essential in the Social Sciences.

HONORS U.S. HISTORY (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course number: 517

This is a course designed to take a thematic and conceptual approach to the study of American History. The course will cover from 1492 to present day with emphasis on the evolution of American politics, identity, and economics. A primary focus of the course will be employing honors level research skills when interacting with both primary and secondary sources. Emphasis will be placed on using these sources in forming argumentative essays both on tests and on research papers.

Prerequisite: Completion of World History with a grade of A- or better, successful completion of Honors World History with a grade of B- or better.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit (AP Test Fee: \$94) Course number 511

The course is designed to offer students an in-depth approach to American History, focusing on the development of analytical skills. Emphasis will be placed on the interpretation and application of primary source materials as they pertain to major themes in American History. Preparation for the mandatory Advanced Placement U.S. History exam is a major focus of the class. Students will be expected to complete a large volume of work independently and extensive assignments will be given over school vacations. Students will take the Advanced Placement exam.

Prerequisite: Grade of an A- in Level 2 World History or at least a B- in Honors World History, and an after-school writing sample on a question supplied by the Social Studies Department.

ECONOMIC THEORY AND PRACTICE (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 0.50 Credit One Semester Course number 542

This course seeks to introduce the student to the many aspects of economics. Topics include the American Market economy, comparative economic systems, marketing, trade, advertising, consumerism, regional economies, unions, economic justice, and the stock market. Students also research related economic topics that are presented in class as part of a group project.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 0.50 Credit One Semester Course number 544

This course is designed to examine the complex psychological and societal aspects of life. Basic concepts, as expressed by notable members of the psychological world, will be discussed. These are then related to the behavior of people in today's society. Case studies, psychological tests, group discussion, and research highlight this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (Level 1)

Grade 12 1 Credit (AP Test Fee: \$94) Course number 530

Students approach the course from a topical perspective by examining both the formal institutions of government (Congress, Presidency, judiciary, bureaucracy), the informal or linkage institutions (the media, public opinion, elections, interest groups), and the relationship between the two in the formation of public policy. Students will also examine the constitutional underpinnings of the American system, as well as explore important issues in both civil rights and civil liberties. This course seeks to foster a systemic appreciation for the major themes and concepts of Political Science, and the students will be expected to keep abreast of current affairs. Students will be required to complete frequent position papers and/or essays, as well as participate in policy debates. Students will be required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisites: The student must have completed either AP United States History with a grade no lower than a B- or United States History, Level 2, with a grade no lower than an A-.

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (Level 1)

GRADE 12

1 Credit

(AP Test Fee: \$94)

Course number 570

Through work in a college-level text and regular consideration of current media, this course exposes students to the current political systems of different countries and examines them using analytical and comparative themes. The course will examine the systems and politics of six “core” countries: the U.K., Russia, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and China. Students will consider each country’s history and political culture, social divisions, formal structures of government, forms of participation, leadership groups, and policy issues and challenges. Topics of discussion will include the relationship of citizens to the state, the purposes and powers of government, opposition and dissident groups, and policy making in a changing world. Students will also consider broader issues such as globalization, democratization, and political change. Students will be required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisite: Completion of United States History and permission of the department.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Through experiences both in and out of the classroom, the Religion Department works cooperatively to educate and encourage the student to know, love, and serve God, to follow Jesus, to love others as Jesus loves us, and to empower others to do the same. Three basic goals stand out:

- a. to educate students regarding the twin pillars of the Church of Jesus: Scripture and Tradition;
- b. to educate students in the academic and intellectual aspects / realities of the past and present Church (with emphasis on teaching and beliefs);
- c. to nurture in the students a strong Christian spirituality and a life-giving faith.

By virtue of our human dignity and of the gifts of Baptism and Free Will, in order to have respect for life and all its forms, the department believes that each student must learn to take responsibility for his or her own faith development, becoming an informed critic of his or her own choices and social milieu.

Students are required to take four years of religion. The current sequence of classes is: 9th Grade; Sacred Scripture: Old Testament and Sacred Scripture: New Testament; 10th Grade-History of the Catholic Church and Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society; 11th Grade-Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ and Christian Morality and Conscience Formation; 12th Grade-Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues and an elective.

RELIGION I

Grade 9

1 Credit

Level 2, College Preparatory

Course number 608

SEMESTER I: SACRED SCRIPTURE: OLD TESTAMENT

This course provides an overview of the Old Testament, its major themes, and how they relate to the lives of the students. The students will be introduced to the basic principles for understanding and interpreting the Bible. The course will also provide the background for understanding the concepts of fidelity to covenant, Salvation History, the unity of both Testaments, and the application of Scripture to living a moral, Christ-centered life.

SEMESTER II: SACRED SCRIPTURE: NEW TESTAMENT

This course provides an overview of the New Testament by exploring the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, selections from the Epistles, and the Book of Revelation. Students learn the essential teachings of Jesus, the elements of Christian living, and the importance of prayer and community worship. The Sacraments and growth of the Church are considered.

RELIGION II

Grade 10

1 Credit

Level 2, College Preparatory

Course number 609

SEMESTER I: HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The purpose of this course is to supply the students with a general knowledge of the Church’s history from Apostolic times to the present. They will be introduced to the Church founded by Christ through the Apostles and sustained by Him throughout history through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today and, as such, has both Divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn about the Church’s 2000 years of history and about how the Church is led and governed by the successors of the Apostles.

SEMESTER II: LIVING AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST IN SOCIETY

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Church’s social teachings. In this course, students are to learn how Christ’s

concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission. The Service Project is completed during this course. Completion of the Service Project is required in order to advance to the next grade level.

RELIGION III

Grade 11 1 Credit Level 2, College Preparatory Course number 610

SEMESTER I: RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF JESUS CHRIST

This course will help students to understand and express the vocations of life: how Christ calls each of us to live a life of holiness. The course will be structured around single life, married life, consecrated life, and ordained life. Students will learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

SEMESTER II: CHRISTIAN MORALITY AND CONSCIENCE FORMATION

As Christians, we are challenged daily to embrace the dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God. We are called to reflect fully that image by living a virtuous life conformed to Christ. The course will teach the foundations of Christian morality using the Beatitudes and the Decalogue as the key guides in making moral decisions. Topics included in this course are the formation of conscience, the reality and nature of grace, the effects of personal and social sin, the dignity of human sexuality through the study of the Theology of the Body, and the sanctity of all life.

RELIGION IV

Senior students must choose to study one of the following special topics along with Ecumenical Issues. This rule does not apply to students chosen to enroll in HILL.

RELIGION IV SPECIAL TOPICS: DEATH AND DYING

Grade 12 1 Credit Level 2, College Preparatory Course number 616

SEMESTER I: DEATH AND DYING

Death is an aspect of the gift of human life that is often feared and avoided in our culture. This course will help students focus on the significance of their daily life choices and examine issues and concerns such as gerontology, illness, suffering, grief, and euthanasia, faith teaching on extended life, the seamless garment, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and the funeral liturgy. Jesus's own experience of death and His Resurrection will be examined. Students who elect this course must have the maturity to address these issues through class participation and projects. Guest speakers will make presentations on a variety of thanatology topics.

*SEMESTER II: ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS ISSUES**

(Please see complete course description below)

RELIGION IV SPECIAL TOPICS: CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Grade 12 1 Credit Level 2, College Preparatory Course number 617

SEMESTER I: CHRISTIAN ETHICS

This course provides an opportunity for the students to confront and analyze, from a perspective of Christian morality, classical theories of ethics, and the complex issues facing young adults today. Issues of personal and social ethics on such topics as sexuality, abortion, euthanasia, poverty, and hunger are discussed and researched. Current Papal documents are required readings.

*SEMESTER II: ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS ISSUES**

(Please see complete course description below)

***ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS ISSUES (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

The purpose of this required course is to help students understand the manner in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. Building on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ established the Catholic Church and entrusted to her the fullness of God's Revelation, the course is intended to help students recognize the ways in which important spiritual truths can also be found in non-Catholic Christian churches and ecclesial communities as well as in non-Christian religions. It is also intended to help students recognize the ways in which other systems of belief and practice differ from the Catholic faith. The richness of the Vatican II documents, the *Decree on Ecumenism* and the *Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions*, will help guide the students in this course.

HONORS RELIGION IV: ACTS (A CHANCE TO SERVE)

Grade 12 1 Credit Level 1 Course number 618

This honors level course is designed to train leaders for service both within and beyond the school community. It will challenge students to discover talents and develop skills to be used for a lifetime of service in church and civic communities. The meaning of ministry and service as well as a study of contemporary Christian leaders and the Church's social teaching will be considered throughout the course. Skills of

communication, leadership, and faith sharing will be developed. Leadership activities in the school and community, including talks to other classes and on retreats, social action projects, and liturgical planning will be included. Students participate in an outdoor adventure and recreation program course in June.

Prerequisite: Departmental approval and teacher interview required.

HONORS RELIGION IV: HILL (HONORS INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP IN LIFE)

Grade 12 1 Credit Level 1 Course number 619

The concept of the Honors Institute for Leadership in Life (HILL) Class is to consider various issues from both a theological and a sociological, historical, and economic perspective. The course consists of two parts: *Virtuous Leadership* and *Modern Challenges to the Catholic Faith*. The course seeks to answer: How do you be Catholic and political? How do we as Catholics evangelize or spread the faith in a time where people don't care about religion? Why is religion used to support terrorism or hatred? How can we use our faith to respond to this as Catholics? How should we deal with the sex abuse scandal in the Church when it is so serious and so wrong, especially Church leaders covering up the scandal? What is the ideal economy for the Church to support? How does the Pope deal with issues as a spiritual and world leader? What responsibility does the Church have to intervene and try to stop problems such as North Korea, Iran, the Israel-Palestinian Conflict, ISIS, refugees etc.? What has been the history of the Church in the 20th and 21st centuries? How has the Church addressed issues like globalization, technology, and poverty from a historical, philosophical, and theological perspective?

Prerequisite: Departmental approval and teacher interview required

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Performing Arts Department offers courses that provide a variety of experiences for all abilities of musical, dance, or artistic backgrounds. These courses are designed for students who wish to pursue the arts as a hobby as well as those planning a career in the fine or performing arts. Some of the courses are open to all students; others require a special audition/portfolio for membership.

ACTING

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 0.5 Credit One Semester Course Number 794

The goal of this course is to give students a thorough introduction to acting. Students will study improvisation, character development, action, and intention through games, scene work and other acting exercises. Students will watch various performances and analyze the work of master actors, responding with written analysis. There are no required texts, though students will occasionally have the opportunity to select their own scene work. This course may be repeated for elective credit.

MUSICAL THEATER

Grades 10, 11, 12 1.0 Credit Course number 795

The Musical Theatre Class offers an opportunity for students who wish to focus on the multidisciplinary craft of musical theatre. The class explores the art-form from a historical perspective while allowing the student to grow as storytellers through personal coaching, ensemble work, and self-discovery. Students will analyze and perform elements of musical theatre through artistic interpretation and execution.

Prerequisite: The class is open to juniors and seniors. The pre-requisite is one year of any NWC curricular choir. This group of students through their practicum will augment our already robust extracurricular drama program, The Dramateurs.

STAGE CRAFT/ TECHNICAL THEATER

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 0.3 Credit One Semester Course number 796

Technical theatre is a course for students interested in gaining a clear, overarching, and practical understanding of theatrical technical production-from conceptualization, visualization and design, to the implementation of design concepts through construction and installation. We will explore the fundamentals of scenic, lighting, and sound design, as well as the methods and equipment used in executing those designs. This class will include hands-on work with tools and stage hardware, as well as lighting and sound equipment. Some work outside of classroom hours will be required. This course may be repeated for elective credit.

CONCERT BAND (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1.0 Credit Course Number 800

The Concert Band consists of brass, woodwind, and percussion instrumentalists who have reached an inter-mediate level in technique and musicianship. This course develops elements of performance, as well as the basic principles of ensemble playing, instrument technique, listening skills and music theory within the context of rehearsing music of various styles and historical periods. Repertoire

includes works for band that serve to prepare the students for admission into the Wind Ensemble. Some of the year is spent studying chamber music, and students may be broken into smaller musical groups. This group performs at school concerts and graduation ceremonies, and there is a trip to a music festival every year. Some after-school and evening rehearsals may be required. Meets four days per week

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor and a grade of B or better is required to repeat Concert Band.

HONORS WIND ENSEMBLE (Level 1)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

.80 Credits

Course Number 801

The Wind Ensemble is a select group of students who are highly motivated and seriously interested in instrumental music performance. Students develop knowledge and skill in ensemble balance, tone production, repertoire study, and historical information to promote a high level of musicianship through performance with a strong foundation in the fundamentals of music. The Wind Ensemble performs advanced literature throughout the school year at school functions such as concerts, in-school assemblies and special events, including graduation ceremonies. Some after-school and evening rehearsals may be required.

Prerequisite: One year of Concert Band. Placement is based upon a written and performance based skills assessment. In rare instances, a freshman may be placed in Wind Ensemble only if the group requires particular instrumentation and a student has passed the necessary entrance requirements. This class is repeatable for credit, but a grade of B must be maintained to remain at this level.

ADVANCED JAZZ BAND (Northwest Catholic Big Band) (Level 1)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

0.60 Credit

Course Number 803

The Advanced Jazz Band is a highly developed performance ensemble consisting of standard big band instrumentation. This group rehearses two nights per week at the director's discretion. Students will study more difficult jazz literature and are expected to implement higher-level improvisatory technique. Participation at school concerts, assemblies, Celebrate! West Hartford and other activities throughout the year is mandatory. Membership in another Performing Arts Department class during the school day is required.

Prerequisite: Placement is audition-based. Seating, part, and instrument assignment will be determined based on the needs of the group and the ability of the student. Students are expected to provide their own instrument. Private lessons are highly recommended. Advanced Jazz Band may be repeated for credit. A grade of A- or better is required in order to repeat Advanced Jazz Band, and students may need to re-audition every year.

STRING ENSEMBLE (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

0.6 Credit

Course Number 717

String Ensemble is a select group of string players who are highly motivated and seriously interested in studying chamber music. Some after-school and evening rehearsals may be required. Participation in school concerts is required. Meets three days per week

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. A grade of B or better is required to repeat String Ensemble.

ADVANCED STRING ENSEMBLE (Level 1)

Grades 9,10,11,12

0.6 Credit

Course Number 771

Advanced String Ensemble is a select group of advanced string players who are highly motivated and seriously interested in playing chamber music at an advanced level. Some after-school and evening rehearsals may be required. Participation in school concerts and outside adjudications is required. Meets three days per week.

Prerequisite: One year of String Ensemble. Additionally, placement is based upon a written and performance based skills assessment. In rare instances, a freshman may be placed in Advanced String Ensemble only if the group requires particular instrumentation and a student has passed the necessary entrance requirements. This class is repeatable for credit, but a grade of B must be maintained to remain at this level.

MUSIC THEORY I (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

0.5 Credit

Course Number 802

Music Theory I is intended to give serious music students an opportunity to learn the topics covered in the first semester of a college course in music theory. This course is divided into analysis, keyboard training, ear training, sight singing, and written notation. Music Theory I is strongly recommended for any student considering a college major or minor in music. It is a prerequisite for AP Music Theory. Meets daily for one semester.

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) MUSIC THEORY (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12

1.0 Credit

Course number 720

AP Music Theory prepares students to take the AP Music Theory examination. This course includes harmonic analysis, keyboard technique, ear training, sight singing, and written notation. AP Music Theory is strongly recommended for any student considering a college major or minor in music. Students are required to take the AP examination. Meets five days per week.

Prerequisite: Music Theory I (802) with a grade of B or better or placement exam and consent of instructor.

PEP BAND (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

0.2 Credit One Semester

Course Number 731

Members of the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble are required to help raise the spirit of the student body and fans by playing with the Pep Band at pep rallies and various athletic events. The Pep Band is also open to those who do not have time for Concert Band or Wind Ensemble but still would like to participate in music, as membership is open. Pass/fail course.

CHAMBER CHOIR (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1.0 Credit

Course Number 798

This is a course in choral singing, vocal technique, listening skills, and music theory within the context of rehearsing music for performance. Course requirements include participation in the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Open to men and women.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. This course may be repeated for credit.

HONORS WOMEN'S CHORUS (Level 1)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1.0 Credit

Course Number 777

An advanced level course in choral singing representing some of Northwest's most select female singers. The Women's choir performs music that requires good vocal production, music-reading and level of musicianship. This course focuses on vocal technique, listening skills, music history, and music theory within the context of rehearsing music for performance. This group performs at Christmas and Spring Concerts, as well as special events and tours.

Prerequisite: One year of Chamber Choir. Placement is based upon a written and performance based skills assessment, in addition to audition to assess singing ability. This class is repeatable for credit, but a grade of B must be maintained to remain at this level.

HONORS CONCERT CHOIR (Level 1)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1.0 Credit

Course Number 797

This is an advanced level course in choral singing, vocal technique, listening skills, and music theory within the context of rehearsing music for performance. Course requirements include participation in the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Graduation Ceremony, and other selected performances throughout the year. Open to men and women.

Prerequisite: One year of Chamber Choir. Placement is based upon a written and performance based skills assessment, in addition to audition to assess singing ability. This class is repeatable for credit, but a grade of B must be maintained to remain at this level. Audition and consent of instructor.

HONORS JAZZ CHOIR (Jazz Singers) (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12

1.0 Credit

Course Number 804

This group is an advanced level choral ensemble that rehearses two nights per week. The Jazz Choir focuses on a repertoire of challenging jazz vocal music with concentration on a cappella and vocal improvisation. Vocal technique, listening skills, music theory, and music history is stressed within the context of preparation for performances and adjudications. Participation at school concerts, assemblies, Celebrate! West Hartford and other activities throughout the year is mandatory. Membership in another Performing Arts Department class during the school day.

Prerequisite: Placement is audition-based. Jazz Choir may be repeated for credit. A grade of A- or better is required in order to repeat Jazz Choir, and students may need to re-audition every year.

DANCE REPERTORY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9,10,11,12

.50 Credit One Semester

Course Number 805

This course covers the fundamentals of dance technique, body awareness, mindfulness, total body conditioning, self-discovery, basic choreography, and art appreciation as an audience member. It is designed for students of all levels who wish to develop a deeper understanding of dance as a creative art form through performance and self-reflection. The essential principles of 20th century dance

will be studied through various movement and choreography styles, physical fitness, master classes from guest artists, and viewing of live and filmed dance performances.

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. A grade of B or better is required to repeat Dance Repertory.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

In the Visual Arts, courses in a variety of media and disciplines are offered to provide the best studio and academic background for students. These courses are taught in a state of the art studio environment with the finest materials and computer technology available. This curriculum emphasizes the merging of traditional techniques and media with the technology of the future. The sequence of visual arts classes is Introduction to Visual Arts, Drawing and Painting, Design and Sculpture, Visual Arts Studio, and AP Art Studio.

ART I - INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ARTS (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 0.50 Credit One Semester Course Number 741

A semester-long course that introduces the basic foundations of the visual arts. Students will explore a variety of artistic media including drawing, painting, animation, and design. Students will be introduced to the studies of Art History and Art Criticism. Beginning with the class of 2023, students will be required to complete a full year of Art.

ART II - DRAWING AND PAINTING (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10, 11, 12 1 Credit Course Number 743

A year-long course that emphasizes drawing as the fundamental language for the visual arts. Students will experiment in depth with a variety of drawing and painting techniques both traditional and non-traditional. Art History and Art Criticism are emphasized through the development of critical thinking and writing skills as applicable to fine art disciplines.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Visual Arts with a B and portfolio review of ten pieces.

ART III - DESIGN AND SCULPTURE (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course Number 744

A year-long course that emphasizes design and sculpture techniques. Students will experiment with a variety of two and three-dimensional design and sculpture processes for communication and defining space and form. Development of computer skills through graphic design applications is strongly emphasized. Art History and Art Criticism are emphasized through the development of critical thinking and writing skills as applicable to fine art disciplines.

Prerequisite: Drawing and Painting and portfolio review of twenty 2-D pieces.

ART IV - ADVANCED VISUAL ARTS STUDIO (Level 1)

Grade 12 1 Credit Course Number 745

An advanced studio art class designed for students who are highly motivated and seriously interested in the arts. Students must have demonstrated unique perceptual ability through the quality (formal and technical), concentration, and depth of expression in their work. The course outline is individualized to the particular student. Art History and Art Criticism are emphasized through the development of critical thinking and writing skills as applicable to fine art disciplines.

Prerequisite: Design and Sculpture, portfolio review of four sculptural pieces and twelve design pieces, and teacher's approval.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12 1 Credit Course Number 748

The Advanced Placement Studio Art Program enables highly motivated students to do college-level work while still in high school. AP Studio Art candidates submit a portfolio of work for evaluation in early May to the College Board. Guidelines have been designed to accommodate varieties of interests and approaches to art but must include the following three areas: quality, concentration, and breadth. Students must be able to work independently and meet deadlines. Preparation of art pieces will require considerable time outside of class. Students will begin work on concentration at home during the summer prior to the beginning of the course. Students applying for this course must have completed portfolio pieces for the quality (four) and breadth (twenty) sections prior to the beginning of the course. This class may be repeated for credit.

Prerequisite: Drawing and Painting, Design and Sculpture, portfolio review, teacher interview, and approval required.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to submit a portfolio to the College Board, students are required to have slides taken of their artwork. There is an additional fee for students wishing to take their slides at NWC. Students are also required to submit a set of his/her slides to the Art Department to establish a collection for the program.

CRAFTS / FUNCTIONAL ART and CULTURE (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

0.50 Credit

Course Number 753

This is a semester-long course that introduces both traditional and contemporary functional art. Production of artwork is framed in the research and exploration of disparate cultures and their treatment and traditions of specific art media. Materials may include ceramics, block printing, mask-making, jewelry, and paper. Methods to create both functional as well as beautiful objects will be explored.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10, 11, 12

0.50 Credit

Course Number 754

Students will explore photography as an artistic medium. Through the use of digital media (Adobe Photoshop©), students will explore traditional photographic theory, methods and composition. Studies will include history and criticism of Photography. Students will also explore non-traditional methods of imaging and animation. Students are expected to work outside of class time on their assignments and to contribute photographic prints to school publications. Students may utilize digital cameras provided by the school but are encouraged to make use of their own digital camera with manual over-ride.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Visual Arts with a B and portfolio review of ten pieces.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/ WELLNESS PROGRAM**HEALTH AND WELLNESS (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grade 10

0.50 Credit

Course number 980

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION The program stresses the growth and development of sound physical and mental health through an examination of nutritional practice, drug and alcohol education, sex education, the mind, and emotional maturation. The program is designed to meet the needs for health education at an early teenage level. Visual aids such as videos, films, and slides are used extensively, and in addition, several speakers are brought in to lecture on dealing with health problems.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

0.50 Credit

Course number 916

The physical education program is designed to promote a positive attitude toward fitness which will contribute to the well-being of the whole person. A combination of team play and individual activities will be integrated with the use of the fitness center. The fitness center provides an opportunity for training programs which can be introduced and expanded with each student. The fitness center is user-friendly with free weights, universal, and cardiovascular machines to meet the needs of all students. It is a goal of the physical education program to have the use of team play and personal fitness lead to the student's desire to continue his or her own fitness program in the future.

SPORTS PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Course numbers 991, 992, 993

991 - Fall Sports: Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Girls Field Hockey, Cheerleading

992 - Winter Sports: Boys' Indoor Track and Field, Girls Indoor Track and Field, Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Ice Hockey, Swimming and Diving (Co-ed), Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading

993 - Spring Sports: Baseball, Softball, Boys Tennis, Girls' Tennis, Golf, Boys Outdoor Track and Field, Girls Outdoor Track and Field, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse

Any student playing an interscholastic sport will receive 0.2/sports/season credits towards fulfillment of the Physical Education requirement in place of Physical Education during the school day.

SPORTS MEDICINE I

Grades 10, 11 and 12.

1.0 Credit

Course number 987

This class is an introduction class designed to teach the students basic anatomy, basic anatomical terms, sports injuries, taping techniques, and what the job of an athletic trainer is. The students in this class are required to do 15 hours of work during the semester in the athletic training room after school and during sporting events.

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

All grade levels

0.5 Credit One Semester

Course number 989

Students will learn the importance of training the body, as it is a gift from God. Students will learn not only why we must take care of our bodies, but also how to take care of the body. This leads to a healthy balance in life between mind, body, and spirit. The latest techniques for strength development will be introduced with an emphasis on physical fitness. Students will also explore proper nutrition and conditioning for injury prevention.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (LEADS)

As part of Northwest Catholic's Mission Statement and Statement of Values, students are called to accept the challenges of responsible citizenship, to demonstrate compassion for others, and to exercise leadership centered in the Gospel. The LEADS (Leadership, Engagement, Accountability, Determination, and Service) program provides the students at Northwest Catholic with opportunities that will allow them to achieve the school's mission and vision. LEADS will complement the academic program with concepts and skills thereby ensuring NWC students' success in college and beyond. Each year students will take a semester-long class that is linked to the theme of that grade level. At the end of four years, students from Northwest will demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Open to Growth
- Intellectually Competent/Distinguished
- Religious
- Loving
- Committed to Doing Justice
- Developed as Leaders

- 010 LEADS 9** - The Freshman LEADS class will help ease the transition to high school and make students feel a part of the Northwest community. Northwest Catholic High School has always been committed to developing leaders and takes pride in encouraging its students to think for themselves, to increase their self-reliance and willingness to work towards goals. The LEADS program will empower NWC students to become effective leaders by providing them with confidence, experiences, opportunities, motivation, knowledge, and the skills necessary to be successful in today's society. The focus of LEADS9 will be to help the freshmen learn to lead themselves. Students will be required to complete four brief reflections this semester.
- 011 LEADS 10** - The Sophomore LEADS class will focus on servant leadership, service, and social justice. Additional topics include: motivation, conflict resolution, following directions, managing emotions, character, accountability, community, networking, workplace expectations, and soft-skills. LEADS10 will aim at giving students skills outside the traditional classroom and prepare them to begin showing their leadership potential. Our partnership with Junior Achievement will allow us to supplement these topics with their Career Success Module, thereby helping prepare students for the world of business. Students will be required to complete four brief reflections this semester.
- 012 LEADS 11** - The Junior LEADS class will emphasize the qualities of a leader. Themes for this year include: college essay, resume writing, social skills, the interview process, advocating for others, character development, critical thinking skills, and ethics. Students will take an in-depth look at some everyday leaders and compare those characteristics to the qualities they possess. Students will be required to complete four brief reflections this semester.
- 013 LEADS 12** - The Senior LEADS class will highlight our students' growth as leaders and ask them to complete a Capstone Leadership Reflection. Junior Achievement will help prepare students for independent living through their Personal Finance Module. Finally, this will be a safe and candid space for seniors to prepare for their transition to college. Students will participate in an exit interview survey.

Out of School Time – Students will be required to participate in the JA Job Shadow Program as well as the NWC Leadership Summit or another approved leadership activity by graduation. The NWC Leadership Summit is held in partnership with EMPOWER Leadership Sports to help students appropriately challenge themselves as young leaders while giving them strategies to ethically and appropriately collaborate with their peers. The JA Job Shadow Program will inspire students to be entrepreneurial in their approach to work by applying work-readiness skills to real-life work environments. This experience will allow students to explore careers they are interested in and understand the importance of researching the requirements needed to earn a position, develop job-hunting tools, such as networking, resumes, and interviewing skills, as well as identify the next steps needed in their personal career preparation.

ACADEMIC PLANNING

The program offered at Northwest Catholic High School is designed to prepare students for college, as well as to provide a well-rounded high school education. Beginning with the class of 2023 the requirement for graduation is 26.5 credits including the following:

English	4.0
Religion	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Social Studies	4.0
Science	3.0
World Language (3 recommended)	2.0
Fine Arts	1.0
Health & Wellness	0.5
Physical Education	1.0
Computer Principals	0.5
LEADS	0.5
Electives	2.0
Minimum Requirement	26.5

Within the parameters of the graduation requirements and a typical four-year program below, there is flexibility. Flexibility exists in the levels open to a student in most subject areas and also in the opportunity to choose some electives within the required subject areas and outside of the required subject areas.

9th grade

English I
Religion I
Mathematics
Human Geography
World Language
Biology
Fine Arts or Phys Ed
LEADS (0.1)

7.1 credits

11th grade

English III
Religion III
Mathematics
Physics
US History
Health and Wellness (0.5)
Computer Principals (0.5)
Elective
LEADS (0.1)

7.1 credits

10th grade

English II
Religion II
Mathematics
World History
World Language
Chemistry
Fine Arts, Phys Ed, or Elective
LEADS (0.1)

7.1 credits

12th grade

English IV
Religion IV
Mathematics
Social Studies
Elective
Elective
LEADS (0.1)
LEADS Experience (0.1)

6.2 credits