



## Northwest Catholic High School 2021-2022 Curriculum Guide

Dear families,

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

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

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

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

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

Northwest Catholic is an exciting community where we challenge everyone to “bleed green”, walk the walk, and make a difference.

It’s a great day to be a Lion!

Christopher Stuck  
Principal

## **Administration**

President

Principal

Associate Principal

Rev. Michael Dolan

Mr. Christopher Stuck

Mrs. Jennifer Montoney

## **Leadership Team**

Director of Athletics

Director of Campus Ministry

Director of Admissions

Director of Advancement

Director of Technology

Director of School Counseling

Ms. Ashley Mara

Mr. Chris Haddad

Mr. Andrew Selig

Mrs. Beth Boyle

Mr. Patrick Williamson

Mrs. Heather Alix

## **Academic Staff**

Director of School Counseling

School Counselor

School Counselor

School Social Worker

Librarian

Registrar

Mrs. Heather Alix

Mrs. Mary Jo Foran

Mrs. Kelly Morrison

Mr. Michael Tyler

Mrs. Helga Phillips

Mrs. Katie Rose

## **Academic Department Chairs**

Religion

English

Social Studies

World Language

Mathematics

Science

Fine Art

Performing Art

Deacon Richard Santos

Ms. Joan Keating-McKeon

Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick

Mrs. Ana Barrett

Ms. Claudia Hart

Mr. Mark Dodd

Ms. Celina Marquis

Mrs. Sara Avery

Academic policies and procedures can be found in the Student/ Parent Handbook located online at [www.northwestcatholic.org](http://www.northwestcatholic.org)

Questions regarding scheduling should be directed to the School Counseling Office

## ***SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM***

### **Academic Advisement, Counseling, and College Placement**

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

The school counseling program consists of classroom lessons as well as individual and group counseling techniques to support each student's academic progress, extracurricular involvement, and social interactions. The goal of our program is to prepare students to become well-rounded with the necessary skills to successfully compete in college and beyond. Counselors maintain an active role during each student's four-year academic journey. Additionally, informational programs are offered to parents at each grade level.

**Freshman year:** The primary focus is to assist freshmen with the transition to high school and to help create a strong academic foundation. Counselors meet periodically with students to discuss study skills, time management, decision-making, digital citizenship and goal setting. Additionally, students are introduced to Naviance and the Career Exploration tool. The PSAT 8/9 test is administered.

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

**Junior year:** The focus of the program in junior year is the college admissions process. Information and preparation about standardized tests utilized for college admissions is reinforced in October. From the months of December through May, Juniors are presented with a variety of information and materials that will serve as a resource and assist them through the college admissions process. In February, there is an informational program for parents. Also in February, juniors and their parents hear from a panel of college admissions representatives. There is also an informational program for parents. Counselors conduct individual sessions with each student and his/her family to review the student's academic achievement and to identify potential college choices. Students will utilize Naviance for researching colleges.

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

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

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

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

**DUAL CREDIT/ COLLEGE CREDIT:** Students are offered the opportunity to take courses for college credit. Applicants for this program must have the approval of parents and the Principal. Please see page 29 for more details and course offerings.

**ONLINE COURSES:** Select courses may be taken online for credit through Northwest Catholic's online program. Course offerings and descriptions are available through the Principal's office. All online courses must be approved by the Principal, who will facilitate the registration process. Please see page 29 for course offerings.

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

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

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

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

**LEVEL3:** Courses at this level focus on developing the basic skills of communication and computation. Development of independent thinking and basic research skills is also included. Courses at this level are college preparatory in nature and count in the GPA the same as a Level 2 course.

**CREDIT REMEDIATION:** If a student fails a course, that course must be remediated via the Northwest Catholic online summer program no later than August 31<sup>st</sup>. All summer school arrangements must be arranged through the Office of the Principal.

## COURSE WEIGHTING SYSTEM

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

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

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

**PASS-FAILGRADING:** Physical Education and Sports PE, are graded on a pass-fail basis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PlusPortal is a key ingredient of this educational process. PlusPortal is a web portal with several components. First, PlusPortal provides an educational calendar and planner. Teachers post student assignments, worksheets, and class notes on PlusPortal which students can access through the internet. When a student views his/her personal PlusPortal calendar, he/she can see assignments in all his or her classes, access worksheets that need to be completed, and view class notes and information.

A second component of PlusPortal is that students and parents can view “live” grades and averages. Both students and their parents have access to PlusPortal. New students and parents are given an activation code in the beginning of the year and instructions on how to establish their accounts. PlusPortal is a tool which allows the Northwest Catholic students to assume more responsibility for their learning and prepares them for college.

## ***ENGLISH DEPARTMENT***

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

### **ENGLISH I (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grade 9                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 102

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

### **HONORS ENGLISH I (Level 1)**

Grade 9                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 101

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

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

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

Grade 10                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 126

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

### **HONORS ENGLISH II: AMERICAN LITERATURE (Level 1)**

Grade 10                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 125

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

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

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

Grade 11                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 155

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

**HONORS ENGLISH III: ENGLISH LITERATURE (Level 1)**

Grade 11                      1 Credit                      Course number 154

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

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

**AP ENGLISH III: LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (Level 1)**

Grade 11                      1 Credit                      Course number 140                      (AP Test Fee: See page 6)

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

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

Grade 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 163

*SEMESTER I: CLASSICAL AND MODERN LITERATURE*

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

*SEMESTER II: FOLKLORE IN LITERATURE*

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

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

Grade 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 164

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

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



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

Grade 12

1 Credit

Course Number 166

The *Creative Writing-Poetry* phase of this senior-level course is designed to develop creativity and the creative process through the critical reading and study of such poetic forms as haiku, sonnet, ballad, pastoral, and free verse. Selected poems by various published poets will be critically read and explicated to reveal thematic insights expressed therein. The course emphasizes learning about and developing artistic expression through the poetry reading and writing process. A student's written work will include a poetry portfolio-project of original written work.

The *Short Fiction* phase of this course is also designed to develop creativity and the creative process through the critical reading and study of the short story and its components. Story techniques will be analyzed and practiced. Students will read various stories by such writers as Salinger, Chopin, Poe, O'Connor and Munroe, to name a few, in order to enhance students' understanding of the genre. This phase of the course likewise emphasizes learning about and developing artistic expression through the story reading and writing process. A student's written work will include a short story-project of original written work..

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

Grade 12

1 Credit

Course number 165

***SEMESTER I: SURVEY OF DRAMATIC LITERATURE***

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

***SEMESTER II: SURVEY OF BRITISH DRAMA***

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

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

**AP ENGLISH IV: LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION** (Level 1)

Grade 12

1 Credit

Course number 150

(AP Test Fee: See page 6)

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

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

***WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT***

The overall purpose of the World Languages Department is to expose students to other cultures through the study of the language and to prepare them to communicate in at least one language other than English. Most colleges require a minimum of two years of language study, and prefer that one language is carried through three or four years if the student has the ability to do so. Three years of one world language is preferred over two years of two world languages. The recommended grade to move to the next level is C-.

**LATIN I** (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11

1 Credit

Course number 202

Students will study the basic rules of Latin grammar and syntax, vocabulary, prose composition, and will translate Roman myths and history. Study also includes aspects of Roman culture, history, and mythology. Each student will select a special project that deals with Roman culture and history. Students will write a paper on Roman and Greek mythology. Historical films will be used to review history of Roman Republic, including *Spartacus*. Study of etymology will be incorporated. Second year of Latin is required in sequence.

**HONORS LATIN I** (Level 1)

Grades 9, 10, 11

1 Credit

Course number 201

Students will study the rules of Latin grammar and syntax, vocabulary and prose composition, and the different aspects of Roman culture, history, and mythology. Each student will select a special project that deals with Roman culture and history. Students will write a paper on Roman and Greek mythology. Historical films will be used to review history of Roman Republic including *Spartacus*. Study of etymology will be incorporated. This course will be open to students who have demonstrated outstanding ability in verbal and language arts, who have done well in English in junior high school, or in their previous years at NWC. Second year of Honors Latin is expected in sequence.

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

**LATIN II** (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 212

This course will include a review and continuation of grammar and syntax. Concentration is on reading Latin literature (Livy's *History of Rome*, Caesar's *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*). Poetry will include the study of scansion of dactylic hexameter. This course will include a study of Roman history from the founding of Rome to the beginning of the Roman Empire, Caesar's life and army, and the geography of the Mediterranean World and some mythology. Study of etymology will be incorporated.

**HONORS LATIN II** (Level 1)

Grades 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 211

This course will be a review and continuation of Latin grammar and syntax. Concentration is on reading at an accelerated pace. Works covered will be Livy's *History of Rome*, Caesar's *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Poetry will include the study of the scansion of dactylic hexameter. Roman history from the founding of Rome to the beginning of the Roman Empire will be covered in depth. Study of Caesar's life and his army, the geography of the Mediterranean World, and some Roman mythology will be covered. Use of historical films including *Ben-Hur*. Study of etymology will be included.

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

**HONORS LATIN III** (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 221

This course will include a review of Latin grammar and composition in the first few weeks. The course will concentrate on the reading of Latin literature (Cicero, Pliny, and Medieval Latin). There will be a study of Roman history from the beginning of the Roman Empire to the fall of the Roman Empire in the West. Historical films will be used to review the history of the first century A.D. Lives of Roman authors will be studied along with the figures of speech used in Latin prose. There also will be a study of etymology and some mythology. Geography of the Roman Empire will be studied. Students will read *Quo Vadis?* and do a book review on this novel.

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

**HONORS LATIN IV** (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 225

There will be a review of Latin grammar and composition in the first few weeks. The course will concentrate on the reading of Vergil's *Aeneid* (Books I, IV, and VI primarily). There also will be selections from the works of Horace and Catullus and the reading of "Eclogue IV" of Vergil. There will be a study of dactylic hexameter, figures of speech used in Latin poetry, and the lives of various authors. Historical films will be used to review the history of Rome (primarily the first century A.D. and the lives of the Julio-Claudian emperors). Study of mythology, etymology, and the geography of the Roman Empire. Students will read the novel *I, Claudius* in conjunction with the study of Julio-Claudian emperors.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Honors Latin III

**FRENCH I** (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11

1 Credit

Course number 232

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

**FRENCH II** (Level 2, College Preparatory)  
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12                      1 Credit

Course number 242

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

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

**HONORS FRENCH II** (Level 1)  
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12                      1 Credit

Course number 241

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

**FRENCH III** (Level 2, College Preparatory)  
Grades 10, 11, 12                      1 Credit

Course number 252

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

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of French II

**HONORS FRENCH III** (Level 1)  
Grades 11, 12                      1 Credit

Course number 251

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

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

**HONORS FRENCH IV** (Level 1)  
Grades 11, 12                      1 Credit

Course number 264

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

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

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT FRENCH V** (Level 1)  
Grade 12                      1 Credit

Course number 260                      (AP Test Fee: See page 6)

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

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

**MANDARIN CHINESE I** (Level 2, College Preparatory)  
Grade 9, or by appointment      1 Credit      Course number 255

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

**HONORS MANDARIN CHINESE II** (Level 1)  
Grade 10, or by appointment      1 Credit      Course number 240

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

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

**HONORS MANDARIN CHINESE III** (Level 1)  
Grade 11, or by appointment      1 Credit      Course number 257

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

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

**HONORS MANDARIN CHINESE IV**  
(Level 1)  
Grade 11, or by appointment      1 Credit      Course number 257

Students will listen, speak, read, and write Mandarin Chinese at an advanced level. At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to engage in conversational Chinese. Students will continue to learn to understand, predict, appreciate, and engage Chinese culture and its differences and similarities with American culture. In this course, students will learn simplified characters.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Honors Chinese III with a grade of B- or better.

**SPANISH I** (Level 2, College Preparatory)  
Grades 9, 10, 11      1 Credit      Course number 272

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

**SPANISH II** (Level 2)  
Grades 9,10,11,12      1 Credit      Course number 277

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

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

**HONORS SPANISH II (Level 1)**

Grades 9,10,11,12

1 Credit

Course number 276

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

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

**SPANISH III (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grades 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 282

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

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish II

**HONORS SPANISH III (Level 1)**

Grades 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 281

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

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

**SPANISH IV (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 289

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

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish III

**HONORS SPANISH IV (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course number 290

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

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

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH V (Level 1)**

Grade 12

1 Credit

Course number 291

(AP Test Fee: See page 6)

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

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

## ***MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT***

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

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

### **ALGEBRA I (Level 3)**

Grade 9                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 300

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

### **ALGEBRA I (Level 2)**

Grades 9                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 302

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

### **HONORS ALGEBRA I (Level 1)**

Grade 9                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 301

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

### **LEVEL 3 GEOMETRY (Level 3)**

Grades 10, 11                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 346

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

**Prerequisite:** This course is open to students from Algebra I Level 3 who have a D average or better. Teacher recommendation is required.

### **GEOMETRY (Level 2)**

Grades 9, 10, 11                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 313

This course presents a development of logic by means of the structure of Geometry, emphasizing precision of language, clear thinking, and proof. Spatial relationships, inductive and deductive reasoning and real life applications are also studied.

**Prerequisite:** This course is open to students who have completed Algebra I (302) with a grade of C or better. Teacher recommendation is required. If a student is applying from Grade 8, demonstration of competency in Algebra I on a placement test is required.

### **HONORS GEOMETRY (Level 1)**

Grades 9, 10                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 311

This course is a follow up to Honors Algebra I. The class will involve a rigorous approach to geometric theory and applications. The

course includes two-column and paragraph proofs and also some coordinate Geometry.

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

### **LEVEL 3 ALGEBRA II (Level 3)**

Grades 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 347

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

**Prerequisite:** This course is open to students who have completed Algebra I (300) and have completed or are concurrently taking Geometry (346), or have completed Algebra I (302) and Geometry (313). Teacher recommendation is required.

### **ALGEBRA II (Level 2)**

Grades 10, 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 323

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

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

### **HONORS ALGEBRA II (Level 1)**

Grades 10, 11                      1 Credit                      Course number 321

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

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

### **PRE-CALCULUS/TRIGONOMETRY (Level 2)**

Grade 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 344

One half of this course will cover the study of Trigonometry: triangle measure, trig functions and their inverses and identifies, graphs and equations of trig functions, the polar plane and deMoivre's Theorem. The other half is designed to prepare students for success in Calculus, with emphasis on theory as well as application. Functions and their inverses are studied, including exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions. Additional topics include sequences and series, math induction, linear programming, and limits. **Prerequisite:** This course is open to students who have completed Algebra II (323) and Geometry (313) with a C+ or better, or Algebra II, Level 3 (324) and Geometry, Level 3 (314) with a B or better.

### **HONORS PRE-CALCULUS/TRIGONOMETRY (Level 1)**

Grades 10,11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 333

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

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

### **STATISTICS & PROBABILITY (Level 2)**

Grades 11, 12                      0.50 Credit                      Course number 343

This is an introductory course emphasizing the interpretation and communication of statistical results, statistical literacy, and the

development of statistical thinking, as well as elements of probability. Students will use technology for developing conceptual understanding and for analyzing data.

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

### **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING (Level 2)**

Grades 10, 11, 12                      0.50 Credit                      Course number 351

This is a semester course designed to familiarize the student with the fundamental concepts of computer programming in the Java language. Mainly a “hands on” course, topics to be introduced include algorithms, programming methodology, and data structures. It includes writing and executing programs on the computer, and mathematical applications of these techniques. This course is a prerequisite for AP Computer Science

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

### **FINITE MATH (Level 2)**

Grade 12                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 357

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

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

### **CALCULUS (Level 2)**

Grade 12                                      1 Credit                                      Course number 329

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

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

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12                              1 Credit                              (AP Test fee: See page 6)                      Course number 331

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

**Prerequisite:** This course is open to students who have completed Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus (333) with a B or better, or Pre-Calculus, Level 2A (336) with a B+ or better. Teacher recommendation is required.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER SCIENCE (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12                              1 Credit                              (AP Test Fee: See page 6)                      Course number 355

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

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

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12                              1 Credit                              (AP Test Fee: See page 6)                      Course number 350

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

**Prerequisite:** This course is open to students who have completed Honors Trig/Pre-Calculus (333), AP Calculus (331) with a B- or better, Pre-Calculus 2A (336), Calculus 2A (332) with a B or better, Pre-Calculus (335) with an A- or better, or math teacher recommendation. Trig/Pre-Calculus may be taken concurrently.



**PERSONAL FINANCE** (Level 2)  
Grade 12                      0.5 Credit

*ELECTIVE*  
Course number 315

This course provides an overview of the financial planning and investing process. It examines personal incomes and budgets, banking, credit cards, home and consumer financing, insurance of personal assets, personal investing and retirement planning. Topics covered will include the time value of money, investments, loans and credit, cash management, taxes, life and health insurance, and estate planning. This course is open to Grade 12. Credit does not count towards total math credits.

## ***SCIENCE DEPARTMENT***

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

AP Biology and AP Chemistry are offered in alternating years.

Required Courses: 3 years of science including Biology

Suggested: 4 years of Science

**BIOLOGY** (Level 2, College Preparatory)  
Grade 9                      1 Credit                      Course number 412

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

**HONORS BIOLOGY** (Level 1)  
Grade 9                      1 Credit                      Course number 411

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

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

**CHEMISTRY** (Level 2, College Preparatory)  
Grade 10                      1 Credit                      Course number 424

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

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

**HONORS CHEMISTRY** (Level 1)  
Grade 10                      1 Credit                      Course number 423

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

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

**PHYSICS (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grades 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 432

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

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

**HONORS PHYSICS (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 431

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

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

**HONORS ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

Grades 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 439

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

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

**ASTRONOMY (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grades 11, 12                      0.50 Credit                      One Semester                      Course number 441

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

**GEOLOGY & METEOROLOGY (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grades 11, 12                      0.50 Credit                      One Semester                      Course number 442

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

**HUMAN BODY SYSTEMS (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grades 11, 12                      0.50 Credit                      One Semester                      Course number 443

A course designed for students who desire additional study in human body systems. The course includes study of cells, tissues and systems of the body beyond that covered in previous Biology courses. Current topics in human biology and related diseases and conditions are discussed. The approach includes class discussions, projects, lecture and lab activities, as well as internet research and system building on anatomical models.

**Prerequisite:** A grade of C or better in Biology.

**OCEANOLOGY AND STREAM ECOLOGY (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grades 11, 12                      0.50 Credit                      One Semester                      Course number 444

This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts of marine and fresh water ecology. Topics explored are: chemical, physical, and biological oceanology with special emphasis on the organisms found in Long Island Sound. Various marine habitats will be studied in class and correlated with fieldwork on Long Island Sound. Students will participate in the collection and analysis of water

quality data of a local stream. Special emphasis will be on the relationship between organisms and their environment and on the interdependence of organisms with each other. The class will also explore some environmental problems and possible solutions related to our water world.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

(AP Test Fee: See page 6)

Course number 435

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

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

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

(AP Test Fee: See page 6)

Course number 420

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

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

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

(AP Test Fee: See page 6)

Course number 430

AP Physics is the most difficult advanced course offered at Northwest Catholic High School. Students enrolled in this course should have a deep understanding of physical science or a desire to study a related field in college. This course is a laboratory science course designed to familiarize students with the fundamental concepts of physics. Content includes mechanics, linear and circular motion, heat, electricity, magnetism, waves, quantum mechanics, and special relativity. This course features mathematical emphasis with much attention to problem solving as well as innovative lab experiences centered on ideas generated by students. Students are expected to work independently on much of the material. AP students are required to take the Physics AP exam. Admission to this course also requires the completion of an application and departmental approval.

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

## ***SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT***

The Social Studies department emphasizes a knowledge and understanding of complex relationships between people and cultures. By emphasizing the writing skills and technological competence, students are prepared to make a positive contribution as virtuous citizens in a democratic society. The Social Studies department believes that students learn in a variety of ways. Thus, the department works to accommodate diverse learning styles. Methods of presentation include lecture, discussion, role-play, debate, and various implementations of technological instruction. Interpretation of primary source materials, appreciation for global cultures, and emphasis on geographic themes, are a few of the skills of historical detection and interpretation emphasized in the Social Studies department.

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

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

Grades 9

1 Credit

Course number 505

Students will gain a general understanding of the histories and cultures of the world and how these histories relate to and affect our

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

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

### **HONORS HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND OUR CONTEMPORARY WORLD (Level 1)**

Grades 9                      1 Credit                      Course number 518

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

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

### **WORLD HISTORY (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

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

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

### **HONORS WORLD HISTORY (Level 1)**

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

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

### **AP WORLD HISTORY (Level 1, Advanced Placement)**

Grade 10                      1 credit                      Course number 506

Modern, 1200-Present is a rigorous exploration of the major people, societies, events, and ideas that have shaped world history since the Middle Ages. Course topics will follow the nine-unit structure presented by the College Board and include a research-based historical project at the end of the year. Beginning with China and the Islamic Caliphates, the course will study major topics such as the formation of Eurasian empires, the Colombian Exchange, the Industrial Revolution, European Imperialism, the World Wars, the Cold War, decolonization, and globalization in the 21st Century. Students should expect nightly reading, rigorous writing assignments, class debate and discussion, and a fast-paced classroom atmosphere. All class participants are required to take the AP Exam in May.

**Prerequisites:** B+ in Honors Human Geography or an A in both Human Geography and English I, and a recommendation from one's current Social Studies teacher.

### **CIVICS (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grade 12                      One Semester                      Course number 566

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

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

Grades 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 512

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

**HONORS U.S. HISTORY (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number: 517

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

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

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12      1 Credit                      (AP Test Fee: See page 6)                      Course number 511

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

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

**ECONOMIC THEORY AND PRACTICE (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grades 11, 12                      0.50 Credit                      One Semester                      Course number 542

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

**SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grades 11, 12                      0.50 Credit                      One Semester                      Course number 544

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

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

Grade 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 530

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

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

**AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (Level 1)**

GRADE 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 570

Through work in a college-level text and regular consideration of current media, this course exposes students to the current political

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

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

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY (Level 1)**

GRADE 12

0.5 Credit

Course number 519

This one semester, introductory-level course is largely designed to provide students with an overview of the major events and developments in African-American history from its ancestral beginnings to present. Some of the specific topics covered include African timeline, colonial and antebellum slavery, the abolition movement, the free black experience, the Civil War, emancipation, Jim Crow segregation, racial violence, black culture, the modern freedom struggle, popular culture, political movements, and the contemporary experience.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of United States History

## ***RELIGION DEPARTMENT***

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

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

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

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

### **RELIGION I**

Grade 9

1 Credit

Level 2, College Preparatory

Course number 608

#### ***SEMESTER I: SACRED SCRIPTURE: OLD TESTAMENT***

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

#### ***SEMESTER II: SACRED SCRIPTURE: NEW TESTAMENT***

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

### **RELIGION II**

Grade 10

1 Credit

Level 2, College Preparatory

Course number 609

#### ***SEMESTER I: HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH***

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

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

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

### **RELIGION III**

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

#### *SEMESTER I: RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF JESUS CHRIST*

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

#### *SEMESTER II: CHRISTIAN MORALITY AND CONSCIENCE FORMATION*

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

### **RELIGION IV**

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

#### **RELIGION IV SPECIAL TOPICS: DEATH AND DYING**

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

#### *SEMESTER I: DEATH AND DYING*

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

#### *SEMESTER II: ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS ISSUES\**

(Please see complete course description below)

#### **RELIGION IV SPECIAL TOPICS: CHRISTIAN ETHICS**

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

#### *SEMESTER I: CHRISTIAN ETHICS*

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

#### *SEMESTER II: ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS ISSUES\**

(Please see complete course description below)

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

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

#### **HONORS RELIGION IV: ACTS (A CHANCE TO SERVE)**

Grade 12            1 Credit                            Level 1                            Course number 618

This honors level course is designed to train leaders for service both within and beyond the school community. It will challenge students to

discover talents and develop skills to be used for a lifetime of service in church and civic communities. The meaning of ministry and service as well as a study of contemporary Christian leaders and the Church's social teaching will be considered throughout the course. Skills of communication, leadership, and faith sharing will be developed. Leadership activities in the school and community, including talks to other classes and on retreats, social action projects, and liturgical planning will be included. Students participate in an outdoor adventure and recreation program course in June. **Prerequisite:** Departmental approval and teacher interview required.

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

Grade 12                      1 Credit                      Level 1                      Course number 619

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

**Prerequisite:** Departmental approval and teacher interview required

## ***PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT***

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

### **THEATER ARTS**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course number 808

The goal of this course is to give students a thorough introduction to acting, musical theater, and stage production. Students will study improvisation, character development, action, and intention through games, scene work and other acting exercises. Students will watch various performances and analyze the work of master actors, responding with written analysis. There are no required texts, though students will occasionally have the opportunity to select their own scene work. Excerpts from *Respect for Acting* by Uta Hagan will be studied in addition to other relevant materials at the discretion of the teacher. This course may be repeated for elective credit.

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

Students will analyze and perform elements of musical theatre through artistic interpretation and execution.

The Stage Craft unit will explore the fundamentals of scenic, lighting, and sound design, as well as the methods and equipment used in executing those designs. This class will include hands on work with tools and stage hardware, as well as lighting and sound equipment.

### **CONCERT BAND (Level 2)**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course Number 800

The Concert Band consists of brass, woodwind, and percussion instrumentalists who have reached an intermediate level in technique and musicianship. This course develops elements of performance, as well as the basic principles of ensemble playing, instrument technique, listening skills and music theory within the context of rehearsing music of various styles and historical periods. Repertoire includes works for band that serve to prepare the students for admission into the Wind Ensemble. Some of the year is spent studying chamber music, and students may be broken into smaller musical groups. This group performs at school concerts and graduation ceremonies, and there is a trip to a music festival every year. Some after-school and evening rehearsals may be required. Meets four days per week

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

### **HONORS WIND ENSEMBLE (Level 1)**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12                      1 Credit                      Course Number 801

The Wind Ensemble is a select group of students who are highly motivated and seriously interested in instrumental music



performance. Students develop knowledge and skill in ensemble balance, tone production, repertoire study, and historical information to promote a high level of musicianship through performance with a strong foundation in the fundamentals of music. The Wind Ensemble performs advanced literature throughout the school year at school functions such as concerts, in-school assemblies and special events, including graduation ceremonies. Some after-school and evening rehearsals may be required. Meets four days per week

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

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

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 803

The Advanced Jazz Band is a highly developed performance ensemble consisting of standard big band instrumentation. This group rehearses two nights per week at the director's discretion. This course is a continuation of topics covered in the Jazz Ensemble. Students will study more difficult jazz literature and are expected to implement higher-level improvisatory technique. Participation at school concerts, assemblies, Celebrate! West Hartford and other activities throughout the year is mandatory. Membership in the Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, String Ensemble, or Chorus is required. Meets two evenings per week

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

### **STRING ENSEMBLE (Level 2)**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 806

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

**Prerequisite:** An audition is required. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Private lessons are highly recommended. String Ensemble may be repeated for credit.

### **ADVANCED STRING ENSEMBLE (Level 1)**

Grades 9,10,11,12

1 Credit

Course Number 807

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

**Prerequisite:** An audition is required. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Private lessons are strongly recommended. Advanced String Ensemble may be repeated for credit.

### **MUSIC THEORY I (Level 2)**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

0.5 Credit

Course Number 802

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

**Prerequisite:** Consent of instructor.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) MUSIC THEORY (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12

1.0 Credit

Course number 720

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

**Prerequisite:** Music Theory I (719) with a grade of B or better or placement exam and consent of instructor.

**CHAMBER CHOIR (Level 2)**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 798

This is a course in choral singing, vocal technique, listening skills, and music theory within the context of rehearsing music for performance. Course requirements include participation in the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Open to men and women. Meets 3 Days per Week

**Prerequisite:** Consent of instructor after audition.

**HONORS CONCERT CHOIR (Level 1)**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 797

This is an advanced level course in choral singing, vocal technique, listening skills, and music theory within the context of rehearsing music for performance. Course requirements include participation in the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Graduation Ceremony, and other selected performances throughout the year. Open to men and women. Meets 4 Days Per Week.

**Prerequisite:** Audition and consent of instructor.

**JAZZ CHOIR (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 804

This group is an advanced level choral ensemble. The Jazz Choir focuses on a repertoire of challenging jazz vocal music with concentration on a cappella and vocal improvisation. Vocal technique, listening skills, music theory, and music history is stressed within the context of preparation for performances and adjudications. This group performs at Christmas and Spring Concerts, the Berklee College of Music High School Jazz Festival, special events and tours. Meets 1 Day / 2 Evenings Per Week. **Prerequisite:** Audition

***VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT***

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

**ART I - INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ARTS (Level 2)**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 809

A semester long course that introduces the basic foundations of the visual arts. Students will explore a variety of artistic media including drawing, painting, animation, and design. Students will be introduced to the studies of Art History and Art Criticism.

**ART II - DRAWING AND PAINTING (Level 2)**

Grades 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 743

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

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

**ART III - DESIGN AND SCULPTURE (Level 2)**

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 744

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

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

**ART IV - ADVANCED VISUAL ARTS STUDIO (Level 1)**

Grade 12

1 Credit

Course Number 745

An advanced studio art class designed for students who are highly motivated and seriously interested in the arts. Students must have demonstrated unique perceptual ability through the quality (formal and technical), concentration, and depth of expression in their

work. The course outline is individualized to the particular student. Art History and Art Criticism are emphasized through the development of critical thinking and writing skills as applicable to fine art disciplines.

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

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART (Level 1)**

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 748

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

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

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

### **CRAFTS I: FUNCTIONAL ART AND CULTURE (Level 2)**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

0.50 Credit

Course Number 753

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

### **CRAFTS II: FUNCTIONAL ART AND CULTURE (Level 2)**

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

0.5 Credit

Course Number 757

Prerequisite: Crafts I: Functional Art and Culture

Crafts II is designed for students who are invested in further expanding their knowledge and experience of functional art and culture. Students will continue developing both their appreciation of functional art and their knowledge of the diverse forms and materials used to solve the utilitarian needs of a variety of cultures, both past and present. Through art-making experiences students will become more aware of how a culture's art is influenced by geography, culture, and social and historical events. Students will explore three-dimensional processes with various materials such as paint, clay, fabric, plaster, wood, and yarn using traditional and nontraditional constructive techniques. Emphasis will be placed on refining the skills they developed in Crafts I to produce work that is more complex and developed.

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL DESIGN (Level 2)**

Grades 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Course Number 811

Using the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as a foundation, students will spend the first half of the year learning the components of a camera, as well as creating photographs that exemplify the elements and principles of art. Through the use of cameras and computers students will be exposed to multiple design resources, software, and applications of media. They will use the Adobe Suite programs to edit, retouch and manipulate their images. During the second half of the year, students will focus on the principles of design in regard to typography, text effects, logo design, advertising skills, print layouts and product design. The end objective is for students to create a personalized portfolio or business website.

Professional communication skills and practices, problem-solving, ethical and legal issues, and the impact of effective presentation skills are discussed in this course to prepare students for college and ultimately their career. Employability skills are integrated into activities, tasks, and projects throughout the course standards to provide them with the skills required by businesses in a variety of fields.

**Prerequisite:** Introduction to Visual Arts

## ***PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/ WELLNESS PROGRAM***

### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS (Level 2, College Preparatory)**

Grade 11

0.50 Credit

Course number 980

**REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION** The program stresses the growth and development of sound physical and mental health through an

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

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12      0.50 Credit

Course number 916

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

**TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

**INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY** (Level 2, College Preparatory)

Grade 11      0.50 Credit

Course number 359

*NOTE: Students who score 85% or better on the Technology Skills Placement Test will receive credit for this course.*

Through the use of technology to enhance our program, students will learn the basics of computers to support classroom instruction. Practical training using the iPad will include digital access to textbooks and applications. In addition, the course will address the key issues of internet safety, privacy and security, reliability of online information, cyberbullying, information literacy, digital footprints and reputation, and intellectual property in the digital world. Students will learn and apply basic skills in word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations through knowledge in Microsoft Office and Google Suite to thoroughly complete assignments and enhance organizational skills. Technology related topics in mathematics, English, science, and the arts will be integrated throughout the lessons.

**COMPUTER PROGRAMMING** (Level 2)

Grades 10, 11, 12      0.50 Credit

Course number 351

This is a semester course designed to familiarize the student with the fundamental concepts of computer programming in the Java language. Mainly a "hands on" course, topics to be introduced include algorithms, programming methodology, and data structures. It includes writing and executing programs on the computer, and mathematical applications of these techniques. This course is a prerequisite for AP Computer Science

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

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER SCIENCE** (Level 1)

Grades 11, 12      1 Credit      (AP Test Fee: See page 6)

Course number 355

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

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

## ***DUAL CREDIT COURSES, COLLEGE COURSES, AND EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT***

Advanced students are offered the opportunity to take college courses at area college campuses, through our online program, or through approved Early College Credit courses at NWC. Applicants for this program must have the approval of parents and the Principal.

These courses incur additional fees. Please speak to your school counselor for more information.

### **ONLINE DUAL CREDIT:**

- Environmental Science
- Christianity and Western Civilization
- Principles of Accounting
- Accounting Principles
- Art Appreciation
- Ethnic and Minority Issues
- Explorations in Social Work
- Intro to Business
- Intro to Media Writing
- Intro to Criminal Justice
- Intro to Philosophy
- Philosophy: The Examined Life
- Logic
- Principles of Marketing

### **CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE: COLLEGE CAREER PATHWAYS COURSES**

Certain courses are available for Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors to take for college credit through Capital Community College. Please see the school counseling office for more details.

### **UNIVERSITY OF ST. JOSEPH CHALLENGE PROGRAM**

Certain 100 and 200 level courses are available for Juniors, and Seniors to take for college credit through the University of St. Joseph. Spots for USJ courses are limited, and there is an application process for acceptance into the USJ Challenge Program. Tuition is free for the first class, but students are responsible for the cost of books. Students must be ages 16-18. Students are only allowed to take one USJ Challenge Program course at a time. Please see the school counseling office for more details.

### ***ONLINE ELECTIVE COURSES***

The following elective options are available for students to take online. These courses incur additional fees. Please see your school counselor for more information.

- Advanced Placement Art History
- Digital Information Technology
- Forensic Science
- Game Design
- Introduction to Social Media
- Leadership Skills Development
- Mobile App Programming
- Music Appreciation
- Personal and Family Finance
- Theater, Cinema, and Film Production

## **ACADEMIC PLANNING**

The program offered at Northwest Catholic High School is designed to prepare students for college, as well as to provide a well-rounded high school education. Beginning with the class of 2023 the requirement for graduation is 26 credits including the following:

English	4.0
Religion	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Social Studies	4.0
Science	3.0
World Language (3 recommended)	2.0
Fine Art	1.0
Health & Wellness	0.5
Physical Education	1.0
Computer Principals	0.5
Electives	2.0
<b>Minimum Requirement</b>	<b>26</b>

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

Northwest Catholic High School and/ or the Archdiocese of Hartford reserve the right to amend the curriculum of the school at any time.

### **9<sup>th</sup> grade**

English I  
Religion I  
Mathematics  
Human Geography  
World Language  
Biology  
Fine Art or Phys Ed

**7.0 credits**

### **11<sup>th</sup> grade**

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

Elective

**7.0 credits**

### **10<sup>th</sup> grade**

English II  
Religion II  
Mathematics  
World History  
World Language  
Chemistry  
Fine Art, Phys Ed, or Elective

**7.0 credits**

### **12<sup>th</sup> grade**

English IV  
Religion IV  
Mathematics  
Social Studies  
Elective  
Elective

**6.0 credits**