

TOTINO-GRACE HIGH SCHOOL

FRESHMAN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



ART CLASSES

ART FUNDAMENTALS

This introductory course explores many ways of making two and three-dimensional works using the art elements of line, shape, color, value, texture and the principles of design; balance, harmony, and rhythm. Projects focus on drawing, painting, printmaking, scratchboard work and 3D clay emphasizing basic tool use, process and concepts. Students participate in weekly critiques. This course builds a foundation for other art courses as well as an appreciation for art.

- Fulfills Fine Arts Requirement
- All Student Elective
- 1 semester - 1 credit

DIGITAL IMAGING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Digital imaging and photography are big parts of our everyday lives. This course introduces students to Adobe Photoshop with its many features as they learn file formats, resolution quality, cropping, noise reduction, color and digital manipulation. Students will learn to make digital files, morph images, enhance digital photos and repair damaged photos. Students will learn about fonts, layouts and visual cues in print and media advertising. They will be informed about the ever-changing technology of cameras, scanners and printers. Learning Photoshop will equip students with necessary skills for college work, business application and creative studies.

- Fulfills Fine Arts Requirement
- All Student Elective
- 1 semester - 1 credit

BUSINESS CLASSES

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

This course has been developed to introduce students to the functional areas of business, giving them opportunities to examine the business environment, types of businesses, and the business activities that take place in the work environment.

- All Student Elective
- This course must be taken before any other business course can be taken, with the exception of Personal Finance.
- 1 semester - 1 credit

PERSONAL FINANCE

This class will help students learn how to manage resources such as cash or credit. Students will look at long-term planning, goal setting and investing as ways to maintain wealth. The course will include units on careers, budgeting, investing, insurance, credit and consumer rights.

- All Student Elective
- 1 semester - 1 credit

DRAMA CLASSES

ACTING AND PERFORMANCE 1

This class provides hands-on experiences in the theatre arts with a focus primarily on performance skills. From the business-minded student, who wants to develop poise and self-confidence in presentation skills, to the performer looking to improve their acting skills, this class will provide opportunities for creativity and expression for all. Students will engage in a variety of learning activities including theatre games, skits, improv, comedic and dramatic character study, and plays. The course will culminate with a final performance project.

- Fulfills the Fine Arts requirement
- All School Elective
- 1 semester - 1 credit

ENGLISH CLASSES

ENGLISH 9: WRITING AND SPEECH A & B

This two-semester course introduces ninth graders to fundamental speaking and writing skills. Students learn to respond in writing to poetry, short stories and a memoir. Students also develop their research skills as they gather and synthesize information for both written and oral assignments. Grammar review and vocabulary development are integrated into this yearlong course.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- 2 semesters -2 credits

HONORS ENGLISH 9 A & B

This introduction to the Honors English sequence focuses on the idea of "hero." What is a "hero"? Why does humankind need heroes? Students begin with a study of the literature and culture of the Ancient World and end with a study of Shakespeare and Cyrano de Bergerac. Critical textual analysis, expository writing, and class presentations are central to the course, as is a close examination of selected works. Students entering the class are expected to read well and have an interest in reading, writing, and independent thinking.

Prerequisite: Entrance into this course is limited and based on exam scores. If exam scores are not high enough, entrance into this course will be assessed after a writing assessment.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- 2 semesters -2 credits

READING PRACTICUM A & B

This intensive reading intervention program provides individualized instruction through teacher-directed lessons and adaptive software for students who experience challenges with reading. The program includes high-interest, leveled fiction and non-fiction texts to develop reading independence. Direct instruction of higher order reading and critical thinking skills and strategies are taught with a focus on rigorous academic writing and literacy skills and practice.

Prerequisite: Entrance into this course is based on the Placement Exam and/or recommendation by parents and instructors.

- Freshman Elective
- 2 semesters -2 credits

INDUSTRIAL ARTS CLASSES

WOODS AND METALS

In this course, students become familiar with the materials, processes, tools, machines, and practices of the wood and metal industries. During this course, which is both project and objective oriented, students gain hands-on experience in the operation of machines and tools, which are common to construction and manufacturing.

- All Student Elective
- 1 semester -1 credit

POWER AND ENERGY

In this course, students will learn about the various forms of power and energy that exist and are utilized in our everyday lives. This course specifically emphasizes three areas of power and energy: electricity, alternative energy and internal combustion engines. This course combines scientific principles with a hands-on approach where students will apply science to solving problems ranging from electrical circuit wiring to overhauling small gas engines.

- All Student Elective
- 1 semester -1 credit

CAD TECHNOLOGY

This elective course in Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) examines the origin, role and methods of communication of the graphic language of engineering and architectural drafting. Students will construct technical drawings and illustrations with the use of a computer and CAD software as well as learn methods of scaled sketching. Students will create original residential designs and communicate their ideas through floor plans, elevations, section views and 3-D models. Possessing ability or experience in Geometry would enhance a student's performance in this course.

- All Student Elective
- 1 semester -1 credit

LEARNING LAB

The Learning Lab course at Totino-Grace offers academic support for students who experience difficulty in learning. The purpose of the lab period is to provide academic assistance as students work to develop organizational, test taking, and study skills. The Learning Lab teachers monitor students' progress in their many subjects and act as communication liaisons between classroom teachers and parents. The Learning Lab teachers also monitor the Student Accommodation Plans (SAPs) of those students who have them and provide teachers with a variety of methods to encourage academic success for their students. Qualified students are scheduled into Learning Lab for one period per day. The Learning Lab class has a small teacher-to-student ratio. Students earn one elective credit per semester for this course and it is not included in a student's GPA. Initial placement in Learning Lab is based on qualifying placement exam scores and completion of a Learning Lab application by parents. Continued enrollment in Learning Lab is based on a student's individual learning needs and academic performance. The Academic Office and School Counseling Services oversee initial placement of students in Learning Lab. For more information, contact the School Counseling Department at 763-586-6302.

IEP and SAPs

Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) may be able to use the plan while at Totino-Grace. Student Accommodation Plans (SAPs) also may be written for students diagnosed with a condition that interferes with the learning process. Decisions regarding acceptance or placement of students with learning disabilities are made by Totino-Grace counselors in consultation with the principal.

MATH CLASSES

GEOMETRY A & B

This course in the elements of plane geometry is designed to develop an understanding of the structures of geometry and their relation to the real world. Students will develop a thorough understanding of the deductive method, strengthen the algebraic skills developed in Algebra 1, demonstrate the ways in which algebra and geometry complement each other, and foster an appreciation of the clear and creative thinking of mathematics.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- All Student Elective
- 2 semesters -2 credits

HONORS GEOMETRY A & B

This course is a full year of Euclidean Geometry with review and integration of algebra topics. It is intended for our most capable and highly motivated math students who have completed Algebra 1.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- Freshman/Sophomore Elective
- 2 semesters - 2 credits

HONORS ALGEBRA 2 /TRIGONOMETRY A & B

This is a second year algebra course with an emphasis on trigonometry during the second semester. It is designed for students who have taken Honors Geometry or who have been recommended by their geometry instructor.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- Freshman/Sophomore/Junior Elective
- 2 semesters - 2 credits

MUSIC CLASSES

CHORALE A&B

This is a non-auditioned choir made up of freshmen and sophomores. In striving for musical excellence the students will work on vocal technique, music theory, ear training and sight singing as well as preparing music (in three and four parts) to be performed at the choral concerts. Weekly small group lessons, which are part of the curricular requirement, enhance the learning process and help ensure a quality music education.

Course Requirement: Attendance is required at the Fall, Christmas, Mid-winter and Spring Pops concerts.

- Fulfills Fine Arts Requirement
- Freshman/Sophomore Elective
- 2 semesters - 2 credits

CONCERT BAND A & B

Concert Band is an all ninth grade instrumental performing ensemble that seeks excellence in performance through concentrated development of musical skills. Skills taught in this course include tone production, rhythmic understanding, instrumental technique, musicality, and beginning music theory.

Course Requirement: Attendance is required at four Fall athletic events, four major concerts, conference and state band festivals during the year and Graduation.

- Fulfills Fine Arts Requirement
- Freshman Elective
- 2 semesters - 2 credits

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I

Physical Education I focus on developing and maintaining healthy levels of cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and coordination. These goals are accomplished through cardiovascular conditioning and various individual and team activities. These activities may include: tennis, track and field, indoor soccer, horseshoes, weight training, volleyball, basketball, step aerobics, cross country skiing, frisbee, floor hockey, lacrosse, speedball, pickleball, and softball.

- Fulfills Freshman PE Requirement
- 1 semester -1 credit

HEALTH

This course focuses on helping students adjust and adapt to the challenges of adolescence. Life skills and decision-making skills form the core of this course. Students apply these skills in making choices on health and lifestyle issues. Major topics include A Healthy Foundation, First Aid/CPR, Drugs, Mental and Emotional Health, Diseases and Disorders, Growth and Development, and Nutrition.

- Fulfills Health Requirement
- 1 semester -1 credit

SCIENCE CLASSES

PHYSICS A & B

This course introduces the student to the scientific method, measurement, the SI system, graphing and laboratory report writing. Topics include vectors, velocity, acceleration, Newton's Laws, forces, energy, momentum, machines, a brief introduction to fluid dynamics, waves, sound, light, color, reflection, refraction, lenses, and electricity and magnetism. This course is a prerequisite to all other Totino-Grace science courses.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- 2 semesters -2 credits

HONORS PHYSICS A & B

This course is designed for students whose reading and math abilities are well above average, and who want the most challenging preparation for college. Content is covered in greater depth and complexity than Physics A & B, and at an accelerated rate. Students learn the scientific method, measurement, the SI system, graphing and laboratory report writing. Topics include vectors, velocity, acceleration, Newton's Laws, forces, energy, momentum, machines, a brief introduction to fluid dynamics, waves, sound, light, color, reflection, refraction, lenses, and electricity and magnetism. Placement in this course is based on student interest, supported by strong Placement Exam scores.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- 2 semesters -2 credits
- Freshman Requirement

SOCIAL STUDIES

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Human geography will introduce the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth. Students will learn spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine social organizations and environmental changes. Student will also use geographer's tools and methods.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- 1 semester -1 credit

THEOLOGY CLASSES

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. Students will continue to learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. Students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- 1 semester -1 credit

LIVING IN JESUS CHRIST

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be.

- Fulfills Freshman Requirement
- 1 semester -1 credit

WORLD LANGUAGE CLASSES -Levels 1 & 2

CHINESE 1 A & B and CHINESE 2 A & B

FRENCH 1 A & B and FRENCH 2 A & B

SPANISH 1 A & B and SPANISH 2 A & B

While studying Levels 1 and 2, the student will:

- Use and comprehend everyday phrases needed in a variety of social situations
 - Use, in oral and written forms, the basic grammatical patterns of the language
 - Develop an appreciation for the culture of the various countries
 - Be involved in activities using the language
 - Read, listen to, and discuss short selections in the language
 - Develop responsibility for his/her own learning
 - Investigate how languages enhance one's life and career opportunities
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- 2 semesters - 2 credits each year taken