

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL BURLINGAME

2021-2022 COURSE CATALOG





Jan. 22, 2021

Dear Students and Parents:

Mercy High School is pleased to present to you the 2021-2022 Course Catalog. Here you will find the course offerings for the next academic year, as well as the planning tools and information needed to complete the course request process.

We invite you to carefully and thoughtfully consider the course offerings with your family before making your requests. This year, the course request time period is from Feb. 1 to Feb. 8. After that, counselors will review the requests to ensure a rigorous, yet balanced course-load. If you have any questions before that time, please set up a meeting with your counselor, who will be happy to answer questions. Course requests can be changed through your counselor up until March 1.

Students requesting an AP course should carefully complete the [AP Contract](#) and share it with their counselor by Jan. 31. Students and parents also must complete the [AP Acknowledgment Form](#) online by Jan. 31. Students requesting an off-campus Tri-School class should complete the contract by April 20. Should you have any questions about the process, please contact your academic counselor.

Best,
Lauren Conklin
Assistant Head of School for Academics

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**Mercy High School
Course Catalog 2021-2022
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COURSE LIST 2021-2022

ENGLISH

English 1 (9)
English 1 Honors
English 2 (10)
English 2 Honors
English 3 (11)
AP English Language (11)
English 4 (12)
AP English Literature (12)

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History (10)
AP World History (10-12)
US History(11)
AP US History(11)
American Government(12)
AP US Government/Economics (12)
Economics (12)
AP Psychology (11-12)
Contemporary World Issues (9-12)

MATH

Algebra 1 (9)
Algebra 1A ()
Algebra 1 Honors (9)
Intro to Computer Science (9-12)
Geometry (9-10)
Geometry 1A (9)
Geometry Honors (9-10)
Algebra 2 (10-11)
Algebra 2/Trig (9-11)
Algebra 2/Trig Honors (9-11)
Precalculus (11-12)
Precalculus Honors (10-12)
Precalculus Honors for STEM (10-12)
Calculus Honors(11-12)
AP Calculus AB (11-12)
AP Calculus BC (12)
Statistics (12)
AP Statistics (11-12)
AP Computer Science A (11-12)

SCIENCE

Biology 1 (9-10)
Biology 1 Honors (9-10)
AP Biology (10-12)
Forensic Biology (10-12)

Chemistry (10-11)
Chemistry Honors (10-11)
AP Chemistry (11-12)
Physics (11-12)
Physics Honors (11-12)
AP Physics C: Mechanics (11-12)
Sports Medicine (11-12)
Anatomy and Physiology (11-12)
Anatomy and Physiology Honors (11-12)
AP Environmental Science (10-12)*
**APES offered only on even years*
Intro to Robotics, Engineering and Design Thinking(9-12)

WORLD LANGUAGES

American Sign Language 1 (9-12)
American Sign Language 2 (9-12)
American Sign Language 3 (9-12)
American Sign Language 3 Honors
American Sign Language 4 (9-12)
American Sign Language 4 Honors
French 1 (9-12)
French 2 (9-12)
French 3 (10-12)
French 3 Honors (11-12)
French 4 (11-12)
AP French Language & Culture (11-12)
Spanish 1 (9-12)
Spanish 2 (9-12)
Spanish 2 Advanced (9-12)
Spanish 3 (11-12)
Spanish 3 Honors (11-12)
Spanish 4 (11-12)
AP Spanish Language & Culture (11-12)

RELIGION

Religious Studies 1 (9)
Religious Studies 2 (10)
Religious Studies 3 (11)
Religious Studies 4: Service and Social Justice (12)
Religious Studies 4: Social Justice & World Religions (12)

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Art 1 (9-12)
Art 2 (9-12)
Art 3 Honors (9-12)
AP 2D Art and Design (12)
AP Drawing (12)
Ceramics 1 (9-12)
Ceramics 2 (10-12)
Ceramics 3 Honors (11-12)
3D Art (9-12)
AP 3D Art and Design (12)
Intro to Music: Chorale 1 (9-12)
Chorale 2/Advanced (9-12)
Chorale 3 Honors (11-12)
Dance 1 (9-12)
Dance 2 (9-12)
Dance 3 (11-12)
Dance 4 (11-12)
Dance 5 (12)
Dance 6 (12)
Digital Photography (9-12)
Graphic Publications/Yearbook (9-12)

NON-DEPARTMENTAL CLASSES

Creative Problem Solving (9-12)
Health & Wellness (9) (required)
Yoga (10-12)
Study Skills (9)
Internship (11-12)

TRI-SCHOOL

Advanced Band (9-12)
Jazz Band (9-12)
Drama (9-12)
Mandarin 1-2 (9)
Mandarin 3-4 (10-12)
Mandarin 5 (10-12)
Mandarin 6 (10-12)
Mandarin 7 (10-12)
Mandarin 8 (10-12)
German II (9-12)
German III (9-12)
German 7-8 (level 4) (9-12)
Virtual Enterprise (10-12)
Intro to Business: Entrepreneurship (10-12)
Intro to Business: Marketing (10-12)

Graduation Requirements

Updated January 2020

Students must earn a minimum of 280 semester units of credit in order to graduate. Requirements for graduation must be fulfilled during the regular school year at Mercy High School. Courses taken elsewhere at the high school or college level must have prior approval of the counselor and the Assistant Head of School for Academics.

Total Credits Required for Graduation: 280

Required Semesters/Credits

Religion 4 years / 40 credits <i>Religion must be taken each semester</i>	Science 3 years / 30 credits <i>One year of physical science, one year of biological science*</i>
English 4 years / 40 credits <i>English must be taken each semester</i>	World Language 2 years / 20 credits <i>Two consecutive years of the same language, three recommended</i>
Social Studies 3 years / 30 credits	Health & Wellness .5 year/ 5 credits
Mathematics 3 years / 30 credits <i>Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2 required</i>	Visual & Performing Arts 1 year / 10 credits
Elective Courses 75 credits	

*Biology, Forensic Biology, AP Biology, Anatomy and Physiology are biological sciences.
 Physics, AP Physics, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, and AP Environmental are physical sciences.*

COURSE REQUEST REQUIREMENTS

- All students must request 9 classes per term/year: 7 preferred classes and 2 alternate selections in case the courses requested are not available.
- Full-time students take 7 courses. One study hall may be substituted for an academic course with counselor approval.
- Students who request an Advanced Placement course must complete the contract by Feb. 1, 2021 and turn it into Ms. Small.
- It is important that both parents and students read the course descriptions and the prerequisites. Students should discuss course choices with their parents. Students will be required to take the classes that they select unless the student does not meet the prerequisites, the class is not offered due to low enrollment, or an irresolvable scheduling conflict exists.
- Developing a course of study for a student incorporates the student's wishes as indicated in her course requests in PowerSchool, and the ability of the school to meet these requests as well as those of other students. If an irresolvable scheduling conflict exists, alternate courses may be substituted without student notification. Therefore, it is necessary that alternate choices be selected with the same care as first choice courses. This refers to elective classes only; families will be contacted about alternate courses that are required or are AP-level.

COURSE REQUEST PROCESS and IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 15: Course Catalog released. Student eligibility for honors/AP courses released

Feb. 1: AP Contracts due by 3 p.m. This year, students should share a copy with their last name in the name of the document. Share to your academic counselor. Please name the document "Last Name AP Contract 2021."

Feb. 1-8: Course requests are completed with parents/guardians.

May 10-21: Course conflict meetings with counselors

May 21: Close of any change requests

June 1: Course change request fee: \$30

GRADES

Only grades earned at Mercy High School are included in the GPA. Only classes taken at Mercy are listed on the transcript. Classes taken elsewhere must be approved by the Asst. Head of School for Academics and submitted to colleges separately by the student.

Honors and High Honors are determined by the Mercy Weighted GPA.

Honors: 3.0 - 3.49

Highest Honors: 3.50 and above

GRADING SCALE

Mercy High School uses the following scale to determine grades. Honors and AP classes earn an extra point.

Grade Scale	
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	82-80
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59

GPA

Mercy High School's grading scale is based on a four-point system. A student's grade point average (GPA) is determined by dividing the total points earned by the number of classes taken.

Grade Weights			
College Prep		Honors/AP	
A	4.00	A	5.00
A-	3.67	A-	4.67
B+	3.33	B+	4.33
B	3.00	B	4.00
B-	2.67	B-	3.67
C+	2.33	C+	3.33
C	2.00	C	3.00
C-	1.67	C-	2.67
D+	1.33	D+	1.33
D	1.00	D	1.00
D-	0.67	D-	0.67
F	0.00	F	0.00

REPORT CARDS

The school issues report cards electronically four times a year, after each grading period. Official transcripts reflect only semester grades. Transcripts are sent electronically at the end of each semester.

FINAL EXAMS

All students are expected to be present for the scheduled final exams. Should a family need to request an earlier final, they must meet with the Assistant Head of School for Academics at least one month prior to the scheduled exam. Requesting an earlier final does not guarantee that an earlier accommodation can be made for the student and family.

If a student is seriously ill during her scheduled final, a parent or guardian should call the Main Office to reschedule the final.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

A student who receives an incomplete on her report card must complete any outstanding work within one month of the end of the semester. Failure to do so will result in a grade change to an F. If there are extraordinary circumstances that cause a student to be unable to meet this deadline the Assistant Head of School for Academics will meet with the family to determine a new plan to ensure the work is completed in a timely manner.

REMEDICATION OF COURSES: Students who earn a D in a semester/year are strongly encouraged to remediate the course. Students who earn an F in a semester/year must remediate the course in order to graduate. Counselors will provide information on approved remediation programs. Students must remediate the exact course. For example, a student who failed Algebra II/Trig Honors will not receive remediation credit for an Algebra II/Trig course. Once a student has completed their remediated course, the official transcript should be mailed to Mercy High School - Attn: Francesca Ohanessian or emailed to counselors@mercyhsb.com. Transcripts received from parents/guardians will not be considered official. All official transcripts must come directly from the school where the students remediated the course.

Courses taken for remediation will be listed on the Mercy transcript with the name of the school

where the course was remediated. The original grade will still appear on the transcript. The new grade will be included in the GPA calculation in place of the original grade.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

Students who take an AP class are expected to take the AP exam in May. The May exam is the culmination of a year's worth of study and is the natural extension of taking an AP course.

Students may request an exemption from the exam policy by putting a request in writing. Parent signatures are required. Requests, although rarely granted, will be considered by the Assistant Head of School for Academics. Requests should be made between April 1-15. A \$15 fee is incurred by the student for unused exams.

If an exam exemption is granted, the student must take the final exam in the classroom and will not receive the honors GPA point in the spring term.

Students who have not taken the AP course at Mercy High School may not take the AP exam.

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE

If a student has a concern over a grade she has received, she should follow the following grievance process:

1. Email the teacher and request a private meeting to discuss the grade.
2. Email the department chair and request a meeting to discuss the continued concern.
3. Email the counselor to request a meeting to discuss the continued concern.
4. Request a conference with the Assistant Head of School for Academics if all steps prove unsatisfactory. The conference will include the student, parent, teacher, counselor, department chair, and Assistant Head of School for Academics.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Student academic progress will be reviewed every three weeks. Any student with two Ds, one or more Fs, or a GPA that falls under a 2.0 will be placed on either Academic Review, Academic Warning, or Academic Probation.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROCESS

- **Academic Review** is a designation for students whose grades show two Ds, one F, or a GPA that falls under a 2.0 at the end of a three-week cycle.
- **Academic Warning** is a designation for students whose grades show two Ds, one F, or a GPA that falls under a 2.0 at the quarter grading periods.
- **Academic Probation** is a designation for students whose grades show two Ds, one F, or a GPA that falls under a 2.0 at the end of two consecutive quarter grading periods.

ACADEMIC REVIEW

Academic Review is a designation for students whose grades show two Ds, one F, or a GPA that falls under a 2.0 at the end of a three-week cycle.

Students on academic review will be required to meet briefly with their counselor and attend daily study sessions during lunch until the next review process. Any student who is late for or does not attend a Lunch Study session will have one lunch study added to the end of their review period.

Students may bring or buy their lunch. Attendance will be taken promptly at 11:05 or 12:35. Students are encouraged to bring their lunch to avoid being tardy. If a student is late, she will be required to attend a Wednesday Night Detention.

Rules for Lunch Study:

- Students must bring their work.
- Lunch study is silent. Group work is not allowed.
- No breaks are given.
- Students will be released at 11:40 a.m. or 1 p.m, depending on the schedule.
- iPads must be used solely for academic purposes.
- Students must complete an assignment for the class in which they have the low grade.

ACADEMIC WARNING

Academic Warning is a designation for students whose grades show two Ds, one F, or a GPA that falls below a 2.0 at the quarter grading periods.

A student who earns two Ds or one F at the quarter will be placed on Academic Warning for the next quarter. A student does not need to be on Academic Review to be placed on Academic Warning.

Academic Warning requires a student to:

- Attend a meeting with her parent, academic counselor, and the Director of Student Services at the beginning of probationary term
- Attend two hours of tutoring per week either at or outside of Mercy High School and submit a record of tutoring when requested by the Director of Student Services.

- Meet with her Mercy academic counselor regularly to review her grades, discuss her current academic standing, and develop an academic improvement plan.
- Schedule appointments with teachers, the Resource Center Coordinator, and other Mercy academic mentors as appropriate.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Academic Probation is a designation for students whose grades show two Ds, one F, or a GPA that falls below 2.0 at the end of two consecutive quarter grading periods. A student does not need to be on Academic Warning to be placed on Academic Probation; any student with two or more Fs is automatically placed on Academic Probation.

A student on Academic Probation must complete the same requirements as Academic Warning and may be asked to add additional tutoring hours.

Students on Academic Probation may not participate in athletics or co-curricular activities.

After being placed on Academic Probation for two consecutive quarters, a final decision as to whether a student will be allowed to continue at Mercy High School will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Parents will be notified of a student's placement on Academic Review, Academic Warning, or Academic Probation by letter from the Assistant Head of School for Academics.

The Academic Counselors will meet with students who earn "Ds" or an "F" in any course to devise a plan for making up the class. Students are required to remediate any F in order to graduate from Mercy High School. Remediation of Ds and Fs should take place the semester or summer following the grade report. Students must remediate all Fs before the start of senior year, or they will not be allowed to enroll.

Mercy Eligibility and Recommendation Process 2021-2022

Updated January 2021

Mercy offers three levels of classes: college preparatory, honors, and AP. Not all courses have an honors or AP equivalent. The course catalog details the classes offered as well as any prerequisites for those classes. The course catalog is released in January of each year.

Eligibility

Course eligibility is decided upon by recommendation of the current teacher in each content area and determines which classes students may request for the following academic year. Eligibility is determined by current grades and achievement, and the prerequisites for each level. Students will be notified of their eligibility for the next year by their current teacher during January. If a student is not made eligible for an honors or AP class and feels that she should be, she may follow the challenge process for that department, as noted below.

Once students understand their eligibility, they should discuss their future course-load with their family, teachers, and academic counselor. Students are required to meet with their academic counselor to discuss their choices before course requests are finalized.

Course Requests

Course requests are made on PowerSchool after the re-registration process is completed. Students whose re-registration fee is not paid will not be able to request classes until the fee is paid in full.

The course request period is Feb. 1 to Feb. 26, 2021. This year, students will make their course requests in a one-on-one meeting with counselors. Students may change their requests with their counselor until Feb. 26, 2021.

Students requesting an AP class must submit their AP contract by Feb. 1, 2021 to their academic counselors. Students and parents are also required to complete the AP Acknowledgment Form. Students whose contracts are not completed will not remain eligible for AP classes.

Students requesting a Tri-School class at Serra or Notre Dame must complete a Tri-School contract by April 20. Students who do not complete the contract on time will be removed from off-campus Tri-School classes.

Course request conflicts

Students must request two alternate courses. If an irresolvable scheduling conflict exists, alternate courses may be substituted without student notification. In the absence of an alternate, an elective will be chosen for the student.

Challenge process by department

All departments:

Students who are not initially made eligible for honors/AP classes may request a test to challenge their eligibility. Challenge tests are the week of Jan. 25.

English:

Any student who has not been made eligible for an AP English class can apply to have the following evaluated in regards to their eligibility. Please let the department chair, Mrs. Boragno know you would like to challenge your eligibility.

1. Complete a timed writing sample during collab the week before the challenge date evaluated by future AP/Honors teacher
2. Teacher recommendation checklist from current teacher
3. Current 1st semester grade

Social Studies:

Students not approved initially by a current Social Studies teacher for AP US History, AP Government, or AP Psychology, and a current English teacher for AP World History, will need to take a challenge test on January 26th to use as consideration for eligibility by the teacher. Students should email the teacher of the course to schedule the challenge test.

Math: All students not accepted initially will need to request a challenge test. Students should contact Mrs. Loftus by Monday, January 25th. Challenge tests will be given via Zoom on January 27th at 1:30 PM.

Science: Students wishing to take a challenge test should contact Dr. Bradley or Ms. Lambdin. The challenge tests will take place on Wednesday, January 27th, unless otherwise scheduled.

World Language: Students in a non-honors course wanting to challenge Honors and AP eligibility must meet with Ms. Orantes (Spanish) or Ms. Angeles (French) for an oral interview. Please schedule with the teacher for an after-school interview Jan. 20-25.

No challenge process is necessary for **VPA or Religion** classes

Course changes before March 1

Course requests are finalized on March 1. Any changes to the student's initial requests within the normal window should be discussed with the counselor and made in PowerSchool.

Course changes after March 1

Course requests made after March 1 are highly discouraged and are not always able to be honored. The process is designed so that families have time to make these decisions with input from counselors and teachers ahead of March 1, when Mercy begins to build its master schedule. The school determines which classes to run based on course requests. Hiring decisions, room use, scheduling, and teacher selections are all based on these requests. When a student changes her request after the schedule is made, she impacts more than just her own schedule.

Course request changes require the Add/Drop form and approval of the Assistant Head of School for Academics.

Level changes and course drops

Students who are granted a level change mid-year from an AP or Honors class are not eligible for an AP or honors course in that subject area the following year.

4-YEAR COURSE PLANNING TOOL

	9	10	11	12	Total Credits Required
English	English 1 English 1 H	English 2 English 2 H	English 3 AP English Lang	English 4 AP English Lit	40 (4 yrs)
Religion	Religion 1	Religion 2	Religion 3	Service & Social Justice World Religion & Social Justice	40 (4 yrs)
Math *placement test	Algebra 1 Algebra 1A Algebra H Geometry 1A Geometry* Geometry H* Intro to Computer Science	Geometry Geometry H Algebra 2 Trig Algebra 2 Trig H	Algebra 2 Algebra 2/Trig (H) Precalculus Precalculus H Precalculus STEM H	Precalculus Precal H Precal STEM H Calculus H AP Calculus AB Statistics AP Statistics Math Analysis	30 (3 yrs)
Science	Biology Biology Honors	Chemistry Chemistry H Forensic Biology	Physics Physics Honors Chemistry AP Chemistry Anatomy	Physics AP Physics: Mechanics Anatomy Forensics Sports Medicine AP Envi Sci AP Biology	30 (3 yrs)
Social Studies	No Requirement C. World Issues	World History AP World History	US History AP US History C. World Issues AP Psychology	Gov & Econ AP Government C. World Issues AP Psychology	30 (3 yrs)
World Language *placement test	ASL 1 Spanish 1 French 1	ASL 2 Spanish 2 French 2	ASL 3 Spanish 3 (H) French 3	ASL 4 Spanish 4/4 AP French 4/ 4AP	20 (2 yrs)
Visual and Performing Arts *placement test	Art 1 Dance 1 Ceramics 1 Chorale 1 Drama 1 Yearbook	Art 2 Dance 2 Ceramics 2 Chorale 2 Drama 2 Yearbook	Art 3 H Dance 3 Ceramics 3H Chorale 3H Yearbook	AP Studio Art: 2D AP Studio Art: 3D AP Studio Art: Drawing Dance 4 Dance 5 Dance 6 Yearbook	10 (1 yr)
Non-Department Elective	Health/Wellness	None	None	None	5 (.5 yr)
Electives	Choose from: Study Skills AMES Intro to Comp Sci Cont. World Issues Study Hall	Eligible classes will appear in PowerSchool	Eligible classes will appear in PowerSchool	Eligible classes will appear in PowerSchool	75
Credits Required	70	70	70	70	280

on developing critical thinking skills. Standardized test preparation, including reading comprehension, and vocabulary development is begun. Creative writing and enrichment activities are included.

English 2 - World Literature

Level: Sophomores **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: English 1

Description: English 2 is a survey of world literature focusing on both classic and contemporary works. The course gives students the opportunity to experience many cultures through select pieces of fiction and nonfiction. Preparation for standardized testing, with an emphasis on grammar, usage, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension, is continued from freshman year. Concentration on analytical writing skills helps students gain proficiency in writing the multi-paragraph essay.

English 2 Honors - World Literature

Level: Sophomores **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of English 1 Honors with a B or higher; or English 1 with an A- or higher, plus teacher recommendation.

Description: Description: English 2 Honors provides students of exceptional ability in English with the opportunity to study world literature with greater sophistication. This course will be conducted at an accelerated rate, allowing for an in-depth exposure to authors not covered in the regular English 2 course. It provides more opportunities for instruction and practice in analytical writing. This course also includes extensive vocabulary and critical reading preparation for college entrance examinations and continued focus on the multi-paragraph essay.

English 3 - American Rhetoric

Level: Juniors **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: English 2

Description: English 3 is an American literature course. In the first semester, students analyze multiple nonfiction readings, all of which focus on rhetorical analysis and critical thinking skills. During the second semester, with an emphasis on persuasive writing, students read and study selected novels, dramas, essays, short stories, and poems from the Romantic to the Post-modern period. Focus is given to the themes that both characterize and reflect America's values and the rich diversity of her people. Writing skills, with an emphasis of mastering the rules of standard written English, are further developed, and the rules of grammar and usage are comprehensively reviewed.

AP Language & Composition

Level: Juniors **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)

Prerequisite: Completion of English 2 Honors with a B or higher; or English 2 with an A- or higher, plus teacher recommendation.

Description: English 3 AP is an intellectually challenging course that combines the study of classic and contemporary American literature with multiple nonfiction readings, all of which focus on rhetorical analysis and critical thinking skills. Emphasis is given to expository writing in order to prepare students for the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination. To that end, students analyze and write argumentative, rhetorical analysis, and synthesis essays throughout the year. Attention is also given to expanding vocabulary, improving test taking skills, and mastering the rules of standard written English.

English 4 - Contemporary Prose / Advanced Literary Analysis

Level: Seniors **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: English 3

Description: This course provides a rigorous review of all writing styles including career/business writing, important grammar practices, as well as literary analysis with a base in British literature. Thematically related nonfiction essays focused on contemporary issues serve as development of more advanced writing and reading skills are integrated into the curriculum.

AP Literature & Composition

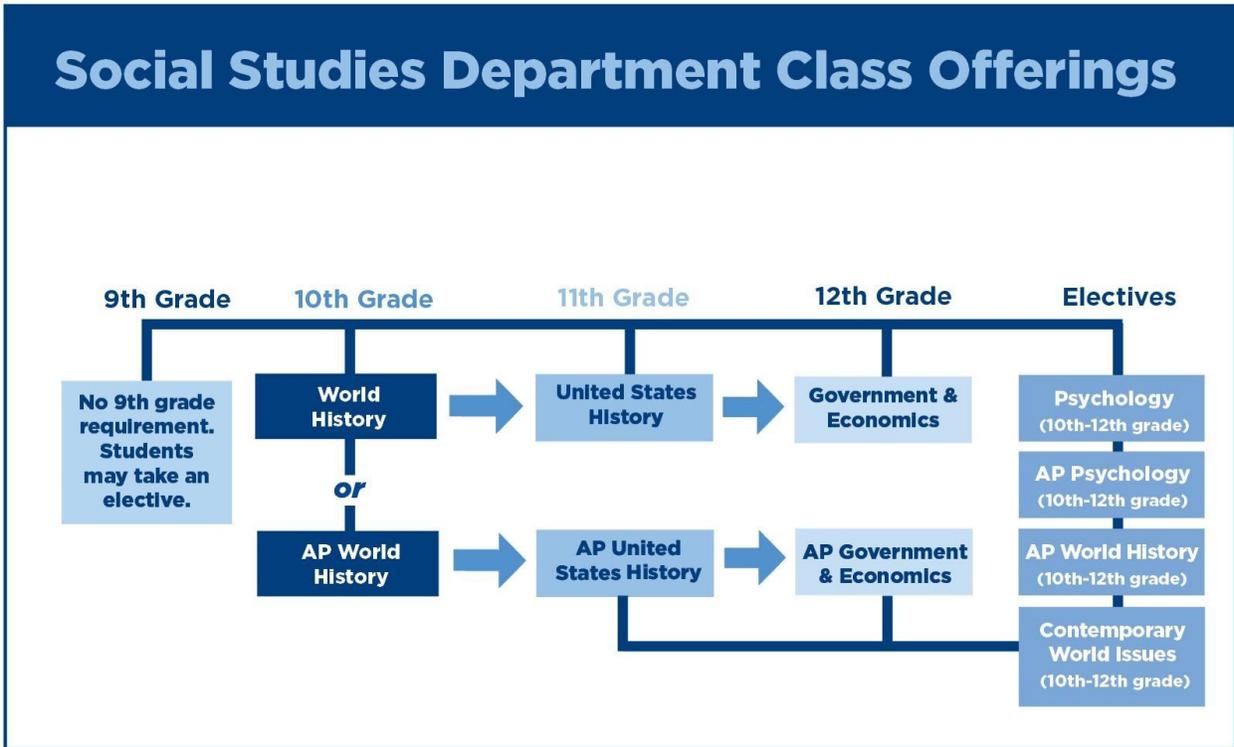
Level: Seniors **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)

Prerequisite: Completion of AP English Language with a B or higher; or English 3 with an A- or higher, plus teacher recommendation.

Description: AP English IV is designed for seniors who have demonstrated superior ability in English. The course focuses on in-depth discussion and composition related to the survey of major authors and literary movements from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present. Emphasis is given to collateral reading of scholarly literary criticism and preparation for the Advanced Placement Examination in English Literature and Composition. This course is certified by the University of California as an honors course.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT



Courses in the Social Studies Department enable students to critically evaluate past and current events while utilizing knowledge to discuss the lessons learned from history. Through debates, group projects, and simulations, students develop an understanding of and respect for different opinions and cultures. Through a variety of interactive activities, students are aided in their academic growth through lectures, note taking, citizenship activities, bias identification, exploration and evaluation of primary and secondary sources, and written essays. Students in Social Studies courses are encouraged to think as global citizens and to get involved in local political opportunities.

Contemporary World Issues

Level: 9-12 **Semester** 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes, as a G Elective

Prerequisite: None

Description: The Sisters of Mercy have identified five critical concerns of social justice that must be addressed in the world today: Earth, Immigration, Nonviolence, Racism, and Women. This class will examine each of the five concerns through readings, discussions, documentaries, essays, and current events. The class will culminate in an action project where each student identifies a current issue within the five concerns and presents a report on solutions for building a better future.

World History

Level: 10 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: World History is designed to deepen the student’s understanding of major world civilizations from the Enlightenment to modern times. Students analyze political, social and economic changes in western nations in the 1st semester and then analyze similar elements in non-western nations in Asia, Africa, India/Pakistan, Latin America, and the Middle East in the second semester. Students will begin

recommendation of the current history teacher.

Description: AP Government and Politics/Economics is a year course that provides an integrated approach to Government and Economics. Students will use projects to explore the working of the U.S. Government while also addressing economic principles. The students will analyze the principles that formed our political system and how economic principles influence the creation of those principles. In addition, students will analyze the primary source documents that are integral to our governmental structure. Students will conduct a mock election, mock congress, and a mock court. Students will analyze how federalism plays a role in their daily lives through the creation of a Cost of Living project. Finally, students will analyze the impact of tax and spending policies will have on a virtual business that they will run. The student will receive AP Credit for only AP Government, the economics portion is not at an AP level. *This class involves an additional workload and extended content for the accelerated student.*

Economics

Level: 12 Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: United States History

Description: Economics is a one-semester course that provides a study of micro and macroeconomic theory and practice, with an in-depth study of the United States economic system. Students will come to understand common economic terms while analyzing America's market economy in a global setting. Students will work with one another as they analyze the influence the federal government has on the American economy, the U.S. labor market, and international trade. Students will apply their knowledge in a business simulation project that will supplement the coursework.

AP Psychology

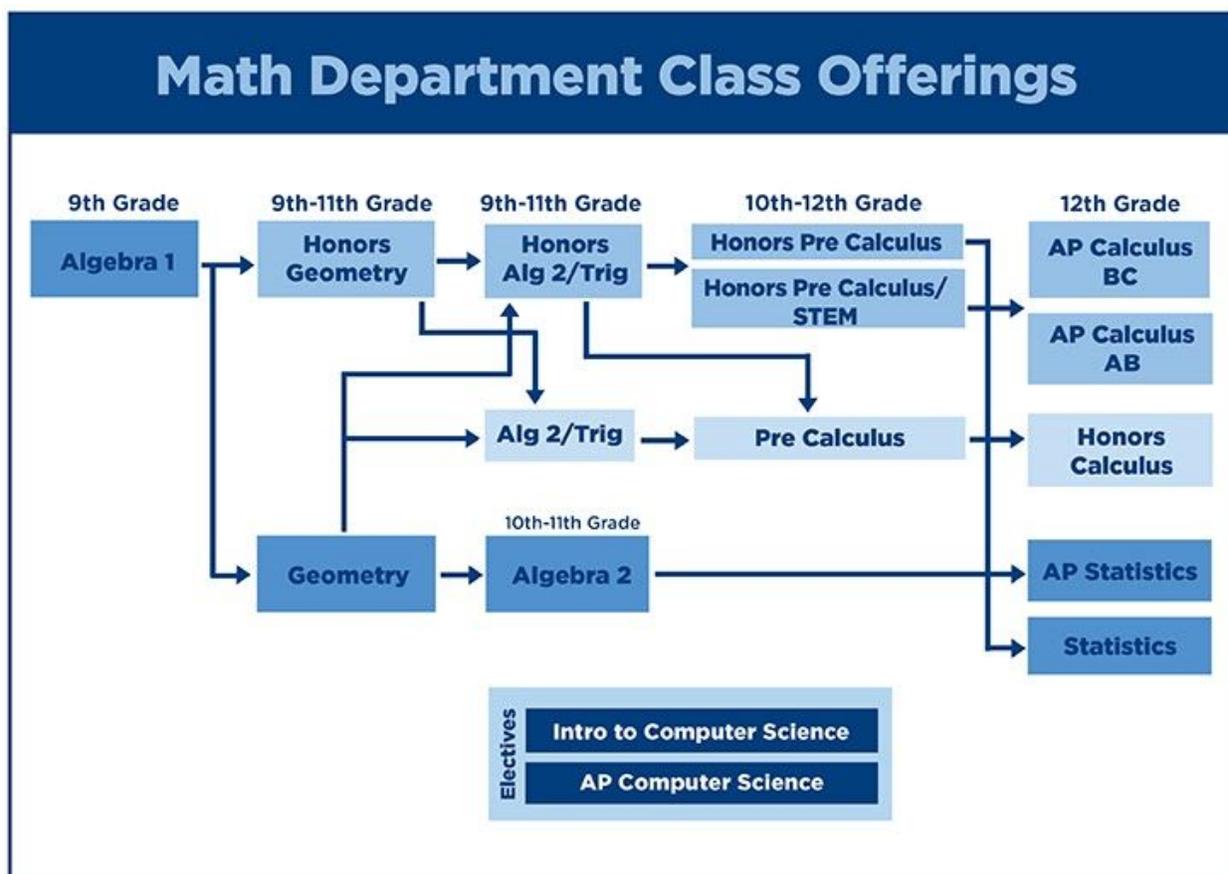
Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher and recommendation of the current Social Studies teacher.

Description: AP Psychology is an elective course designed to introduce students to the study of human behavior and mental processes at a college level rigor and pace. Students are exposed to the history and subfields of psychology, the brain's structures and functions, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders. Students analyze the biopsychosocial approach to psychology in all human interactions and decisions. Emphasis will be placed on the ethics and statistical methods psychologists use in their science and practice as well as on famous psychological experiments that shaped the field of psychology. *This class involves an additional workload and extended content for the accelerated student.*

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT



The Mercy High School Mathematics Curriculum encompasses a “learn-by-doing approach” to develop students’ mathematical and critical thinking skills. It prepares students for not only taking College Board exams but also empowers them with the confidence to solve sophisticated non-mathematical problems that they will face in today’s complex and ever-changing world.

Algebra 1A

Level: 9 **Year** 10 credits
UC/CSU Approval: Yes
Prerequisite: None

Description: Algebra 1A develops student skills in evaluating, analyzing and solving linear, quadratic, rational, and radical equations and systems of linear equations. Students learn a variety of problem-solving strategies and gain experience exploring the graphical representation of mathematical concepts both with technology, such as the iPad and graphing calculator, and without it. This is the same curriculum as Algebra 1, but provides additional support for students.

Algebra 1

Level: 9 **Year** 10 credits
UC/CSU Approval: Yes
Prerequisite: None

Description: Algebra 1 develops student skills in evaluating, analyzing and solving linear, quadratic, rational, and radical equations and systems of linear equations. Students learn a variety of problem-solving strategies and gain experience exploring the graphical representation of mathematical concepts both with technology, such as the iPad and graphing calculator, and without it.

Algebra 1 Honors

Level: 9 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Placement based on standardized test scores, math grades, and teacher recommendations.

Description: Course Description: Honors Algebra 1 follows the topics of the Algebra 1 course at a faster pace and more in depth. In addition, right triangles, trigonometry, probability, and statistics will be covered.

Intro to Computer Science (Elective)

Level: 9-12 Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes, college prep G elective (does not take the place of Algebra or Geometry)

Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Algebra 1 or higher

Description: This course is designed to offer an introduction to computer science and the fundamentals of computer programming. Students will learn the basics of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The material emphasizes computational thinking and helps develop the ability to solve complex problems. This semester course covers the basic building blocks of programming along with other central elements of computer science. It gives a foundation in the tools used in computer science and prepares students for further study in the field. It is designed to be used as a blended learning classroom focusing on the Python language. Other basic languages will also be investigated as students attempt to code “robots” or physical computing kits such as raspberry pi and arduino kits. As term projects, students will be encouraged to participate in regional competitions to showcase their skills. Project-based team activities will play a major role in this course.

Geometry 1A

Level: 9-10 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or Algebra 1A

Description: Geometry focuses on the study of angles, parallel lines, triangles and other types of polygons, congruence, similarity, circles, various types of solid figures, area and volume, coordinate geometry. It includes the reinforcement and application of topics studied in Algebra I. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, logic, and two-column proofs. This is the same class as Geometry with additional supports built in.

Geometry

Level: 9-10 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or placement based on standardized test Math scores.

Description: Geometry focuses on the study of angles, parallel lines, triangles and other types of polygons, congruence, similarity, circles, various types of solid figures, area and volume, coordinate geometry. It includes the reinforcement and application of topics studied in Algebra I. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, logic, and two-column proofs.

Geometry Honors

Level: 9-10 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Minimum A- in Algebra 1(B in Algebra 1 Honors) and B- in English 1 or placement based on standardized test Math scores, placement test, and recommendation of the

Description: Math Department
This honors course covers topics from Geometry at a faster pace and in greater depth.

Algebra 2

Level: 10-11 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Geometry

Description: In Algebra 2, students study relations, functions and their graphs, linear equations and inequalities, quadratic and other polynomial functions, factoring, direct and inverse variation, powers and roots, exponential and logarithmic functions, complex numbers, rational functions, conics, and probability. Use of a graphing calculator expands exploration and analysis of real-world applications, such as modeling supply-and-demand curves, sales forecasts, and population growth.

Algebra 2/Trigonometry

Level: 9-11 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Minimum B- in Geometry, minimum B- in Algebra 1, or placement based on standardized test math scores, placement test and recommendation of the Math Department.

Description: In this course, students cover the topics from Algebra 2 at a faster pace and the course concludes with the study of trigonometry. In Trigonometry, students study trigonometric functions and their graphs, as well as the unit circle and angle measure. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and problem solving.

Algebra 2/Trigonometry Honors

Level: 9-11 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Minimum B in Geometry Honors or a minimum A- in Algebra 1 (B Algebra 1 Honors) and an A in Geometry, or placement based on standardized test math scores, placement test and recommendation of the Math Department.

Description: This is an accelerated course which covers the topics from Algebra 2 at a faster pace, in greater depth, and includes a detailed study of trigonometry. This includes the unit circle and angle measure, trigonometric functions, identities, triangles, and trigonometric equations. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and problem solving.

Precalculus

Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Minimum A- in Algebra 2, minimum B- in Algebra 2 Trig, or Minimum C- in Algebra 2/Trig Honors.

Description: Precalculus explores advanced mathematical concepts and includes a review of trigonometry, the study of functions, and functions. Some of the functions covered include linear, quadratic and other polynomial functions, power, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Other topics include arithmetic and geometric sequences and series as well as complex numbers. Critical thinking and real-world problems are emphasized.

Precalculus Honors

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)

Prerequisite: Passing Mercy's Precalculus entrance exam, minimum B+ in Algebra 2/Trig Honors or Minimum A in Algebra 2/Trig.

Description: Precalculus Honors is an accelerated course which explores advanced concepts at a faster pace than Precalculus. Precalculus explores advanced mathematical concepts and includes an in-depth

review of exponents and logarithms, trigonometry, and functions. Some of the functions covered include polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Other topics include arithmetic and geometric sequences and series, complex numbers, and conic sections. Problem solving, critical thinking, and real-world applications are emphasized. Students choosing this course should have a strong work ethic and are expected to complete summer assignments.

Precalculus Honors for STEM

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**
 UC/CSU Approval: Pending
 Prerequisite: Passing Mercy’s Precalculus entrance exam, minimum B+ in Algebra 2/Trig Honors or Minimum A in Algebra 2/Trig, and recommendation of the Math & Science Departments.
Description: Precalculus Honors for STEM is a rigorous, accelerated course for students who are considering the STEM fields after high school. Topics covered are similar to Precalculus Honors: exponents and logarithms, trigonometry, and functions. Some of the functions covered include polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Other topics include arithmetic and geometric sequences and series, complex numbers, and polar coordinates. In addition, this course will cover matrices and will provide an introduction to limits, central concepts in college-level computer science and calculus courses. The course will emphasize applications of mathematics to the STEM fields. Students will develop the ability to synthesize information and knowledge to solve problems critically. Students choosing this course should have a strong work ethic and are expected to complete summer assignments. Upon completion of the course, students will have a solid foundation of math skills necessary for success in the STEM fields.

Calculus

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes
 Prerequisite: Minimum B average in Precalculus, or minimum C in Precalculus Honors or Precalculus Honors for STEM, and recommendation of the Math Department.
Description: This course provides an introduction to the material covered in the first semester of college calculus. Topics include higher order functions, limits, derivatives, applications of the derivative, integration, the application of the integral, and The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students approach the topics from different perspectives: graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally.

Note regarding AP Calculus (AB & BC): Students not currently enrolled in Mercy’s Precalculus Honors courses will be required to take an entrance exam to enroll in AP Calculus. Their placement will be dependent on their performance on the exam.

AP Calculus AB

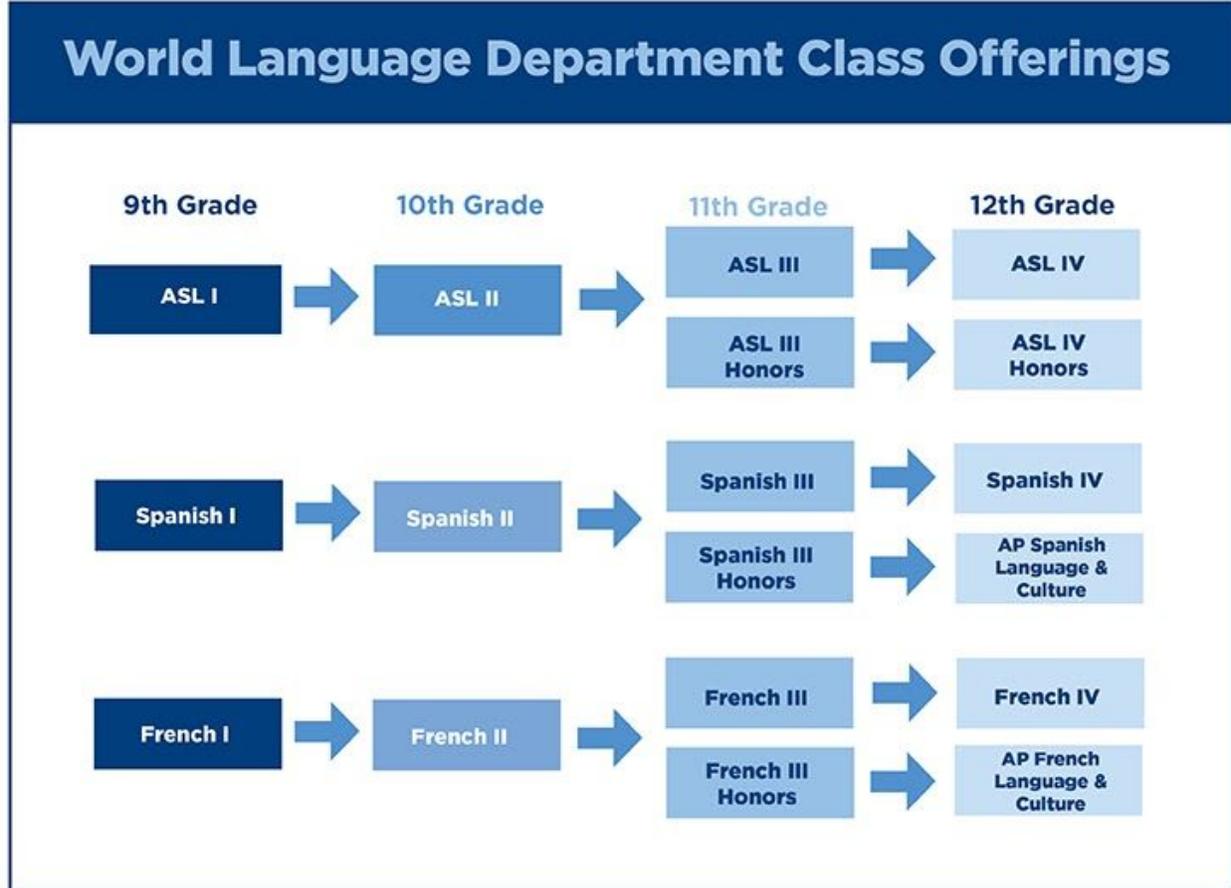
Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)
 Prerequisite: Passing Mercy’s AP Calculus entrance exam, completion of Precalculus Honors with a minimum A- or Precalculus with an A, and recommendation of the Math Department.
Description: This course contains topics from AP Calculus AB, , with a heavy emphasis on the combination of calculus and algebra. Topics include higher order functions, limits, derivatives, applications of the derivative, integration, the application of the integral, and The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, following the topic outline from the College Board. Students approach the topics from different perspectives: graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Students choosing this course should have a strong work ethic and are expected to complete summer assignments. This course prepares students for the AP Calculus Exam.

AP Calculus BC

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)
 Prerequisite: Passing Mercy’s AP Calculus BC entrance exam or completion of Mercy’s AP Calculus

pass/no-pass class with no final letter grade assigned.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT



The World Languages Department is committed to preparing 21st Century students who can meet and work with speakers of other cultures. Technology and the internet afford students opportunities to use their second language skills within and outside the classroom arena. Class activities are geared to simulate real life situations within the given cultures. The Department adheres to the California State FL Framework (K-12) as well the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL): Communication, Cultures, Connections, Communities, and Comparisons.

The World Language Department fosters the importance of connecting and communicating with other cultures. Communicative technology has drawn our global society so much closer that today's learners need to be responsible for deeper understanding, compassion, and empathy for diverse cultures. Learning another language creates the bridge to enter into these different worlds and therefore promotes awareness, understanding, and respect for cultural diversity.

Satisfying UC requirements:

Students preparing for entrance into the University of California must satisfy the requirement of **two years of the same language other than English**. The requirement is intended to ensure that entering freshmen have attained competence in a language other than English. **Note: Two years is the minimum requirement; three in the same language is recommended.** Entrance into the UC system has become increasingly competitive, and students are strongly encouraged to complete or to exceed the recommended number of courses, rather than the minimum requirement, in order to maximize their eligibility opportunities.

Please note: ASL courses are approved to meet eligibility/selection requirements for UC/CSU. ASL may not meet some private or other state institution's World Language entrance requirements. Certain majors may not recognize ASL as a World Language. Please check individual colleges for additional credit information.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT PLACEMENT POLICY

Incoming Freshmen and transfer students wishing to continue their previous language studied will take a placement test on a designated day in late April–early May. Students must demonstrate in both written and oral work their ability to understand and sustain comprehension and communication in the target language commensurate with the ACTFL Proficiency guidelines and their qualifying stage level of the World Language Content Standards for California for which they are qualifying.

Placement will be made based on performance results from the 2nd semester final exam of the exiting level and an oral interview. Final decision for placement rests with the Department.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

American Sign Language 1

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Description: American Sign Language 1 has communication in Deaf culture situations as a primary goal. Toward this end, it is imperative that students be placed in situations where they must interpret whole ideas. Students will learn to communicate appropriately in different situations. This is achieved through learning and practicing such things as vocabulary, ASL Structure, and Deaf Culture. This is best accomplished through the use of the latest technology to learn the most current signs, participation in various interactive activities to reinforce vocabulary, doing individual and group projects and viewing current news articles and videos. The Fall semester project is a combination Deaf History/Person poster and presentation. In the Spring the students complete a group project showing the differences between hearing and Deaf culture. One novel is read during the year.

American Sign Language 2

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of American Sign Language I with C- or above

It is strongly recommended that a student with C- seek remediation during the summer. A student continuing to level 2 with D must seek remediation during the summer and have proficiency re-evaluated before entering level 2 in order to determine the need for additional support.

Description: Beginning the second year of American Sign Language, students will continue with their knowledge of vocabulary and Deaf Culture. Real life situations and information sharing will be expanded, and new vocabulary introduced. Students will have more in class ASL presentations, as well as use technology to record and improve their comprehension and expressive skills. The Fall project is an expansion of the ASL 1 Deaf History/Person presentation but completely in the target language. The Spring project is a group activity that involves the making of a Deaf Culture appropriate music video. A novel is read during the year. Deaf events are encouraged.

American Sign Language 3

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of American Sign Language 2 with C or above

Student with a C- in level 2 wishing to challenge entrance to level 3 must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level 3.

Description: Students in American Sign Language 3 will increase their vocabulary and have more opportunity to create and express themselves in ASL. Classes are more interactive, with group and individual

work and presentations being the main focus of increasing the fluidity of the language. Expanding on information sharing, students will share various stories and narratives either in class presentations or through video recordings. The Fall project is an ASL research and presentation of a De'VIA artist. The Spring project is interpreting an ASL poem. A novel is read during the year. Deaf events are strongly encouraged.

American Sign Language 3 Honors

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes
 Prerequisite: Completion of American Sign Language 2 with B+ or above, and be recommended by your teacher

American Sign Language 3 Honors expands on the ASL 3 course. This includes more detailed presentations, and a higher expectation of signing fluidity and comprehension. In addition to the ASL 3 projects, ASL 3 Honors students are required to do a Fall presentation to the class and an additional poem in the Spring. One novel is required for Fall. One novel is required for the Spring. To graduate with ASL Honors, students are required to participate in a Deaf Event. Students must be recommended by their ASL teacher to ASL 3H.

American Sign Language 4

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes
 Prerequisite: Completion of American Sign Language III with C or above
 Students with a C- in level III wishing to challenge entrance to level IV must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level IV.

Description: Students in American Sign Language 4 continue with vocabulary expansion and expressing their language skills. Students' work is focused on refining these skills. Current Deaf news, signs and information are explored and expanded upon. More in class presentations are expected to share interesting facts, telling about accidents, talking about money and making major decisions. The use of classifiers and Gloss are expanded and included in presentations. The Fall project is an in class Health presentation. The Spring project is interpreting a fairy tale or children's book. Students are expected to produce an ASL poem in the Spring. A novel and Deaf Culture book are read during the year. Deaf events are encouraged to continue the growth of the students language skills and Deaf Culture experience.

American Sign Language 4 Honors

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes

American Sign Language 4 Honors expands on the ASL 4 course. This includes more detailed presentations, use of ASL refined presentation skills, incorporating more Classifier and Role Shift use, and a higher expectation of signing fluidity and comprehension. Students in American Sign Language 4 Honors continue with vocabulary expansion and expressing their language skills. Students' work is focused on refining these skills. Current Deaf news, signs and information are explored and expanded upon. More in class presentations are expected to share interesting facts, telling about accidents, talking about money and making major decisions. The use of classifiers and Gloss are expanded and included in presentations. The Fall project is an in class Health presentation. The Spring project is interpreting a fairy tale or children's book. Students are expected to produce an ASL poem in the Spring. Two novels and a Deaf Culture book are read during the year. 100% Language immersion is expected in class. Deaf events are encouraged to continue the growth of the students language skills and Deaf Culture experience. To graduate with ASL Honors, students are required to participate in a Deaf Event.

FRENCH

French I

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None. Mid-year Transfer Students needing greater exposure to the language at transfer time must arrange for regular tutor sessions with teacher until the production skills are comparable to students already enrolled.

Description French 1 is a college preparatory course which introduces students to learning of the French language through a variety of language and cultural lessons simulating an immersive journey through various francophone countries. Unique to each lesson are the built-in targets students should reach in the Three Modes of Communication prescribed by the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages). These 3 Modes; Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational place students in real-life scenarios. The BIEN DIT text series, with its multi-tiered differentiation of instruction creates a truly personalized learning environment in the classroom. This new curriculum is meant to carry students from class to home and back, and throughout the four years of language acquisition. Technology plays a key role in delivering information to students, both video and audio practice accessible from home, on-line current events in basic language for level 1, and finally the use of Google Virtual Travel for students to “experience” the visual differences of each francophone country. This exciting program makes learning a second language a total vivid cultural, musical, experience beyond textbook to real participation in the language.

French II

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of French I with C- or above

It is strongly recommended that a student with C- seek remediation during the summer since it is a given that level 1 material must be mastered before Level 2 is introduced. A student continuing to level 2 with D must seek remediation during the summer and have proficiency re-evaluated before entering level 2 in order to determine the need for additional support. Mid-year Transfer Students must take a placement test to determine accurate placing. Those needing greater exposure to the language at transfer time must arrange for regular tutor sessions with teacher until the production skills are comparable to students already enrolled.

Description: French 2 continues with the level 1 format as it develops use of greater vocabulary and grammar for students to more comfortably convey their thoughts, read more thoughtfully, and express in writing their ideas based on the cultural ideas and experiences they reach during their second year of language learning. At this level students begin to use more quickly the learning strategies introduced in level I, and begin to engage more creatively in articulation within the three modes of communication. Grading continues to assess students on reaching stated targets after much practice through formative assessment (practice) activities which allow them to “try on” the language with all the appropriate support to help them succeed. The use of workbooks for this purpose continue the work begun in level 1, as do all the supporting online ancillaries available both at school and at home. At the completion of this level students will be sufficiently prepared to embark the exciting language and cultural travel material of upper division work in French levels 3 and 4, with all the supports in place.

French III

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of French II with C or higher

Student with a C- in level 2 wishing to challenge entrance to level 3 must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level 3 prior to the beginning of the new school year. Proficiency here is defined as the ability to convey and understand ideas in French using all the basic vocabulary and grammar of level 1 and 2.

Description: Level 3 continues the easy and intentional articulation of material begun in Levels 1 and 2 of the BIEN DIT French series. While continuing to reinforce basic language skills, this level moves students into more advanced language skills. Vocabulary moves them into more world issues in a very

controlled fashion. This control allows teachers to guide students more individually in the acquisition of more reading and writing strategies. Communication in all the Modes still remains the guiding targets for mastery. At this stage students are presented with more open-ended writing activities based on their own real life experiences as a basis for comparison with the French culture. At this level students are moving toward finding their ‘voice’ in the expression of thinking in French.

French III Honors

Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)

Prerequisite: Completion of French II with B or above plus passing Challenge Exam

Description: French 3 Honors incorporates material covered in French 3 (see description French 3 above.) As required of an Honors class, this course moves into more challenging strategies of reading and writing, but still relies on the excellent BIEN DIT text and on-line ancillary materials used in all previous levels. Students are given more opportunities for creative expression using many on-line apps to present their mastery of the language. This course is geared to preparing students to move either into level 4 College Prep or AP Language and Culture. It is here where students practice critical thinking skills, sharpen their comparing/contrasting skills, and more fully engage in sharing their opinions on world issues, and thoughts on open-ended prompts. They are guided in the “how-to” in order to support their endeavors to shine in the language. This course aims to teach students how to use the finer points of language in more spontaneous fashion, and to be more comfortable reading authentic material. Formative Assessments continue to support students’ efforts in reaching the stated targets and their own aspiration for language acquisition.

French IV

Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of French III with C or above

Student with a C- in level 3 wishing to challenge entrance to level IV must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level IV prior to the beginning of the new school year. Proficiency here is defined as the ability to convey and understand ideas in French using skills practiced in level 3.

Description: French 4 is geared for students wishing to continue improving their productive and receptive skills within the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. The Integration of vocabulary, grammar, listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture is more intentional in that it provides students a more natural immersion into learning of French.

The highly relevant material of the BIEN DIT text continues to support students in engaging in real interaction with peers, in refining their written skills. Quick comprehension checks allow students to self assess and thus reflect more accurately on their areas of need. Students also create cultural presentations with resources provided from TVMonde. Exceptional work in this level 4 course makes students eligible for life membership as an Associate of the Mercy Chapter of La Société Honoraire du Français

AP French Language and Culture

Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)

Prerequisites: Completion of French III Honors with B or above, plus recommendation/evaluation of writing proficiency from English 3 teacher. Or, completion of French 3 with B+ or above, plus passing a challenge exam requiring students to demonstrate in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, ability to maintain communication. Also required is a recommendation/evaluation of writing proficiency from English 3 teacher. This must be conducted prior to the beginning of the new school year.

Description: AP French Language and Culture is equivalent to a college level course and is conducted in a seminar learning environment. With the use of BIEN DIT, as well as authentic resources provided by TV5MONDE, students are guided in developing communication skills that will prepare them to

demonstrate an understanding of language and culture of the francophone world. The Socratic format figures prominently in creating a forum for students to learn the art of questioning, comparing, contrasting, defending, and generally communicating their individual ideas and opinions using authentic sources to support their arguments. The accompanying 'worktext,' Barron's AP French Language and Culture supplements the readings and audio from the BIEN DIT text. All the practice selections mirror the exact format of the AP Exam and are meant to give students the necessary practice to spontaneously use the language for communication purposes using the recommended College Board themes. The second semester is devoted to a more intentional practice of the exam format while the first semester offers the context with which to proceed. This course has a lasting lifelong learning value in that it presents students the arena in which to try their wings at effectively communicating universal, world ideas: Families and Communities, Science and Technology, Beauty and Aesthetics, Contemporary Life, and finally Global Challenges. The preparation for college is further strengthened by the opportunity students are afforded to connect ideas with thoughts discussed and delved into in their other school disciplines. This broad based preparation holds them in good stead for travel, work, higher studies, or for achievement on standardized exams. Exceptional completion of this course makes students eligible for initiation as a Life Member in the National Société Honoraire du Français

SPANISH

Spanish 1

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None. Mid-year Transfer Students needing greater exposure to the language at transfer time must arrange for regular tutor sessions with teacher until the production skills are comparable to students already enrolled.

Description Spanish I is a college preparatory course which introduces students to learning of the Spanish language through a variety of language and cultural lessons simulating an immersive journey through various Latino/Spanish countries. Unique to each lesson are the built-in targets students should reach in the Three Modes of Communication prescribed by the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages). These 3 Modes; Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational place students in real-life scenarios. The AVANCEMOS text series, with its multi-tiered differentiation of instruction creates a truly personalized learning environment in the classroom. This new curriculum is meant to carry students from class to home and back, and throughout the four years of language acquisition. Technology plays a key role in delivering information to students, both video and audio practice accessible from home, on-line current events in basic language for level I, and finally the use of Google Virtual Travel for students to "experience" the visual differences of each Spanish country. This exciting program makes learning a second language a total vivid cultural, musical, experience beyond textbook to real participation in the language.

Spanish 2

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish I with C- or above

It is strongly recommended that a student with C- seek remediation during the summer since it is a given that level 1 material must be mastered before Level 2 is introduced. A student continuing to level 2 with D must seek remediation during the summer and have proficiency re-evaluated before entering level 2 in order to determine the need for additional support. Mid-year Transfer Students must take a placement test to determine accurate placing. Those needing greater exposure to the language at transfer time must arrange for regular tutor sessions with teacher until the production skills are comparable to students already enrolled.

Description: Spanish 2 continues with the level I format as it develops use of greater vocabulary and grammar for students to more comfortably convey their thoughts, read more thoughtfully, and express in writing their ideas based on the cultural ideas and experiences they reach during their second year of language learning. At this level students begin to use more quickly the learning strategies introduced in level

I, and begin to engage more creatively in articulation within the three modes of communication. Grading continues to assess students on reaching stated targets after much practice through formative assessment (practice) activities which allow them to “try on” the language with all the appropriate support to help them succeed. The use of workbooks for this purpose continue the work begun in level I, as do all the supporting online ancillaries available both at school and at home. At the completion of this level students will be sufficiently prepared to embark the exciting language and cultural travel material of upper division work in Spanish Levels 3 and 4, with all the supports in place.

Spanish 2 Advanced

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish I with B+ or above. Mid-year Transfer Students must take a placement test to determine accurate placing.

Description: Spanish 2 Advanced continues with the level I format but delves into themes at a much faster pace and wider breadth of grammar and vocabulary use. Students are exposed to more advanced reading and writing strategies, expand their learning through frequent presentations through the use of multidimensional projects. Presentational speaking activities incorporate a vast variety of themes which lead to exploration of Pre-AP issues. This course will require students to develop projects that encompass global issues found in the Mercy Critical Concerns. A variety of text materials will be incorporated to afford students broader exposure to both linguistic and cultural Spanish language sources.

Spanish 3

Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish 2 with C or higher.
Student with a C- in level 2 wishing to challenge entrance to level 3 must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level 3 prior to the beginning of the new school year. Proficiency here is defined as the ability to convey and understand ideas in Spanish using all the basic vocabulary and grammar of level 1 and 2.

Description: Level 3 continues the easy and intentional articulation of material begun in Levels 1 and 2 of the AVANCEMOS Spanish series. While continuing to reinforce basic language skills, this level moves students into more advanced language skills. Vocabulary moves them into more world issues in a very controlled fashion. This control allows teachers to guide students more individually in the acquisition of more reading and writing strategies. Communication in all the modes still remains the guiding targets for mastery. At this stage students are presented with more open-ended writing activities based on their own real life experiences as a basis for comparison with the Spanish/Latino culture. At this level students are moving toward finding their ‘voice’ in the expression of thinking in Spanish.

Spanish 3 Honors

Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)

Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish 2 with B or above. Students that did not complete previous levels at Mercy must pass a Placement Exam.

Description: Spanish 3 Honors incorporates material covered in Spanish 3 (see description Spanish 3 above.) As required of an Honors class, this course moves into more challenging strategies for reading and writing, but still relies on the excellent AVANCEMOS text and on-line ancillary materials used in all previous levels.

Students are given more opportunities for creative expression using many on-line apps to present their mastery of the language. This course is geared to preparing students to move either into level 4 College Prep or AP Language and Culture. It is here where students practice critical thinking skills, sharpen their comparing/contrasting skills, and more fully engage in sharing their opinions on world issues, and thoughts on open-ended prompts. They are guided in the “how-to” in order to support their endeavors to shine in the language. This course aims to teach students how to use the finer points of language in a more spontaneous

fashion, and to be more comfortable reading authentic material. Formative Assessments continue to support students' efforts in reaching the stated targets and their own aspiration for language acquisition.

Spanish 4

Level:	11-12	Year	10 credits
UC/CSU Approval:	Yes		
Prerequisite:	Completion of Spanish 2 with B or above. Students that did not complete previous levels at Mercy must pass a Placement Exam. Students with a C- in level 3 wishing to challenge entrance to level IV must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level IV prior to the beginning of the new school year. Proficiency here is defined as the ability to convey and understand ideas in Spanish using skills practiced in level 3.		

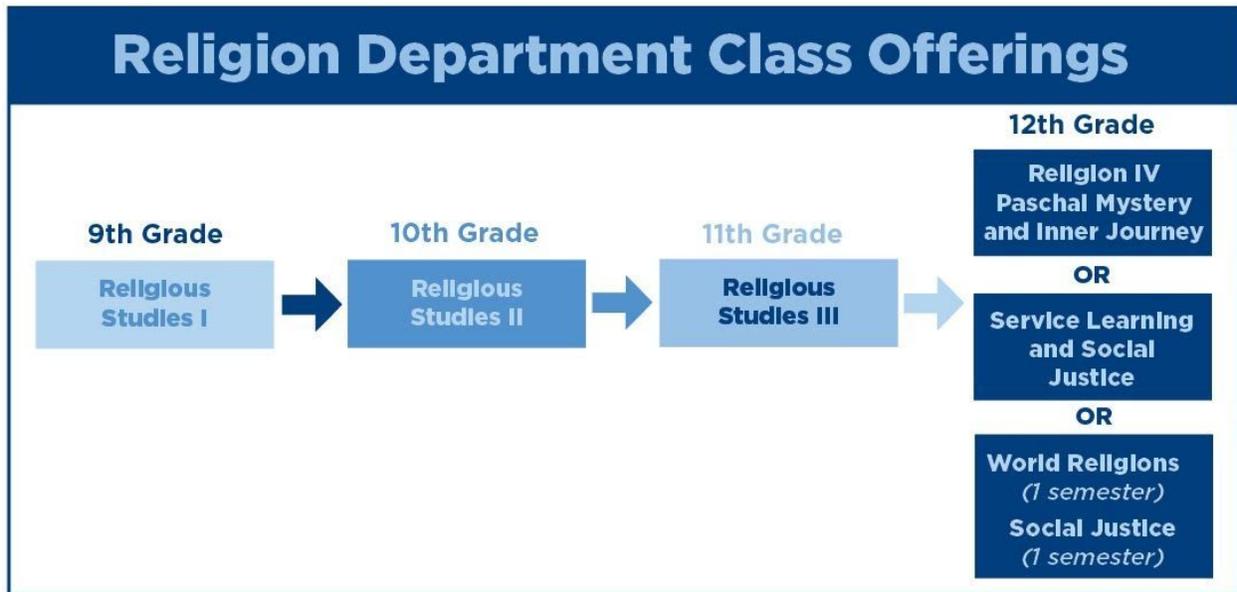
Description: Spanish 4 is geared for students wishing to continue improving their productive and receptive skills within the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. The integration of vocabulary, grammar, listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture is more intentional in that it provides students a more natural immersion into learning of Spanish. The highly relevant material of the AVANCEMOS text continues to support students in engaging in real interaction with peers, in refining their written skills. Quick comprehension checks allow students to self assess and thus reflect more accurately on their areas of need. The new section of 'Para crear' guides students to use higher-level thinking skills to create original work. Exceptional work in this level 4 course makes students eligible for life membership as an Associate of the Mercy Chapter of La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica.

AP Spanish Language and Culture

Level:	11-12	Year	10 credits
UC/CSU Approval:	Yes (weighted)		
Prerequisite:	Completion of Spanish 3 Honors with B or above, plus recommendation/evaluation of writing proficiency from English 3 teacher. Or, completion of Spanish 3 with B+ or above, plus passing a Challenge Exam requiring students to demonstrate in Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing, ability to maintain communication. Also required is a recommendation/evaluation of writing proficiency from English 3 teacher. This must be conducted prior to the beginning of the new school year.		

Description: AP Spanish Language and Culture is equivalent to a college level course and is conducted in a seminar learning environment. With the use of VHL TEMAS as text, students are guided in developing communication skills that will prepare them to demonstrate an understanding of language and culture of the Spanish/Hispanic world. The Socratic format figures prominently in creating a forum for students to learn the art of questioning, comparing, contrasting, defending, and generally communicating their individual ideas and opinions using authentic sources to support their arguments. The accompanying 'worktext', AP SPANISH, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM PREPARATION supplements the readings and audio from the TEMAS text. All the practice selections mirror the exact format of the AP Exam and are meant to give students the necessary practice to spontaneously use the language for communication purposes using the recommended College Board themes. The second semester is devoted to a more intentional practice of the exam format while the first semester offers the context with which to proceed. This course has a lasting lifelong learning value in that it presents students the arena in which to try their wings at effectively communicating universal, world ideas: Families and Communities, Science and Technology, Beauty and Aesthetics, Contemporary Life, and finally Global Challenges. The preparation for college is further strengthened by the opportunity students are afforded to connect ideas with thoughts discussed and delved into in their other school disciplines This broad based preparation holds them in good stead for travel, work, higher studies, or for achievement on standardized exams. Exceptional completion of this course makes students eligible for initiation as a Life Member in the National Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Religious Studies I, 2 and 3 are taught using an integrative approach allowing for faith formation for each student. The curriculum is aligned with the Bishop's framework using the Credo series as the basic textbooks throughout these first three years.

Religious Studies 1

Level: 9 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Religious Studies I provides students with the opportunity to explore and come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and its roots in the Jewish tradition. The year includes an introduction to Scripture, important figures of the Hebrew Scriptures, Catholic Christianity, Christian morality and decision-making and human sexuality.

Religious Studies 2

Level: 10 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: The Person of Jesus Christ is the focal point of the second year of Religious Studies. Jesus is viewed from an historical and theological perspective. Students study the Christian Scriptures and the development of the Catholic Christian Church through the years.

Religious Studies 3:

Level: 11 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Religious Studies 3 asks the question "what sort of lives ought we lead?" The answer to this question is found by examining the convergence of spirituality and morality. The moral life is the public face of our spirituality and acts back upon our spirituality to test the authenticity of our experience of God and our convictions about the way life ought to be lived. This course will look at the sacraments and how they influence our spirituality and how we act in the world. This course will also look at developing personal

ethics based on the teachings of Jesus.

Senior Religion Electives

Note for seniors: Seniors may choose from one of three course progressions:

- Service and Social Justice is a year-long service class with social justice content integrated.
- Inner Journey and Paschal Mystery are two semester courses taken consecutively.
- Social Justice and World Religions are two semester courses taken consecutively.

Religious Studies 4: Service and Social Justice

Level: 12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: Interview with Mr. Diaz or Ms. Simonetti

Requirement for the class: As a part of the Service-Learning nature of this course, students will be required to complete a minimum of 12 hours of direct service with one pre-approved Non-Profit Organization *during* the 2020-2021 school year. This service experience will provide the foundation for class reflections and projects.

Description: Who is my neighbor? Why are there social and economic disparities in our world? How am I uniquely called and gifted to live a life of compassionate service? These questions are critical to this Service-Learning course, which will combine service in the community with reflection on Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching in order to develop thoughtful responses to the injustices of our time. Special emphasis will be given to the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, which include poverty, non-violence, environmental justice, women's issues, racial justice, and immigration. Not only will students be able to analyze root causes of injustice, but they will also design their own educational, direct service, and advocacy projects around the issues they are most passionate about.

Religious Studies 4: Social Justice and World Religions

Level: 12 **Year (two consecutive semesters)** **10 credits**

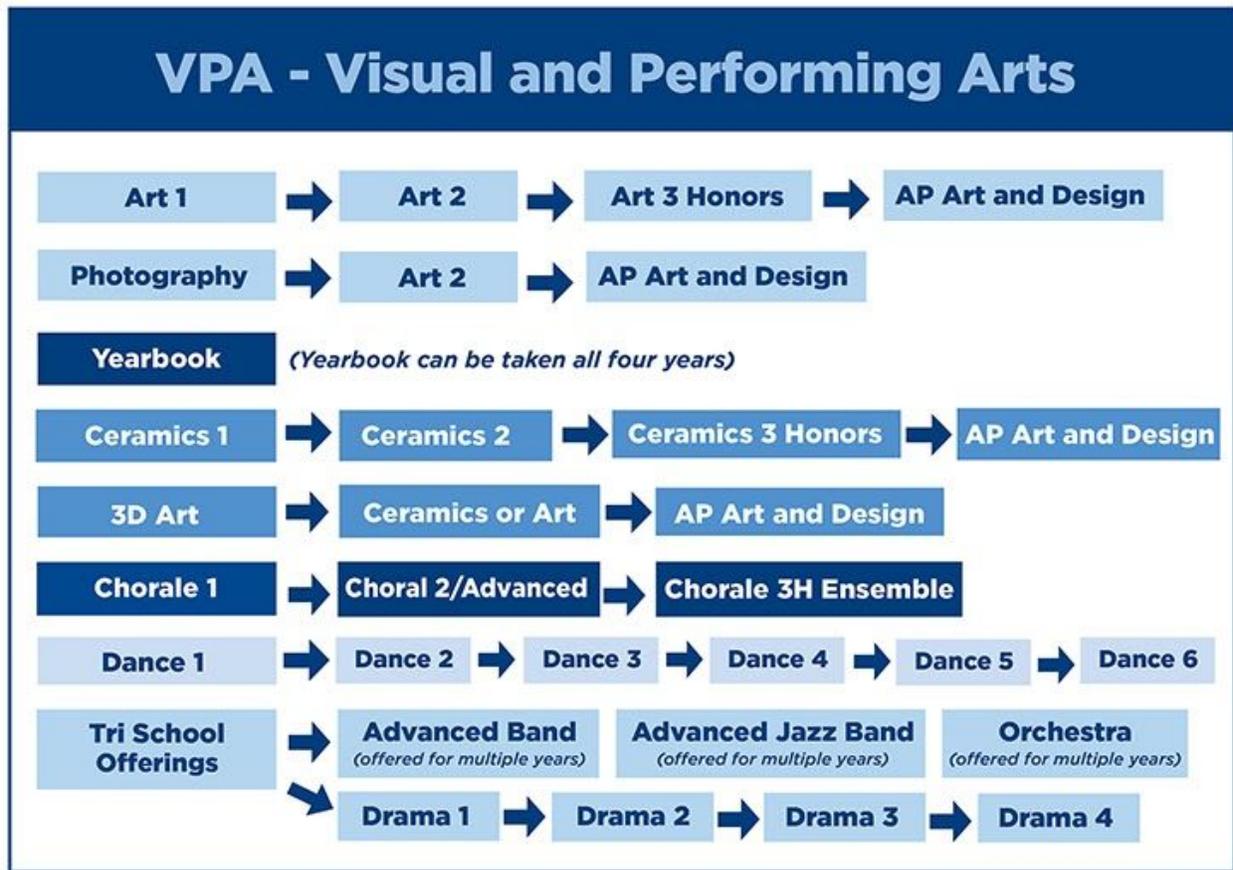
UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description for Social Justice: Are you conscious of the values operating in your life and where they come from? Do you know how to make the best decision for you? Should being a Christian make a difference in the way you make your decisions and in your ongoing formation of conscience? After examining these questions and Gospel values, the student will then apply them to key social issues of today, such as racism, sexism, environmentalism, human rights abuses, violence, poverty, substance abuse, and sexual morality. Readings, films, speakers and discussion will provide factual information and will help to broaden awareness and understanding of these topics within the context of Christian values and the social teachings of the Church.

Description for World Religions: The goal of this course is to introduce students to the major religious traditions that exist today: "wisdom traditions" that have been with us for the past 6,000 years, shaping our culture and history. We will explore the major Eastern traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shintoism and Islam and how religion affects our modern world. It is hoped that students will gain a better understanding of the variety of views that exist in our complex and diverse world, thus fostering a genuine respect for these traditions. One of the central goals of this course will be to gain a better understanding of the spirituality and belief systems of other faiths, so that each student will be able to better articulate her own spirituality and belief system. The course will also allow students the opportunity to gain a greater appreciation of other World Faiths, and in doing this, gain a greater appreciation of the way different cultures pray and worship. During the course we will also explore the practice of meditation and its implications for mindfulness in the world. Finally, we will discuss ways for creating peace in ourselves and in our world, given what these traditions reveal to us.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT



The Mercy Visual and Performing Arts student, through powerful learning experiences, will embrace and excel in the arts and academics while working toward a professional career.

Art 1

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed to teach basic hand-eye coordination in order to draw and understand the principles of composition. First semester work is in black and white using pencil, ink, charcoal, paper cutting, and scratch board. Second semester work explores color theory in the use of watercolor, tempera, pastel, and prismacolor. Assignment emphasis is on two-dimensional projects. Students create a digital portfolio. Material fees required. There is a required student exhibition in May.

Art 2

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Art 1

Description: Advanced Drawing and Painting, this course draws on the principles and skills learned in Art 1. Careers in the arts, portraiture, setting, lighting, and preparation of portfolio quality work are areas to be explored. Work begins to reflect personal style and interpretation. Students create a digital portfolio. Materials fee required. There is a required student exhibition in May.

Art 3 Honors

Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: B+ or higher in Art 2

Description: Course for juniors and seniors. The focus of this course is advanced studio work in drawing, painting, illustration, graphic design, printmaking, art history, and art careers. All work is portfolio quality. Quarterly self-evaluations provide expression of the language of art and communication of the skills learned. Advanced Students are inducted into the National Art Honor Society. Materials fee required. There is a required student exhibition in May.

AP 2D Art and Design

Level: 12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)

Prerequisite: Passed 3 years of art training at Mercy, (or equivalent by art instructor) a B or higher in Honors Art 3 and preliminary portfolio of 12 pieces of artwork to be approved by art instructor before course begins.

Description: The course of study will include a concentration on developing a theme and body of work to be submitted for the AP Studio Art exam in May. Students will apply the techniques learned in graphic design, illustration, printmaking, painting, and art history to create their portfolio. Students create a digital portfolio. There is a required student exhibition in the spring. Students complete the requirements of the National Art Honor Society. Materials fee required. There is a required student exhibition in May.

AP Drawing

Level: 12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)

Prerequisite: Passed 3 years of art training at Mercy, (or equivalent by art instructor) a B or higher in Honors Art 3 and preliminary portfolio of 12 pieces of artwork to be approved by art instructor before course begins.

Description: The course of study will include a concentration on developing a theme and body of work to be submitted for the AP Studio Art exam in May. Students will apply the techniques learned in graphic design, illustration, printmaking, painting, and art history to create their portfolio. Students create a digital portfolio. There is a required student exhibition in the spring. Students complete the requirements of the National Art Honor Society. There is a required student exhibition in May. Materials fee required.

Ceramics 1

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: Ceramics 1 students develop skills in designing and creating three-dimensional forms with various hand-building methods with emphasis on wheel-thrown work. Methods of glazing and firing techniques are learned. A variety of styles of ceramic and sculpture works are explored and encouraged. Physical requirements, must be able to lift 25lbs. There is a required student exhibition in the spring. Materials fee required.

Ceramics 2

Level: 10-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Average grade of B or higher in Ceramics 1

Incoming transfer students are subject to testing on wheel techniques and depth of previous ceramics knowledge.

Description: Ceramics 2 will focus on advanced work on the wheel, with emphasis on increasing size and ability, to create multiples of the same objects by creating a dinner service for four. Exploration of various glazing techniques is emphasized. Some written assignments are required. Physical requirements, must be

able to lift 25lbs. There is a required student exhibition in the spring. Materials fee required.

Ceramics & Sculpting 3 Honors

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: B+ average in Ceramics 2

Incoming transfer students are subject to testing on wheel techniques and depth of previous Ceramics knowledge.

Description: Ceramics 3 Honors will focus on various methods of glazing and personal exploration of forms. Research of different glazing and hand building techniques is required. Weekly written reports and reflection papers are included. Sculpture will be introduced with projects each semester. Physical requirements, must be able to lift 25lbs. Student exhibition in May. Advanced students are inducted into the National Art Honor Society. There is a required student exhibition in May. Materials fee required.

3D Art

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

USC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students will learn to recognize the basic concepts, media, and techniques involved in a variety of 3D Art forms and produce a variety of functional and decorative products using the skills introduced in class. Students will develop concepts that will be influenced by the producer's knowledge, training, experience, and attitudes, which follow the principles of good design. Students will apply what is learned through lectures, handouts, and demonstration materials. The study of applied technology using paper, glass, metals, textiles, dyes, clay, threads, yarn, and wax is part of the course. Computers are used to assist in design. There is a required student exhibition in May. To learn more about 3D, art, [watch this video](#). Materials fee required.

AP 3D Art and Design

Level: 12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Passed 3 years of Sculpture and Ceramics training at Mercy, (or equivalent as deemed by 3D instructor), B+ grade or higher in Ceramics 3H and preliminary portfolio of 12 pieces of artwork to be approved by art instructor before course begins.

Description: The object of this course is to explore the different aspects of 3D sculpture and to teach the students how to express themselves in their own personal style with different media. The individual sections of each portfolio- Quality, Concentration, and Breadth- are discussed in detail. The students are expected to develop mastery in concept, composition, and execution of ideas. Throughout the year, students learn a variety of concepts and approaches to 3D design, reviewing the Principles of Design (unity/variety, balance, emphasis, contrast, rhythm, repetition, proportion, figure/ground relations) articulated thru the Visual Elements (line, shape, color, value, texture and space). Students develop a body of work investigating a strong theme/concept, in 3D design, that they have chosen. This course emphasizes making art an ongoing process involving informed and critical decision-making. Critiques from the teacher and peers are expected and are an ongoing process throughout the year and form part of the assessment grade for the course. Students complete the requirements of the National Art Honor Society. There is a required student exhibition in May. Materials fee required.

Intro to Music: Chorale 1

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: In Chorale, a performance class, students will learn how to develop their voices and experience the pleasure of ensemble singing. This class is an introduction to music and music-making, using voices and instruments to build a foundation for musical understanding. Music is chosen from various styles

(musicals, popular, folk and traditional) that will encourage developing voices. We will listen to music from various cultures and have a chance to experience piano, ukulele, percussion, bells, and flutes. The class draws on a variety of different song styles. In this class you will discover the joy of ensemble performance in various venues, including at least two concerts during the school year.

Chorale 2/Advanced

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Chorale I or by audition

Description: The student must have had one year of chorale or comparable experience. Focussing on increased vocal confidence, improving singing technique and learning a variety of repertoire, students will also study basic music theory and sight-singing and will be expected to learn repertoire at home, complete occasional theory and listening assignments outside of class. Occasional performance opportunities in addition to two yearly school concerts are expected and students purchase a traditional chorale dress.

Chorale 3-Honors

Level: 11-12

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Audition/teacher approval required

Description: This auditioned ensemble will continue the development of vocal technique and ensemble practice through exploration of a wide variety of musical styles and genres, including a cappella, jazz and choreographed performance styles. As honors designees, students will study more advanced theory and sight-reading, complete occasional assignments in music history and vocal history, tackle more advanced repertoire and smaller ensemble pieces, learn basic conducting technique, do independent listening assignments, and be expected to attend a second musical concert during the year. Besides the two concerts at school, students perform for occasional functions and outside engagements and participate in a music festival in the spring. Purchase of a performing dress is required.

Dance 1

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: Dance I is a course that encompasses the beginning exploration of modern dance, jazz dance, basic ballet, African-based dance styles such as African, Swing, and other contemporary dances. Students learn and practice beginning level dance techniques, focusing primarily on the principles of center strength, coordination, balance and flexibility. Dance history, vocabulary and dance appreciation introduce the student to a wide variety of dance forms as they occur in world cultures. Students learn and rehearse choreography, culminating in a formal dance performance at the end of the year. Shoes or specific attire needed. Materials fee required.

Dance 2

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Dance 1 with a B or by audition.

Description: Dance 2 is a continuation of the study of beginning and intermediate techniques of modern dance, jazz dance, ballet, African dance, tap and other contemporary dance styles. Students increase their skills through practice of more challenging and complex movement patterns. Students begin their study of the choreography by solving improvisation and composition problems. Dance history and vocabulary are also a focus of the course, and readings of current dance periodicals and viewing dance on film to familiarize students with the current dance trends. Dance 2 culminates in a formal dance performance at the end of the year. Shoes or specific attire needed. Materials fee required.

Dance 3

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Dance 2 with a B or by audition.

Description: Dance 3 is a continuation of the study of intermediate and advanced techniques of modern dance, jazz dance, ballet, African dance, tap and other contemporary dance styles. Students increase their skills through practice of more challenging and complex movement patterns. Students begin their study of the choreography by solving improvisation and composition problems. Dance history and vocabulary are also a focus of the course, and readings of current dance periodicals and viewing dance on film to familiarize students with the current dance trends. Dance 3 culminates in a formal dance performance at the end of the year. Shoes or specific attire needed. Materials fee required.

Dance 4

Level: 10-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Dance 3 with a B or by audition

Description: Dance 4 is a course that encompasses masterful daily physical exploration of modern dance, jazz dance, ballet, and African-based dance styles, and continues the study of modern and jazz dance history as well as the choreographic principles of composition and improvisation. Students engage in independent study of dance outside the classroom in the form of additional classes and independent readings. Students develop leadership qualities by leading classroom activities, sharing ideas, initiating student-led activities, and engaging in peer dialogues with others. Weekly scholarly reading and writing are a requirement. The culminating activity of the course will be that students choreograph their own dance works for a formal performance, as well as perform in other dance venues as they present themselves. Shoes or specific attire needed. Materials fee required.

Dance 5

Level: 10-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Dance IV with a B average or by audition

Description: Dance 5H is a course that encompasses masterful daily physical exploration of Tap, jazz dance, ballet, and contemporary-based dance styles, and continues the study of modern and jazz dance history as well as expand the choreographic principles of composition and improvisation. Students engage in independent study of dance outside the classroom in the form of additional classes and independent readings. Students develop leadership qualities by choreographing, teaching, sharing ideas, initiating student-led activities, and engaging in peer dialogues with others. Weekly scholarly reading and writing are a requirement. The culminating activity of the course will be that students choreograph their own dance works for the annual Spring Dance concert, as well as perform in other dance venues as they present themselves. Shoes or specific attire needed. Materials fee required.

Dance 6 --Choreography and Performance

Level: 10-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Dance 5 with a B or by audition

Description: As a continuation of Dance 5, students in this course will establish their artistic voice as they experiment with a variety of stimuli to create dance and advance their understanding of the elements and skills of both technique and composition. Creating Performing and Responding to Dance investigated in a more equally weighted distribution. *This course advances knowledge of dance styles including but not limited to Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Modern and Choreography.* Shoes or specific attire needed. Materials fee required.

Digital Photography

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes
Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a beginning level, non-darkroom, art photography course intended to help students develop the ability to take, manipulate, print, and alter their photography through their understanding of visual perception and personal experience. Using digital cameras and professional photo editing software, students learn the basic elements of art photography, develop observational skills and the ability to discuss and critique their experience. Throughout the year, students will study the world of art photography, its place in art history, and its importance in society. Students will complete written assignments as well as a portfolio of their work. Students supply their own digital cameras. A digital camera is required for this course, as well as a student exhibition in the spring. Materials fee required.

Design and Publication/Yearbook

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes
Prerequisite: None

Description: Design and Publication/Yearbook is an interdisciplinary course combining writing, computer, page design, photography, art, information graphic skills, rhetoric, and current events. Students explore each of these areas and develop their areas of interest. They will produce our school yearbook. Each step in the process reinforces research, critical thinking, writing, design, and teamwork skills. Through the process, this class offers students the opportunity to sharpen skills in design, technology, organization and time management, collaboration, and leadership.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL CLASSES



Creative Problem Solving

Level: 9-12 Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable.

Prerequisite: None

Description: Creative Problem Solving is an elective class that builds students' confidence in making practical solutions to problems. With a focus on the five Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, students will learn about the Design Thinking method, and build skills in electronics, 3D printing, sewing, and robotics. The final project will take on a real world problem, and utilize the skills and techniques students have learned to develop a physical artifact to solve it.

Health & Wellness

Level: 9 (required) Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable.

Prerequisite: None

Description: Health & Wellness is a one semester required course for all sophomore students. The course helps students develop knowledge and learn essential skills to facilitate decision making for a healthy and fulfilling life. During the semester students will utilize journaling, discussion, and role-playing to engage in a variety of topics related to their physical, intellectual, emotional, and social well-being. The topics covered include substance use and abuse, sleep, stress, adolescent brain development, emotions, body image, peer pressure, physical activity, technology usage, healthy relationships, effective coping, self-care, healthy eating, and boundary setting. Students are encouraged to examine their own lifestyle choices and explore different perspectives as they formulate opinions about the healthy choices they want to make in their own lives. Students will also engage in physical activity and a developing physical education unit. This is a pass/no pass class.

Internship

Level: 10-12 Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students may register for a course called "Student Intern." Student Interns earn valuable work experience and excellent references for college applications, letters of recommendation, and job resumes. Students provide service to the school while earning 5 elective credits. Students are assigned a course grade, but this grade is not averaged into the GPA. Students should register as an intern and meet with the teacher or participating staff member (who will act as her supervisor) to arrange for the internship. The student will obtain the paperwork in the guidance department or front office which you will sign agreeing to be her supervisor. In addition to assisting teachers, students may apply to intern in the Guidance Department, Library, Advancement Office, Main Office, Arts Department, Athletics Department, Yearbook, and Technology Department. *May be repeated for credit.* This is a pass/no pass class.

Study Skills

Level: Freshmen Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not Applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description:

Core is a one-semester course designed to bridge the gap between middle school and high school demands. This course will prepare freshmen with the academic skills and growth mindset needed to be successful throughout high school and beyond. Curriculum will cover self-advocacy, executive functioning, research, and studying, and learning activities will focus heavily on applying new skills to the students' other academic courses. This is a pass/no pass class.

Yoga

Level: 10-12 Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Yoga is a movement class that presents for study beginning Hatha Yoga in order to promote strength, flexibility, vitality, self-awareness, and personal well being. Students will learn and practice physical postures, breathing techniques, meditation, and relaxation in order to foster the body-mind connection. Study of basic anatomy and kinesiology are also included, as well as the cultural and philosophical aspects of yoga. This is a pass/no pass class.

AMES Department

CORE

Level: 9 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: CORE is a class where students learn skills and strategies necessary for success in high school and beyond: organization of information and materials, self-advocacy, time management, note-taking, test-taking, reading, and memory. Each student has an Educational Plan that is individualized and outlines her unique strengths, challenges, and accommodations. Students spend half of the class time working on study skills, and the other half of the time working on content area homework or studying. The grade for this course is not factored into the GPA, but it does count for graduation credit.

AMES

Level: 10-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are in mixed-grade level, directed-study classes where they have opportunities for small-group and individual support on assignments. The grade for this course is not factored into the GPA, but it does count for graduation credit.

TRI-SCHOOL OFFERINGS 2021-2022

Junipero Serra High School Classes

Symphonic Band TRI SCHOOL

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: First period Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor

Description: A Tri-School performance course offered for music students with some experience in ensemble playing and at least intermediate playing ability on one or more instruments. Members of the Advanced Band form the nucleus of the Symphonic Band and Pep Band. Students must provide their own instruments (some exceptions). Performances (including football and basketball games, concerts, etc.) are mandatory.

Jazz Band TRI SCHOOL

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: Zero period Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes--Fulfills VPA Requirement

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor

Description: This course will teach visual recognition of modern and traditional jazz and rock melodies and rhythms, beginning to intermediate improvisation techniques and numerous performance practices that are peculiar to the medium. There will be an opportunity for small and large group performance. Performances include festivals and concerts. All performances are mandatory. Students must take this course in addition to Advanced Band unless they play guitar, bass or piano.

This class meets *Monday to Thursday*, zero period.

Mandarin I TRI SCHOOL

Level: 9 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: Period TBD at Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is the first level of Mandarin study for secondary school beginners who will develop the basic skills in Mandarin Chinese, such as useful conversation for daily life. Students will also learn to read, write, speak and understand basic Mandarin Chinese characters and pinyin. Students will be exposed to a variety of Mandarin speaking cultures in Mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore and more. This course fulfills the UC/CSU requirement for World Languages.

Mandarin II TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: Period TBD Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: C- in Mandarin I

Description: This is a second year course of Mandarin. A continuation of Mandarin 1-2, this course maintains and develops oral competency, reading skills, writing skills and cultural awareness of the historical issues and influence of Mandarin-speaking cultures

Mandarin III TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Semester** **5 credits**

Time: Period TBD Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: C average in Mandarin II

Description: This is a third year course of Mandarin that builds on the material and skills developed in the first two years of Mandarin. The course reinforces previous material as well as continues to expand in the areas of grammar, vocabulary and conversation. Increased speaking of the target language with cultural accuracy is an important aspect of this course.

Mandarin III TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Semester** 5 credits

Time: Period TBD Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: C average in Mandarin II

Description: This course is a continuation of Mandarin 5. Content and themes of the first semester are expanded and enhanced.

Mandarin 7 TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Semester** 5 credits

Time: Period TBD Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: B- average in Mandarin III

Description: This is a fourth year course of Mandarin. Students will continue to develop the skills necessary to carry on extended conversations in Chinese, expressing their opinions on issues related to current events, Chinese society, politics, economics, education, and Chinese culture. Students will be able to produce and present their own viewpoints of events by using the Chinese language in both spoken and written form. The class will be conducted entirely in Mandarin with an emphasis on active student participation in the target language.

Mandarin 8 TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Semester** 5 credits

Time: Period TBD Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: B- average in Mandarin 7

Description: This course is a continuation of Mandarin 7. Content and themes of the first semester are expanded and enhanced.

AP Mandarin (AP Chinese) TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Semester** 5 credits

Time: Period TBD Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: A - both semesters in Mandarin III or B - both semesters in Mandarin 7-8

Description: This course is a continuation of Mandarin 8. Content and themes of the first semester are expanded and enhanced.

German III TRI SCHOOL

Level 9-12 **Year** 10 credits

Time: Period TBD Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: C- average in German II

This is a third year course of German. Subject matter in this course is selected on a two-year basis so that students do not duplicate work completed the previous year. Grammar is reinforced as needed with special emphasis on the subjunctive. The four basic skills are stressed with emphasis on oral presentations, analysis and cultural studies such as music and art.

German 7-8 TRI SCHOOL

Level 9-12 **Year** 10 credits

Time: Period TBD Serra High School
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes
 Prerequisite: C- average in German III

This is a four year course of German. Subject matter in this course is selected on a two-year basis so that students do not duplicate work completed the previous year. Grammar is reinforced as needed with special emphasis on the subjunctive. The four basic skills are stressed with emphasis on oral presentations, analysis and cultural studies such as music and art.

Virtual Enterprise TRI SCHOOL

Level 10-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: Period TBD Serra High School
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes
 Prerequisites: None

Description: In this course, students set up and run a simulated business to prepare them for real-world business environments. Students begin by developing the nature of their business, its product and services. They learn entrepreneurship skills and link to a global business network, where they can work with other businesses set up in similar programs at other schools as trade/business partners. They learn how to develop a management structure and engage in the daily operations of running a business, using current business software, communications and the Internet for business transactions. While involved in the simulated business environment, students focus on career preparation standards such as oral and written communication skills, employment literacy/professional growth, interpersonal skills, group dynamics, conflict resolution, personal skills and lifelong learning, and both creative and critical thinking, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Intro to Business: Entrepreneurship TRI SCHOOL

Level 10-12 **Semester** **5 credits**

Time: TBD
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes
 Prerequisites: None

Description: This is a survey course designed to introduce students to the principles and functions of business from an entrepreneurial perspective. Business will be studied as part of the social, political, and economic environment. Students will look at real-world entrepreneurial topics influencing business today and interpret current business trends by studying relevant and interesting business content throughout the course. Themes of the course will include Business History, International Business, Ethics/Social Responsibility, Business Ownership/Organization leading into the Entrepreneurship area. Concepts of Business Law and Business Communication will be present throughout the semester. May be taken in conjunction with Intro to Business: Marketing or as a standalone course

Intro to Business: Marketing TRI SCHOOL

Level 10-12 **Semester** **5 credits**

Time: TBD, Serra High School
 UC/CSU Approval: Yes
 Prerequisites: None

Description: This is a survey course is designed to provide students with an introductory perspective into the management and marketing functions of operating a business. Business will be studied as part of the social, political, and economic environment. Students will look at real-world marketing and management topics influencing business today and interpret current business trends by studying relevant and interesting business content throughout the course. Themes of this course will include: Business Finance, Business Management/Leadership, Marketing, and E-Commerce/Business Technology. Concepts of Business Law and Business Communication will be present throughout the semester. May be taken in conjunction with Intro to Business: Entrepreneurship or as a standalone course.

DRAMA 1: INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMANCE (9th Grade)

Duration: Year (Offered Block TBD)

UC/CSU Approved: Yes
NCAA Core Course: No
Level: 9-12
Prerequisite: None

Description: This course introduces students to the art of acting through a combination of theoretical and practical study. Students will experience performance through participation in improvisation, cold reading, pantomime, characterization, movement, monologues, and vocal technique. The class will read plays and learn about textual analysis, theatrical vocabulary, the history of Western theater, differing theater styles and their originators, and the evolution of acting techniques and methods. Students will watch and critique performances and complete one scene study per semester.

DRAMA 1: INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMANCE (10-12 Grade)

Duration: Year (Offered Block TBD)
UC/CSU Approved: Yes
NCAA Core Course: No
Level: 9-12
Prerequisite: None

Description: This course introduces students to the art of acting through a combination of theoretical and practical study. Students will experience performance through participation in improvisation, cold reading, pantomime, characterization, movement, monologues, and vocal technique. The class will read plays and learn about textual analysis, theatrical vocabulary, the history of Western theater, differing theater styles and their originators, and the evolution of acting techniques and methods. Students will watch and critique performances and complete one scene study per semester.

DRAMA 2: ACTING FOR THE STAGE

Duration: Year (Offered Block TBD)
UC/CSU Approved: Yes
NCAA Core Course: No
Level: 9-12
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Drama 1 or by audition

Description: This full-year course builds on the foundations learned in Drama 1 and focuses on the practical application of acting methods and theories. The course will include ensemble acting, movement, mask work, improvisation, vocal technique, and scene study. Students will complete in depth textual analysis and will learn about the evolution of acting techniques and their creators. This course will center on discerning objectives, obstacles, actions when approaching a performance, as well as touch upon inner monologue, power dynamics, behavioral observation, and emotional truth. Students will watch and critique plays and complete one scene study per term.

DRAMA 3: ADVANCED ACTING AND PRODUCTION

Duration: Year (Offered Block TBD)
UC/CSU Approved: Yes
NCAA Core Course: No
Level: 9-12

Description: This advanced course focuses on each student's individual artistic growth as both an actor/performer and a director designer by alternating curriculum year to year.* Example of year one: In the first semester, students will perform in depth scene studies that concentrate on 21st Century theater and classical Western Theater (Shakespeare, Marlowe, Goethe etc). They will learn how to integrate elements of theatrical design (lighting costume, scenery) with staging and theme to create artistically intriguing performances. In the second semester, they will learn how to approach a text from a production point of view, culminating in a public evening performance of a student directed, produced, and designed one-act play. Students will watch and critique plays outside of class once a semester. Example of year two: Scenes in the first semester will focus on World Theater (Non-Western) and American Musical Theater with the aid of a live accompanist of recorded tracks. Students will focus on developing audition skills for both plays and musicals.

In the second semester, they will learn how to approach a text from a production point of view, culminating in a one-act play. Students will watch and critique plays outside of class once a semester. *Curriculum is determined yearly based on enrollment, current and recent production seasons, and may change to best fit the education of the students enrolled.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Drama 2 or by audition

DRAMA 4: ADVANCED ACTING AND PERFORMANCE

Duration: Year (Offered Block TBD)
UC/CSU Approved: Pending (Area F – VPA)
NCAA Core Course: No
Level: 9-12
Prerequisite: Drama 3

Mercy High School

The following courses will be offered at Mercy as Tri-school. Please see the course description for more information.

Anatomy and Physiology Honors (zero period)
Anatomy and Physiology (zero period)
Forensics (second period)
AP Psychology (fifth period)
Photography (second period)
3D Art (first period)

2021-2022 Tri-School Contract

**Required for every Tri-School student
Due to the student's home school by April 23, 2021**

Student Name _____

Parent Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Counselor _____

School of enrollment (circle one):

Junipero Serra HS

Mercy HS

Notre Dame HS

Tri-School Courses (circle courses you have requested to take):

Junipero Serra
Advanced Band
Jazz Band
Architectural Design
Virtual Enterprise
Intro Bus: Entrepreneurship
Intro Bus: Marketing
Mandarin 1-2
Mandarin 3-4
Mandarin 5-6
German 1-2
German 3-4
Other: (approved by Asst. Head of School)

The student named above has requested to take a class within the Tri-School program for the 2021-2022 school year.

No Drop Policy:

Due to the interdependence of the three schools it is important for students and their parents/guardians to know that **once a student has been placed in a Tri-School class he/she will not be permitted to drop that class for any reason.** Furthermore, by signing below the student and parent agree to follow the direction of the faculty staff and administration of the school where the classes are held and agree to abide by the policies set forth in the Tri-School handbook. Failure to do so could result in being dropped from the Tri-School class with a semester grade of F.

Transportation Policy:

Mercy provides transportation to Serra only for the end of first period and to and from second and third period. The times for pick up are:

Mercy to Serra at 9:10 a.m.

Serra to Mercy at 9:25 a.m.

Serra to Mercy at 10:45 a.m.

All other transportation, including zero period, transportation to and from Notre Dame, and drop off at 7:55 a.m. is the responsibility of the parent/student. Students who carpool must arrange the carpool themselves.

Signatures:

Student Signature	Parent Signature
Student Name (printed)	Parent Name (printed)
Date	Date