



**MAGNIFICAT**

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**CLASS OF 2025  
FIRST-YEAR  
CURRICULUM  
GUIDE**

# FIRST-YEAR CURRICULUM

As a 9th grader at Magnificat High School, our goal is to provide a strong curricular foundation to allow for future exploration and choice. In the first year at Magnificat, students have several required courses to complete and can also begin to think about a future focus and elective opportunities. The following information will be helpful in guiding the newest members of our community and their families through this academic journey.

## Required Courses

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The following courses are required for all first-year students:

**Theology** (1 credit)

**English** (1 credit): placement is based on placement exam results and grades in 8th grade

**Personal Wellness and Healthy Living** (.5 credit)

**World Language** (1 credit): choose French, Spanish, or Arabic

**Math** (1 credit): placement is based on placement exam results and grades in 8th grade

**Science** (1 credit): placement is based on placement exam results and grades in 8th grade

**Global Communications and Research** (1 credit)

**Performing or Visual Arts** (.5 credit)

## Graduation and College Preparatory Recommendations

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Graduation Requirement Credits</i>	<i>Ideal College Preparatory Recommendation Credits</i>
Theology	4	4
English	4	4
Performing or Visual Art	1	1
Health/Physical Education	1	1
Mathematics	4	4
Science	3	4
Social Studies	3	3
World Language	2	4
Global Communications and Research	1	1

### Other Graduation Requirements:

- 25 total credits
- 6 credit minimum per school year
- High School Compass classes all 4 years
- Successful completion of Genesis Program

### Credit Flexibility

The Credit Flexibility Program is available to any student capable of completing the work outlined in a written Credit Flexibility Plan. There is no limit on the number of credits a student can earn under this program; however, Magnificat High School will only approve coursework or options that are consistent with our Mission, Values and Catholic Identity. The application form is available on PlusPortals; questions should be directed to a student's counselor.

We educate young women holistically to learn, lead, and serve in the spirit of Mary's Magnificat.

# FIRST-YEAR COURSES

## Theology

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### 115 Theology 9

9 required

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: none

- The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture (*Core 1, Bishop's Framework*)

Students will gain a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ.

- Who is Jesus Christ? (*Core 2*)

Students will be introduced to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Students will deepen their understanding that Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God and in learning about who he is, they will also learn who he calls them to be.

In addition, students will reflect on the charism of our founding order, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, as well on the implications of the mission statement of our school and Mary as our model.

## English

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### 406 Global Communications and Research

9 required

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: None

Students explore the fundamentals of research, writing, and delivering presentations. While researching, students use technology to collect and organize information, determine reliable internet sources, and provide proper documentation of sources. Writing skills are developed in the process of composing a research paper. Students also learn the importance of verbal and nonverbal communication as they build their public speaking abilities and present in various formats to the class.

## English *cont'd*

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### 411 English Foundations

9

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: English Department Recommendation

This year-long course meets a student's English 9 requirement. Students will review grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills. They will be introduced to new types of writing and reading comprehension strategies. There will be in-class opportunities to receive extra help from Magnificat tutors and/or an Intervention Specialist. Students who take this course will acquire mastery of essential knowledge and skills to support their success in the College Prep English 10 course which they will take as sophomores.

### 412 English 9

9 required

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: None

Students explore the various genres of literature and learn the terms associated with literary analysis of short stories, novels, mythology, poetry, Shakespearean drama, and non-fiction. These works are selected from various cultural and literary backgrounds. Students build their vocabulary, writing, research, and speech/presentation skills, and incorporate technology as it applies to assignments. This course assimilates the various literary experiences, and prepares them for advanced literary work in subsequent years.

### 418 Honors English 9

9

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: Recommendation based on placement exam

Honors English 9 is designed for students who are avid readers who enjoy and excel at writing, discussing and sharing their work in an English literature classroom. The Honors students analyze selections from the major literary genres, applying and refining their reading, writing, speaking, and research skills. Students will incorporate technology as it applies to individual assignments.

## Health and Physical Education

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### 240 Personal Wellness and Healthy Living

9 required

Semester

1/2 credit

Prerequisite: None

Freshmen study first aid and the personal, social and community dimensions of health. The health curriculum strives to encourage the emotional, physical, social, intellectual and spiritual growth of each student. The Health course focuses on the improvement of decision-making and problem-solving skills and their relationship with healthful living. Units presented to the students may include CPR, Wellness, Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, Nutrition, and Sexually Transmitted Infections.

## Mathematics

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### 502 Foundations for Algebra

9

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: Magnificat Math Department Recommendation

Students will learn about and deepen their understanding of real numbers, order of operations, algebraic expressions, solving one and two-step equations, and the coordinate plane. They will become more confident in their mathematical abilities and develop a strong foundation. This course sets up students for success in Algebra 1 and other future Math courses.

### 505 Algebra 1

9 required

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: None

Students solve linear, absolute value, literal and some quadratic equations; they find solutions to linear systems and inequalities. They graph linear and absolute value equations, find equations of lines and simplify and evaluate expressions involving polynomials.

## Mathematics *cont'd*

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### 510 Intermediate Algebra

9

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Magnificat Math Department recommendation

Students review and deepen their understanding of concepts learned in Algebra 1. Problem-solving skills are improved and confidence in math ability is developed. Students increase their understanding of functions and the elements of graphing and become proficient in the use of graphing calculators. This course sets up students for success in Algebra 2.

### 525 Geometry

9, 10 required

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Students study the shapes of two- and three-dimensional objects and analyze their properties and relationships. They recognize the logical structure of geometry and learn to define terms, test conjectures and construct proofs.

### 530 Honors Geometry

9, 10

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: Recommendation

Students study, in greater depth, the traditional topics of Euclidean and coordinate Geometry with emphasis on the logical development of a mathematical system. They discover patterns, formulate conjectures and develop their reasoning skills, both inductive and deductive.

## Performing Arts

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### 287 Intro to Dance

9, 10, 11, 12

*Semester*

1/2 credit

*Prerequisite: None*

Students will learn about dance as a form of expression as well as a suitable lifetime activity. This beginner course will focus on conditioning ballet, and jazz. During the semester students will develop their flexibility, technique and coordination.

### 277 Concert Choir

9, 10, 11, 12

*Semester*

1/2 credit

*Prerequisite: None*

Students will learn and develop vocal skills and techniques for performing in an ensemble. This course will focus on becoming a dependable member of the choral group while fine tuning the students' musical skills to create a meaningful performance. Music selections will consist of a variety of two or three part harmony.

### 291 Magnifi-Pops

9, 10, 11, 12

*Year*

1/2 credit

*Prerequisite: None*

Students participating for the full year are eligible to earn 0.5 Performing Arts credit. The group will focus on providing a positive environment for students to build and strengthen skills as musicians through rehearsing and performing a variety of genres of music. Specifically, instruction will be focused on reinforcing and improving technical skills, sight reading skills, and musicianship in a group context. Music choices will be influenced by student interest and the abilities of the ensemble, but could include a mix of genres including pop, rock, jazz, musical theater standards, and popular classical repertoire. The group will perform periodically during the year to showcase the work of the students and as a service to the community.

### 294 Class Piano

9, 10, 11, 12

*Semester*

1/2 credit

*Prerequisite: None*

This is an introductory piano class for beginners only. Students will learn the basic concepts and fundamentals for playing the piano as well as the music theory involved in reading music for a performance. Students will gain confidence and understanding, making playing the piano a rewarding experience.

### 275 Intro to Drama and Musical Theater

9, 10, 11, 12

*Semester*

1/2 credit

*Prerequisite: None*

This is an introductory course which will be beneficial to beginners and experienced performers. Students will explore the process of creating a character through collaboration and improvisation, learning skills that will help them appreciate the art of acting. The integrative nature of theater will be experienced through the incorporation of dance, music, visual art and media arts. Students will find this hands-on course both adventurous and fun as they build self-confidence and develop their own personal creativity.

### 302 Theatre Tech

9, 10, 11, 12

*Semester*

1/2 credit\*

*Prerequisite: None*

This is an introductory course featuring stage terminology and technical elements that go into creating a theatrical production. Students will learn the basics of set design and construction, painting, lighting, sound, costumes, makeup, and props. Hands on projects, supported by research, will provide each student with an opportunity to explore their creativity and to collaborate as they learn ways to make their vision come to life on the stage.

## Science

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### 706 Principles of Biology

9 required

Year

1 credit

*Prerequisite: Prerequisite:  
Magnificat Science Department  
Recommendation*

This year-long course meets a student's 9th-grade life science requirement. Students who take this course will acquire mastery of the essential knowledge and skills to support their future success in science classes at Magnificat. There will be in-class opportunities to receive additional help from a Magnificat tutor and/or Intervention Specialist.

### 701 Biology 1

9 required

Year

1 credit

*Prerequisite: None*

Biology 1 is designed to expose students to the underlying concepts and processes of life. The class revolves around evolution; driving the diversity and unity of life, free energy; its use in molecular building blocks to grow, reproduce and maintain dynamic homeostasis, information; storing, retrieving transmitting and responding and system interactions. Students also explore biology in real-world applications. The course includes discussions, laboratory investigations independent and collaborative projects emphasizing discovery and scientific inquiry of the structure and function of life from the global to the microscopic scale.

### 715 Honors Biology

9

Year

1 credit

*Prerequisite: Recommendation  
based on placement exam*

The student will be more challenged by the depth and fast pace of this course. Honors Biology will cover topics included in a general biology course in greater depth using the molecular approach and higher-level thinking skills. Emphasis will be placed on laboratory investigation with strategies to foster inquiry and problem analysis. Further topics will be explored to cultivate critical reasoning skills. Students will be required to work on additional independent projects throughout the year.

## Visual Arts

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### 210 Studio Art 1

9, 10, 11 12

Semester

1/2 credit

*Prerequisite: None*

This course will serve as entry to the novice art student who is interested in building a foundation, growing her artistic experience, and exploring the visual arts in a studio setting. Students will learn various art mediums and use artists' tools to create Art, preparing them for future studio courses. Students will gain knowledge of Art elements and Principles of design while strengthening their creative expression. Each student will keep a well-developed sketchbook. In this class, students will function as an art community in which they experience class critiques and work together to support the unique artistic expression of their peers.

### 211 Studio Art 2

9, 10, 11 12

Semester

1/2 credit

*Prerequisite: Studio Art 1, or by  
recommendation based on  
portfolio submission*

Studio Art 2 is intended for students who show a strong interest in art and wish to extend their skills knowledge in Painting, Drawing and Design. focus will be on the development of skills within these foundational areas. Studio opportunities involve projects that promote growth of observational skills and visual thinking. The course is structured, yet offers students the flexibility to choose various mediums and visual forms of expression. Working with and exploring the works of the masters, from traditional to contemporary, will guide students through problems of composition and technique. Students will individually showcase their own artwork, displaying their visual voice through a reflective portfolio.

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## Visual Arts *cont'd*

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### 225 Photography 1

9, 10, 11, 12

Semester

1/2 credit

Prerequisite: None

Photography will help students develop visual literacy skills and build a basic knowledge of photography. Students will learn about and understand the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as it relates to photography. A portfolio of various traditional and digital assignments will be developed throughout the course. Concentration will be on the development of technical skills and the refinement of aesthetic understanding and compositional strategies. The study of historical and contemporary photographers will inspire her own artistic and creative use of the camera. This course introduces the student to knowledge of both 35 mm and digital photography. Students will learn the science of exposure related to traditional film and how it translates to our digital technology, the history of photography, darkroom procedures, and digital editing using Adobe PhotoShop and LightRoom software. *Access to a DSLR is recommended; however, there are a limited number of cameras that can be borrowed for digital assignments. All film cameras will be provided.*

## World Languages & Cultures

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### 606 Introduction to Language & Culture

9

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: Magnificat World Languages Department Recommendation

This year-long 1.0 credit course seeks to provide an appreciation and understanding of other people through a study of cultures of the world. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of different languages, cultures, and histories from around the world. This course is ideal for students who may need extra support in the language learning process and sets them up for success in the first year of language.

## World Languages & Cultures *cont'd*

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### 610 Spanish 1/615 French 1

9

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: None

First level students will develop the skills to communicate by listening, speaking, reading and writing. They will gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures, explore the structure of language, make connections with other disciplines, and become aware of Spanish and French influence in the community.

### 617 Arabic 1

9

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: None

First year students will learn to speak Modern Standard Arabic, read from right to left, and use the Arabic alphabet to write in cursive handwriting, which incorporates rules for connecting letters. They will gain knowledge and understanding of linguistic and cultural variations of the Arabic-speaking world, and become aware of Arabic influence in the community.

### 620 Spanish 2/625 French 2

9, 10

Year

1 credit

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 1/ French 1

Second year students continue to develop language skills by listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish or French. Verb tenses, sentence structure and cultural perspectives and practices taught in the first year will be further developed. New vocabulary as well as grammatical concepts and linguistic comparisons will be introduced through a variety of communicative tasks including dialogues, compositions, and creative projects. Concepts continue to be presented in a cultural context, including geography and communities.

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## World Languages & Cultures *cont'd*

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### 627 Arabic 2

9, 10 *Year*

1 credit *Prerequisite: Successful completion of Arabic 1*

Second year students continue to develop language skills by listening, speaking, reading and writing in Arabic. Verbs, sentence structure and cultural perspectives and practices taught in the first year will be further developed. Students will continue to learn pronunciation, and the rules for writing and connecting letters in cursive. New vocabulary as well as grammatical concepts will be introduced through a variety of communicative tasks including dialogues, and creative projects. Concepts continue to be presented in a cultural context, including geography and communities.

## ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

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