

2021-2022



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY
CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS

UPPER SCHOOL



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

OUR MISSION

"The excellence of an institution is found in the class of students it sends forth each year to fight the battles of life."

Archbishop John Ireland, Founder of Saint Thomas Academy

It is our mission to help each student discover and develop his potential talents and abilities by providing an excellent college-preparatory education that instills qualities of everlasting value: leadership, a sense of brotherhood, a strong moral compass, self-confidence, a faith guided by the Catholic tradition, and an awareness of the importance of service to others.

OUR FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

- College Preparatory
- Catholic
- Military/Leadership Training
- All-Male



REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR 2021-2022

In order to ensure we have an accurate and efficient registration process we ask that each student follow the procedure below:

- Parents and students should review the graduation requirements and other information in this book, taking time to discuss next year's plans.
- Review course selections with your current instructors. Class time will be provided to make sure students receive advice about the most appropriate selections for next year.
- Unless otherwise designated, have current instructors sign the approval spaces on the Course Selection Form.
- Parents must sign the completed Course Selection Form.
- Current students bring the completed Course Selection Form to school on a designated date determined by the Director of Academic Life for turn in during flex.

COURSE AVAILABILITY AND PLACEMENT

- Any course may be canceled if enrollment is insufficient.
- Due to scheduling constraints, there is no guarantee that students will be able to fit all desired courses into their schedules.
- The Director of Academic Life, in consultation with department chairs, reserves the right to place students.

Note: As a college prep school, all students are encouraged to carry a full schedule. Approval is needed from the Director of Academic Life for a study hall to address learning accommodations or special circumstances.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must successfully complete a minimum of the following academic courses, in ninth through the twelfth grade, for graduation.

English	4 years
Fine Arts	1/2 year (year long course)
Health	1/2 year (year long course)
Leadership	4 years (or each year at Saint Thomas Academy)
Mathematics*	3 years
Physical Education	1 credit (2 years)
Science (Laboratory)*	3 years (Biology and Chemistry required)
Social Studies	3 1/2 years*
Theology	4 years (or each year at Saint Thomas Academy)
World Language*	Completion of 3rd level of same language in high school

Most selective colleges expect four years of math, science and world language if available in high school.

Other Academic Requirements include:

- Write and deliver a senior speech to the student body and school community at Formation.
- One hundred hours of community service moderated by the STA service-learning program.
- As a college preparatory school, Saint Thomas Academy values post-secondary education. As such, all seniors are required to complete at least one application to a four-year college. While STA recognizes that some students may choose to take a gap year for service, work, travel or athletic opportunities, it is important for each student to plan, prepare and set goals for his short and long-term future. College counseling is part of each cadets' experience and the college counseling staff will assist cadets in planning their individual post-secondary needs.

All required courses listed are organized on a semester basis for grading purposes. Grades received at the end of the first and second semester are FINAL grades for each semester.

Please note: AP, CIS and PAAC courses have an additional fee associated with the exam. CIS and PAAC courses allow students to earn college credit and receive a transcript directly from the University of Minnesota or St. Mary's University.

*Please note: Requirement of 3 1/2 years begins with the Class of 2021.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Academic accommodations are intended to ensure access to educational opportunities for students with learning, cognitive, and sensory differences. Saint Thomas Academy is committed to helping students realize their full potential and achieve independence by providing reasonable services needed to accommodate individuals with learning differences. Based on the recommendations included in the documentation of a learning difference provided by the student's parent/guardian, the Learning Specialist along with the Learning Plan Committee determines and arranges all academic accommodations for students with learning differences. Accommodations may include alternative testing arrangements (e.g., extended-time and oral clarification), assistance from peer note takers, and preferential seating.

ADDING OR DROPPING A COURSE

All high school courses at Saint Thomas Academy are year long courses, unless otherwise noted. As such, a course may only be added during the **first week** of the **first semester**. Requests to add courses after the first full week of the semester are subject to instructor approval. Requests to drop courses must also be made within **one week** of the **first semester**. After the first week, requests to drop are decided by the Director of Academic Life, in consultation with the instructor.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP), COLLEGE IN THE SCHOOLS (CIS), PACC AND HONORS COURSES

Saint Thomas Academy offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science, Economics, English, Environmental Science, Government, Spanish, Statistics, U.S. History, and World History. AP Chinese and French are offered through Visitation. Students may earn college credit by taking an AP exam in May. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam. The GPA weight for AP courses is 1.2.

Qualified students may enroll in university level courses offered through College in the Schools (CIS), through the University of Minnesota, or the Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC), through Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Courses offered are: AP Biology, Honors Advanced Morality, AP Calculus (AB) and CIS French.

CIS and PACC courses require additional fees and/or book purchases. Courses are listed on transcripts at both STA and the university sponsoring the class. Colleges that accept these credits will require formal transcripts from the participating university.

Saint Thomas Academy offers a variety of honors courses. These, as well as the AP, CIS, and PACC courses, demand more study time and effort than standard courses. In addition to meeting the prerequisites, students must be highly motivated and willing to study more independently and at an accelerated rate.

COURSES AT VISITATION

Students from Saint Thomas Academy may enroll in a class at Visitation if: The class is not offered at Saint Thomas Academy, or a scheduling conflict involving a class required for graduation prevents the student from taking the class at Saint Thomas Academy, and space is available in the class.

Students who are interested in information about classes available at Visitation should contact the Director of Academic Life at Saint Thomas Academy. The following Visitation courses are open to Saint Thomas Academy students:

VISTA String Orchestra
VISTA Theatre

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Students who receive a grade of D+ or below in Algebra I, Spanish I, French I, or Rhetorical Skills are strongly encouraged to improve weak skills over the summer in order to be ready for the next level the following fall. Students are encouraged to seek out tutorials or summer classes or sessions at learning centers to improve these skills.

GRADING

The following grading system is in use at Saint Thomas Academy:

A = 4 points	I (Incomplete)	= 0 points
B = 3 points	S (Satisfactory)	= 0 points
C = 2 points	U (Unsatisfactory)	= 0 points
D = 1 point		
F = 0 points		

CALCULATING GRADE POINT AVERAGE (G.P.A.)

The following chart illustrates how letter grades, depending on the course weight, are converted to grade points. A student's grade point average (GPA) is calculated by dividing the total grade points earned by the number of courses (units) taken each semester. All courses that meet two out of three days count as one unit. Courses that meet one of out of three days count as .5 units.

G.P.A CALCULATION TABLE

Grade	0.5 Weight	1.0 Weight	1.1 Weight	1.2 Weight
A	2.00	4.00	4.40	4.80
A-	1.84	3.67	4.04	4.40
B+	1.67	3.33	3.67	4.00
B	1.50	3.00	3.30	3.60
B-	1.34	2.67	2.94	3.20
C+	1.17	2.33	2.57	2.80
C	1.00	2.00	2.20	2.40
C-	0.84	1.67	1.84	2.00
D+	0.67	1.33	1.47	1.60
D	0.50	1.00	1.10	1.20
D-	0.34	0.67	0.74	0.80
F, I or W	0	0	0	0

INCOMPLETE GRADES

"Incomplete" marks must be changed to letter grades within two (2) weeks from the end of each quarter/semester, or the "Incomplete" will revert to the grade at that time. Any exceptions must be approved by the Director of Academic Life.

MAKING UP A CREDIT

A student who fails a course required for graduation must make up the credit. It is the parents or student's responsibility to arrange for making up a failed course. Prior approval from the Director of Academic Life is required for courses taken outside Saint Thomas Academy. Failed courses may be made up in the following ways:

- Retaking the course during the next school year at Saint Thomas Academy. The grade replaces the previous grade on the transcript and in calculating the GPA.
- Credits earned for college-prep level courses in an accredited and approved summer school. Upon receipt of an official transcript, the grade replaces the previous grade on the transcript and in calculating the GPA. See Director of Academic Life for prior approval form.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Transfer students must meet with the Director of Academic Life to review transfer credits.

- The GPA weight for regular courses is 1.0
- The GPA weight for Honor classes is 1.1
- The GPA weight for IB courses is 1.2
- The GPA weight for AP courses is 1.2
- Physical Education courses receive an "S" or "U"
- The Director of Academic Life will determine credits for online classes

WEIGHTING COURSES

Each course has a numerical value based on the frequency of meeting and course difficulty. In this handbook, the course weights and lengths of classes are indicated by the following designations:

0.5 = meets either two out of three days for an entire semester in the ABC cycle or one out of three days for the entire year.

1.0 = meets two of three days in the ABC cycle all year long.

1.1 = Honors Courses meet two of three days in the ABC cycle all year long.

1.2 = Advanced Placement (AP) Course, CIS, PACC meet two of three days in the ABC cycle all year long.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: 4 YEARS

	9	10	11	12
REQUIRED	Rhetorical Skills	Literature & Composition Literature & Composition Honors	American Literature & Composition or Critical Reading & Writing Honors	Senior Choice-Based English Courses or English Literature and Composition AP

The English program at Saint Thomas Academy provides students with the opportunity to develop increasing mastery of skills in reading, writing, speaking, focusing on student-centered approaches. Grade nine emphasizes language skills necessary for successful study at the Academy while courses in grades ten through twelve increasingly prepare students for successful study at the college level. The department believes that individuals who understand and can use language effectively will enjoy more fulfilling lives.

The English Department gives all students the tools to:

- Read with understanding and critical insight.
- Express ideas clearly in a variety of written forms.
- Develop skills necessary for effective oral communication.
- Analyze and evaluate the significance of ideas.
- Conduct and present scholarly research.
- Hone critical thinking skills.

RHETORICAL SKILLS - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

This course works to establish competency with the necessary English skills that enable students to succeed in a rigorous, college-preparatory program. Students read literature from diverse perspectives and settings and develop abilities related to reading comprehension and appreciation, as well as literary analysis and critical thinking. Greek and Latin roots are learned and practiced to help students develop a strong working vocabulary. Students write a variety of types of essays with a focus on thesis construction and support, organization of paragraphs and ideas, and proper use of language. Effective speaking skills are practiced through a variety of individual and group formats. Research techniques are introduced and developed through the completion of a large project.

LITERATURE & COMPOSITION - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

The literature of this class integrates and builds critical thinking and reading skills by asking students to analyze the styles and techniques of various literary genres: short stories, drama, poetry, and novels. The diversity of voices and experiences contained within these works exposes students to experiences and perspectives that differ from their own. Through persuasive thesis-driven papers and creative writing, as well as multimedia projects, students develop critical thinking, research skills, evidence-based arguments, effective organization, and personal voice.

LITERATURE & COMPOSITION HONORS – Grade Level: 10

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite: To register for Honors English, students need instructor's approval.

Designed as preparation for Critical Reading and Writing Honors, this course relies on a genuine excitement for literature and writing as well as sincere intellectual curiosity. Focusing on challenging literature and a variety of composition types the course is built to expand upon and maximize existing skills in discussion, literary analysis, written composition and critical thinking. Literature will be drawn from a wide swath of genres, and the diversity of voices and experiences contained within the works exposes students to experiences and perspectives that differ from their own.

AMERICAN LITERATURE & COMPOSITION - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

This course offers a survey of American literature that is organized within dominant themes. Major authors, significant literary movements, and multicultural perspectives are highlighted. Composition and speech are integrated with the reading program, and students do a variety of writing, from informal reading responses to a formal research paper as well as creative writing. Writing focuses include proofreading for grammatical and mechanical perfection, development of ideas, and revision techniques. Students will need to complete a formal research paper to pass the class.

CRITICAL READING & WRITING HONORS - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Honors Literature and Composition instructor's approval or a grade of A- or better in Literature and Composition with the instructor's approval.

This course is designed as preparation for AP English with emphasis on reading and writing with critical awareness. Both American and world writers and a survey of texts are included. Specific analyses include textual interpretations of varied genres. Assignments center on analytical papers, including a research paper, a personal essay, and a variety of oral presentations. Focuses on writing improvement include proofreading for grammatical and mechanical perfection, development of ideas, and revision techniques. To register for Honors English, students need instructor's approval.

ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION AP - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Honors Critical Reading & Writing and instructor's approval.

AP English is intended to prepare seniors for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam. Students may receive college credit or placement in advanced levels of college English. The primary emphasis in AP English is to provide students with the rigorous academic experiences of a college English course. Students read and discuss novels, poems, plays, and philosophical essays in order to hone their literary insight and develop higher-level writing skills. Formal papers prepare students for college writing; timed essays and multiple-choice tests provide them with extensive exposure to the types of questions encountered on the AP Exam. Students will have extensive outside reading and are expected to be able to comprehend difficult texts on their own. It is not unusual for AP English students to read 30 to 40 pages of a novel in one night, and sometimes entire novels are assigned for reading outside of class by a certain date. In addition, students will write frequently, with a long formal paper, several in-class essays, and a number of short pieces each quarter. Daily preparation for class and participation in class discussion is also required. **All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.**

SENIOR CHOICE-BASED ENGLISH COURSES - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

While these thematic courses cover a variety of subjects, each builds and consolidates the foundational skills to help students meet college-level reading and writing standards. Students will engage with literature representative of diverse perspectives and experiences. Through seminar-style discussion and writing assignments such as persuasive thesis-driven papers, organized personal responses, and independent projects, students develop critical thinking, research skills, evidence-based arguments, effective organization, and personal voice.

CRIME FICTION - Grade Level: 12, 1 Semester

Weight: 1.0

Missing persons, institutional corruption, that one last big score. These are the realms of the detectives, criminals, and private eyes who navigate both sides of the law. Having long fascinated popular culture, the crime novel is uniquely positioned to address many significant problems and issues of contemporary society while still offering crackerjack mysteries and sizzling drama. From the earliest examples of Poe and Conan Doyle, through the hard-boiled stylings of Hammett and Chandler, to contemporary writers like George Pelecanos and Vince Flynn, crime fiction perfectly marries exciting narratives, indelible characters, psychological struggles, and social commentary.

FILM AND LITERATURE - Grade Level: 12, 1 Semester

Weight: 1.0

From their inception to *Inception*, films have captivated audiences for over a century, creating a multi-medium art form that combines narrative, staged performance and cinematic imagery into a dynamic visual text open to multiple critical readings. With an emphasis on critical reading, this course pairs the critical study of novels, novellas and short stories such as Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" with their cinematic adaptations, exploring that complex textual relationship through seminar discussions, oral presentations, and analytical essay compositions. Beyond this exploration, students learn film theory, visual analysis, essential film vocabulary, cinematography, videography and film editing, applying this knowledge to the development of adapted screenplays and to the production of their own short films. By the end of this course, students will have not only read and viewed classic literature and landmark films, but will have cultivated their own talents as story creators and cinematic directors.

THE HERO'S JOURNEY - Grade Level: 12, 1 Semester

Weight: 1.0

A hero leaves the common world into one of unexplored supernatural wonder, encounters various opposing forces, bests them in a decisive, personal victory and returns home triumphant. This is the traditional hero's journey, what Joseph Campbell called the monomyth, and from Tolkien to George Lucas, Homer to Han Solo, it offers a unique window into our modern understanding of heroism, villainy, leadership, and even the concept of story itself. This course will explore Campbell's traditional hero's journey, applying it to novels, short stories, poems and films, opening new avenues of appreciation and understanding. Course will cover material from Ancient Greek epics to modern television episodes, allowing students to begin to see the patterns inherent in stories and thus, human experience.

LITERATURE OF WAR - Grade Level: 12, 1 Semester

Weight: 1.0

According to the great war correspondent, Chris Hedges, “War is a force that gives us meaning,” combining the broad clash of nations and cultures throughout time with the intensely personal stories of soldiers and civilians struggling to survive war and its aftermath. This course will draw from this vast story well, exploring war’s impact on the conscience and consciousness of nations, communities, families and individuals—on both sides of the conflict. Incorporating novels, plays, poems and memoirs ranging from Ancient Greece to the modern Middle East, 19th Century Russia to 20th Century Vietnam, the Literature of War course is designed to develop, through critical reading, writing and discussion, a greater empathy and understanding of the cost and consequence of both current and historical conflicts.



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

FINE ARTS



GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: .5 YEAR

ELECTIVES	9	10	11	12
	Ceramics I	Cadet Vision*	Art History AP	Art History AP
	Computer Graphics	Ceramics I, II* or Honors*	Cadet Vision*	Cadet Vision*
	Drawing I & Painting I	Computer Graphics	Ceramics I, II* or Honors*	Ceramics I, II* or Honors*
	Digital Photography I	Film & Video Production*	Computer Graphics	Computer Graphics
	Guitar: Beginning	Digital Photography I	Film & Video Production*	Film & Video Production*
	Piano: Beginning	Digital Photography II*	Digital Photography I	Digital Photography I
	STA Choir	Drawing I & Painting I	Digital Photography II*	Digital Photography II*
	VISTA Concert/Military Band/Honors	Drawing II* & Painting II*	Digital Arts Capstone*	Digital Arts Capstone*
	VISTA Jazz Band	Guitar: Beginning	Drawing I & Painting I	Drawing I & Painting I
	VISTA String Orchestra	Piano: Beginning	Drawing II* & Painting II*	Drawing II* & Painting II*
		STA Choir	Drawing III* & Painting III*	Drawing III* & Painting III*
		VISTA Concert/Military Band/Honors	Sculpture*	Independent Study: Ceramics*
		VISTA Jazz Band	Guitar: Beginning	Independent Study: Drawing or Painting*
		VISTA String Orchestra	Piano: Beginning	Sculpture*
			STA Choir	Guitar: Beginning
			VISTA Concert/Military Band/Honors	Piano: Beginning
			VISTA Jazz Band	STA Choir
			VISTA String Orchestra	Theatre
				VISTA Concert/Military Band/Honors
				VISTA Jazz Band
				VISTA String Orchestra
	*INSTRUCTOR SIGNATURE OF APPROVAL REQUIRED			

VISUAL ARTS

The art program is designed to give students a working knowledge of the tools and language of the visual arts so that they are able to think effectively, work creatively, and know first hand the artistic experience. The offerings of the program are varied and aim to meet the individual needs of the student at any level of development and from any background of artistic experience. It is the goal of the art department that the students will accomplish each of the following:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the art skills, techniques, and concepts used to convey ideas.
- Apply both abstract reasoning and emotional intuitive responses during the art experience.
- Convey ideas through multiple stage techniques and mixed media processes.
- Make knowledgeable aesthetic value judgments based on personal work, the work of other students, and artists of the past and present.
- Have an artwork exhibited and experience art in a gallery or museum setting.
- Understand the relationship of arts, to society and learn to respect for the expressions of others.

ART HISTORY AP – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.2

The Classical World – Semester 1

Prehistoric art – Late Gothic Art

Modern Art – Semester 2

Proto-Renaissance Art to Post Modern Art

These classes will explore humankind's cultural heritage and significant ideas that have contributed to it and its effect upon our lives today. We will also examine art, music, literature, theatre, religion, history and philosophy as a total product, which collectively represents the thoughts, attitudes and ideas of humankind. The course will survey artworks and examine art as a reflection of society. Students that complete both courses will have the opportunity to complete AP example for possible college credit.

VISUAL ARTS - TRADITIONAL

CERAMICS I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

An introduction to ceramics, focusing mainly on hand-building techniques (pinch, slab, and coil). Second semester will focus on sculpture (both functional and decorative), and an introduction to throwing cylinders, bowls and cups on the pottery wheel. Proper safety and cleaning routines are included, as participation is part of the final grade.

CERAMICS II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Ceramics I with instructor approval.

Students with further their skills in ceramics, using the hand-building and throwing techniques they learned in Ceramics I. Expectations for Ceramics II are much higher, as students should be expected to work fairly independently to explore the media and building techniques. Proper safety and cleaning routines are included, as participation is part of the final grade.

CERAMICS HONORS – Grade Level 10-12

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite: Ceramics I and II with instructor approval

Students will further develop their skills in ceramics, using the construction methods they have learned in the previous ceramics courses. They will be expected to work more independently in order to develop their own concepts and ideas. These projects will be approved by their instructor. A higher level of work ethic, craftsmanship, and ceramics understanding will be expected and pursued. Additional firing and glazing methods will be explored. Student will be encouraged to enter their artwork in at least one regional or national juried exhibition. Proper safety and cleaning routines are included as part of the grade.

INDEPENDENT STUDY: CERAMICS - 1 Semester, Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

The area of study is determined by the student and the teacher. Areas of focus may include: Continuing to work on a series of artworks, learning more in depth techniques, firing methods, glaze making, exhibition. An instructor interview is required, along with approval from the Director of Academic Life.

DRAWING I & PAINTING I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

For the first half of the year, students will be undergoing a series of studio drawing activities, designed to develop a better understanding of the methods of drawing; including drawing from observation, gesture, still life, portraits, perspective, realism and abstraction. The Second half of the year we will study painting. Additionally, we will learn the elements and principles of design, such as form, contour, line, proportion, value, negative/positive space, balance, contrast, color theory and texture. For drawing, various drawing media will be explored; including charcoal, pastels, pencils, ink and colored pencils. Painting- we will paint on primarily stretched canvas with acrylic paints.

DRAWING II & PAINTING II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Drawing I & Painting I with instructor approval.

Students will further their skills in drawing and painting, using the techniques they learned in Drawing I and Painting I. They will work more independently on their projects, while continuing to challenge themselves and experiment with various drawing media and explore a more in-depth study of color and painting techniques.

DRAWING III & PAINTING III - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Drawing II & Painting II with instructor approval.

Students will further their skills in drawing and painting, using the techniques they learned in Drawing II and Painting II. They will work more independently on their projects, while continuing to challenge themselves and experiment with various drawing media and explore a more in-depth study of color and painting techniques.

INDEPENDENT STUDY: DRAWING OR PAINTING - 1 Semester, Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

The area of study is determined by the student and the teacher. Areas of focus may include: Continuing to work on a series of artworks, learning more in depth techniques, experimentation with various mediums, exhibition. An instructor interview is required, along with approval from the Director of Academic Life.

SCULPTURE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

This course will focus on building three dimensional objects/sculptures using mixed media materials; including chicken wire, papier-mâché, plaster gauze, cardboard, plaster, clay, wood and found objects. This is a great course to develop critical thinking, and creative problem-solving skills. This course will be offered every other year.

VISUAL ARTS - DIGITAL**COMPUTER GRAPHICS** - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

This computer graphics course will provide students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the power, precision, creative inspiration, and control of computer graphics. Graphic design pushes the boundaries of digital imaging and is a must for students pursuing careers in marketing, business, journalism, PR work, design, advertising, illustration, web design, and video game design. Students will develop foundational skills in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator CC.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Students will learn the basics of digital SLR camera operation and photo creation. Students expand their skills in creating photographs while exploring various experimental photographic techniques, including long exposure, sequence, and cinemagraph photography. This course will introduce students to editing in Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Registrants for this course are encouraged to have access to a DSLR camera with manual light and speed adjustments.

FILM & VIDEO PRODUCTION - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Computer Graphics or Digital Photography I with instructor approval.

This computer graphics and video editing course will provide students with the opportunity to further develop their skills in the digital field. We will use the Adobe Creative Suite with an emphasis on Premiere Pro and additional work in Photoshop, Illustrator, and After Effects. Students will complete projects with the use of cameras, lighting, and the green screen. They will be able to dive into the depths of digital video editing while uncovering new techniques and ways to view film along the way.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Digital Photography I with instructor approval.

This course is designed to help the student who has basic technical and aesthetic knowledge to further his understanding of the principles and techniques of photography. In-class critiques will provide feedback on students' work. Students will explore advanced concepts relating to contemporary artistic and photographic practice, with special emphasis placed on portfolio development. Students should expect to provide their own DSLR camera.

CADET VISION – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Computer Graphics or Digital Photography I with instructor approval

Cadet Vision will provide students with the opportunity to further develop their skills in the digital field of cinematography. This course will also cover a wide variety of topics such as how to advertise/market a product or service, how to read digital media and how digital media affects our everyday life. We will be creating commercials and sports hype videos in an effort to better understand the tools and techniques used by professionals. Students will be given the opportunity to explore the depths of Adobe Premiere Pro, iMovie and After Effects to edit and complete their masterpiece.

DIGITAL ARTS CAPSTONE – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: One Level I and Level II class with instructor approval

Digital Arts Capstone is designed for students entering their third or fourth year of Digital Arts classes. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how to creatively brainstorm and develop conceptually strong ideas. Students will choose areas of focus within the field of Digital Arts and will work closely with the instructor to customize ambitious, independently tailored projects for each quarter that build on the students' specific interests.

MUSIC

The music program at Saint Thomas Academy is designed to promote and direct musical growth, help members become proficient on their chosen instruments or with their voices, and provide a creative outlet for musical talent. The music department also serves as a support group for the Academy at athletic events, liturgies, parades, and concerts where the general public is invited. It is our objective that the students:

- Become proficient at their chosen instruments or with their voices to a level consistent with the average level at each grade.
- Become familiar with different historical styles and composers of music through the performance of balanced repertoires.
- Learn what it is like to be a part of a large group, all working towards the same goal, where the efforts of any one individual are considered essential to achieving that goal.
- Be prepared and motivated enough to continue singing or playing their instruments in college and for life, even if only for recreation.
- Attain the maximum level of achievement the member's talent allows him to reach.

GUITAR: BEGINNING - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Beginning Guitar is an entry-level fine arts elective course for those students interested in gaining knowledge and skills related to acoustic guitar. Over the length of this course, students will learn the parts of the guitar, chord progressions, scales, strumming patterns, accompaniment figures and arpeggios. By the conclusion of the course, students should be able to play and accompany basic folk and rock songs in their own student-led ensembles. School-owned guitars are available for use during class time and to check-out for at-home practice. Students will receive a grade based upon the following factors: knowledge of the instrument, mastery of basic guitar chords, note reading, scales, rhythm, basic music notation, and individual/small group playing.

PIANO: BEGINNING – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: This course is for beginners. Students who want to learn how to play the piano and develop basic playing skills for a lifetime of enjoyment and entertainment.

Beginning piano is an entry-level fine arts elective course for those students who want to learn and develop their individual playing skills, gain a deep understanding of music and experience the joy of independent playing. Throughout the course students will learn to read music with an approach that is easy to understand, study basic music theory, discover the world of music at your fingertips such as classical, folk, pop, jazz, blues and spirituals. Students will work individually, and also play and perform in groups to master the techniques of playing. Formal and Informal assessments will be part of the course, (quizzes, tests, performance-based rubrics, and class participation. STA will provide electric pianos and the piano course books for students.

STA CHOIR - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

The STA Choir program is open to any student who is interested in singing and wants to be part of a musical ensemble that builds on trust and teamwork. During the course students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the richness of other cultures, and the connections music brings to people. Students will learn how to sing with proper vocal technique and gain confidence in their own singing skills. The focus of the choir is to enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of every student through rehearsals and performance. The choir has four main concerts throughout the school year and sings at community and sports events. The choir also collaborates with other VISTA performing groups and has participated in music educational tours nationally and internationally.

VISTA CONCERT/MILITARY BAND - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: At least one year of experience playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument or prior approval by the director.

The VISTA Concert Band/STA Military Band is open to any students with prior band experience. The band presents three formal concerts annually and also performs at military ceremonies, athletic and community events. In addition to furthering personal growth as individual musicians, emphasis is placed on creating a unified musical expression by the entire ensemble through large group rehearsals, sectionals, and chamber music. Attendance at a limited number of rehearsals and performances outside the school day is expected of all members—including the August marching band camp. Students may be invited by the instructor to do honors level work placing an emphasis on private lessons or participation in auditioned ensembles that meet outside the normal school day. Criteria to be eligible for the honors credit is available from the instructor.

VISTA CONCERT/MILITARY BAND HONORS - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Two years experience playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument or prior approval by the director.

The VISTA Concert Band/STA Military Band is open to any students with prior band experience. The band presents three formal concerts annually and also performs at military ceremonies, athletic and community events. In addition to furthering personal growth as individual musicians, emphasis is placed on creating a unified musical expression by the entire ensemble through large group rehearsals, sectionals, and chamber music. Attendance at a limited number of rehearsals and performances outside the school day is expected of all members--including the August marching band camp. Criteria to be eligible for the honors credit is available from the instructor.

VISTA JAZZ BAND - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of audition in May for the following academic year. Participation is limited to traditional jazz instruments: saxophones, trumpets, trombones and rhythm section (bass, guitar, piano, drum set.). This course is open to students from both STA and Visitation. Students who perform on saxophone, trumpet or trombone must be concurrently enrolled in either Vista Concert Band course. The VISTA Jazz Band meets two times weekly during zero hour for full ensemble and sectional rehearsals. Students will study, prepare and perform jazz music from a wide variety of genres and historical periods. VISTA Jazz will appear at a variety of formal and informal performances and other school and community events both on and off campus.

VISTA STRING ORCHESTRA - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Two years experience playing a string instrument.

The Vista Orchestra includes string players in grades 9 – 12 from Visitation and Saint Thomas Academy. Musicians interested in this class must play the violin, viola, cello, or bass, and must have at least two years of playing experience. String Orchestra is an elective that meets as a regular class in the school day schedule. The string Orchestra curriculum focuses not only on developing musical skills, but also on developing an understanding and appreciation of music through the study, rehearsal, and performance of concert repertoire. The string orchestra participates in numerous concerts and special events throughout the school year.

THEATRE**THEATRE** - 1 Semester, Grade Level: 12

Weight 1.0

This course is an exploration of the elements of theatre from the varied perspectives of actor, scenic designer, technical director, choreographer, producer and director. Students receive an introduction to acting techniques using monologue and scene work, a look at scenic design and how it affects a production, insight into the job of the director, costume design as it defines the character and the technical aspects of a production. The theatre class also studies the roots of drama and the history of musical theatre.



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



GRADUATION REQUIREMENT:

Health - .5 credit (.25 credit during Freshman Health, and .25 credit over the next three years, in conjunction with Physical Education)

Physical Education – 1 credit (.5 credit as a freshman and .5 over the next three years)

	9	10	11	12
REQUIRED	Health/ Physical Education 1	Physical Education II Activity Based Health & Physical Education	Advanced Health & Physical Education Activity Based Health & Physical Education	Advanced Health & Physical Education (cannot register for this class if previously taken)
ELECTIVES		Health Matters "Your Health, Your World" STA Grind Strength Training I	Health Matters "Your Health, Your World" Hey, Ref! STA Grind Strength Training I Strength Training II The Cream of the Crop	Health Matters "Your Health, Your World" Hey, Ref! Performance Fitness Strength Training I Strength Training II The Cream of the Crop

HEALTH

Health is a graded course (A-F). In high school, a portion of Health must be taken during 9th grade, with the remainder in the coming 3 years. The general objectives of health education include instilling in the students:

- An appreciation of current health issues.
- An awareness and understanding social situations and relationships.
- An understanding of body systems and illness.
- An understanding of the correlation between lifestyle and wellness.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of Physical Education is to enhance both physical and social development for all students. By providing guidance, instruction and experiences that help young men make informed choices about their fitness and well being, students are challenged to reach their full potential. The general objectives of the P.E. department include instilling in the students:

- An appreciation, understanding and application of physical fitness.
- An appreciation and understanding of lifetime sports and activities.
- An appreciation and understanding of team sports and leadership.
- An introduction to a variety of activities, some of which they would not normally have exposure to.

Physical Education grade is a Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U); S/U grade is not included in GPA.

HEALTH - Grade Level: 9 – 1 Semester

Weight: 1.0

The health course is designed to include current topics as well as information related to body systems, nutrition, anatomy and personal wellness. Age-relevant topics and activities are included in health options in grades 10 through 12.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I - Grade Level: 9 - 1 Semester

Weight: N/A

Physical Education courses are activity-based involving instruction and participation in both team and individual activities. Team sports may include soccer, football, basketball, speedball, volleyball, pickle ball, and softball. Individual activities are age-relevant and introduce students to fitness and conditioning, including swimming, weight training and personal physical fitness testing.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II - Grade Level: 10

Weight: N/A

Continued instruction and participation in both team and individual activities. Team sports may once again, include soccer, football, basketball, speedball, volleyball, pickle ball, badminton and softball. Individual activities are age-relevant and allow students to further develop their personal fitness. Conditioning, swimming, weight training and water safety units are part of the curriculum.

ADVANCED HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: N/A

With an individualized approach, the activities of Advanced Physical Education are age-appropriate and designed to allow students to concentrate on life-long skills and activities that will enhance their development as healthy members of society beyond Saint Thomas Academy. Involving the aspects of physiology and life science, students will develop a deeper understanding of why and how they can live healthy lives.

ACTIVITY BASED HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Grade Level: 10-11

Weight: N/A

Prerequisite: Instructor approval and verification of participation in STA athletics required.

Students participating in athletics have the option of counting their participation towards the second half of the P.E. graduation requirement (all 9th graders take P.E.). A cadet who chooses this option must complete the application process and must demonstrate competency in Saint Thomas Academy's physical fitness criteria. This involves creating a yearly plan/portfolio to track nutrition, exercise and various assignments designed to meet the core requirements of the Health & Physical Education program. This only applies to STA activities and the student must complete the season. This course is designed as an independent study, will meet during flex as needed, and may include an online component.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES**HEALTH MATTERS****"YOUR HEALTH, YOUR WORLD"** - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

This course is designed to provide an in-depth research and understanding opportunity in health-related topics relevant to individual students. Students will select a topic of interest and be required to demonstrate their learning through presentations, assessments and projects related to their course of study. They will meet with their instructor 1 time every A/B/C rotation and produce a semester-ending presentation of their findings. The course is open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors and may be offered to Freshmen with unique academic situations.

HEY, REF! - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

The course is designed to train officials for various sports. Students who are enrolled in the course will work towards certification in their chosen sport(s). The one semester course will feature physical fitness training and conditioning, the development of effective communication skills and overall game management skills – including training on how to operate game timing devices. Students will analyze game film, practice/participate as officials during Physical Education classes, and develop an understanding of the overall approach of an effective game official.

PERFORMANCE FITNESS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

This year-long course will help improve athletic performance through functional movements, mobility, explosiveness and nutrition. Students will create a foundation of movement patterns along with multi-planar and explosive exercises that will change the way you move on the field, ice or court and influence an overall healthy lifestyle. Combined with the understanding of how nutrition affects your body, this class is intended to reinforce life-long habits of health and performance.

STA GRIND – Grade Level: 10-11

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Complete 9th Grade PE or equivalent.

A balance between athletics, academics and the world in which we live guide the curriculum of this course. Students will be physically active one day a week and explore current health and wellness topics on a separate day. Students will create both large-scale (with collaboration) and individual projects that will demonstrate their understanding of current and student-driven and chosen topics. After their experience in STA GRIND, students will have developed a better awareness of their own fitness, life skills and how their personal choices will impact their world.

STRENGTH TRAINING I - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

This course is designed to individually train students providing preparation, exercise and recovery procedures for complete strength training. Students will follow a specific regimen increasing general health in the Fitness Center. They will learn to exert and resist force, develop muscle strength and endurance. Using body weight, free weights, plyometrics, speed exercises and resistance bands, students will advance their overall fitness.

STRENGTH TRAINING II - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Completion of Strength Training I or Instructor approval.

An extension or further developmental progress opportunity from Strength Training I. Students will progress utilizing the principles and practices of Strength Training I. Student-specific, personal interest-driven or sport-related strength training will guide how this class is designed for each student.

THE CREAM OF THE CROP – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

Students will develop an appreciation for nutrition and how it relates to a healthy lifestyle. This course will focus on nutrition, food sourcing, cooking technique and producing healthy meal plans. Building independent living skills, information from this course is meant to add to the quality of life after high school.



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

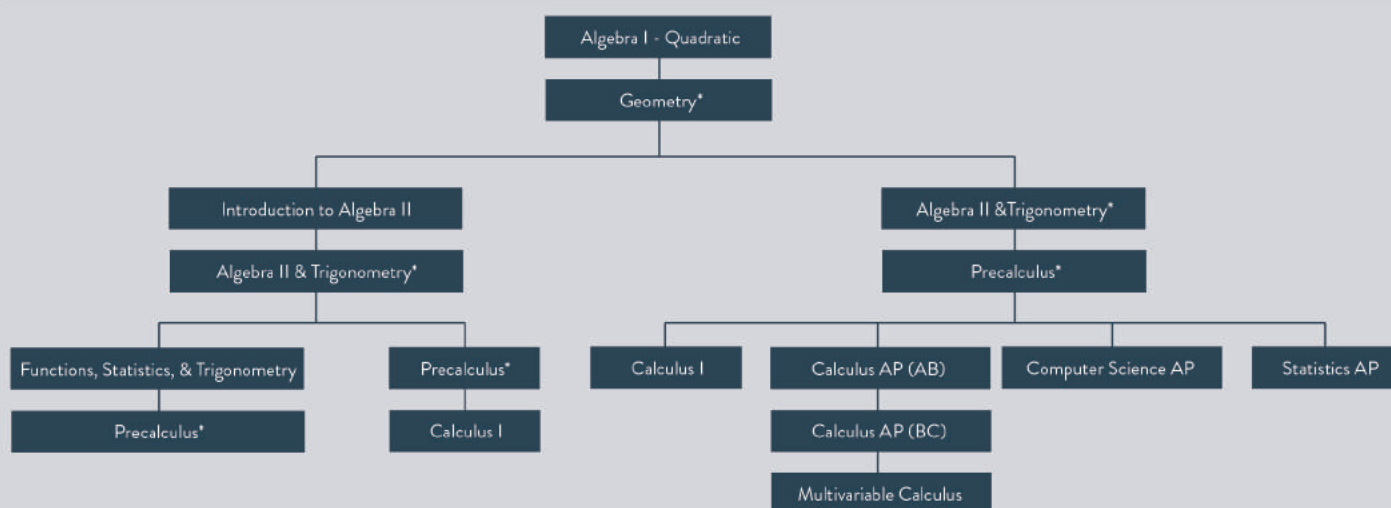
MATHEMATICS



GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: 3 YEARS

	9	10	11	12
NEEDS INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL	Algebra I – Quadratic or Geometry Concepts or Geometry or Geometry Honors or Introduction to Algebra II or Algebra II/ Trigonometry or Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors	Geometry Concepts or Geometry or Geometry Honors or Introduction to Algebra II or Algebra II / Trigonometry or Algebra II / Trigonometry Honors or Precalculus or Precalculus Honors	Introduction to Algebra II or Functions, Statistics, & Trigonometry or Algebra II/Trigonometry or Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors or Precalculus or Precalculus Honors or Calculus I or Calculus (AB) AP or Computer Science AP or Statistics AP	Functions, Statistics, & Trigonometry or Precalculus or Precalculus Honors or Calculus I or Calculus (AB) AP or Calculus (BC) AP or Multivariable Calculus (Calculus III) or Computer Science AP or Statistics AP
ELECTIVES	Introduction to Statistics	Introduction to Accounting Introduction to Statistics	Introduction to Accounting Introduction to Python and Data Science Introduction to Statistics	Introduction to Accounting Introduction to Python and Data Science Introduction to Statistics

MATHEMATICS FLOW CHART



The mathematics program at Saint Thomas Academy is designed to challenge students with an enriched curriculum and to make appropriate courses available to all students. It is our objective that the students will:

- Become proficient at basic arithmetic, algebra, and analytical thinking skills.
- Develop the ability to solve both routine and non-routine problems using a variety of strategies.
- Become familiar with the use of mathematical tools, such as compasses, protractors, calculators, and mathematical computer software.

ALGEBRA I QUADRATIC - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

Algebra I – Quadratic reviews structure of the real number system, algebraic symbols, and first-degree equations; it then moves quickly into the study of all aspects surrounding second degree equations and graphs; expanded systems of first-degree equations; factoring second-degree functions and the quadratic formula; exponents and square roots.

GEOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

This course first establishes the tools of geometry – methods of reasoning, the coordinate plane, and types of measurement. Subsequently, it focuses on properties and applications of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, and transformations.

GEOMETRY CONCEPTS – Grade Level: 9-10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

Geometry Concepts establishes basic tools of geometry – methods of reasoning, and types of measurement. It also revisits the coordinate plane from algebra 1. Subsequently, it focuses on properties and applications of lines, triangles, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, solids, and transformations. The course will focus on algebra skills that are necessary in applications of the aforementioned topics, thus will enhance students' problem-solving skills.

GEOMETRY HONORS - Grade Level: 9-10

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Selection based on instructor approval & grade of A in Honors Algebra I

This course covers all of the topics in the regular geometry course. This program will move at a quicker pace and will incorporate enrichment activities to study the topic more in depth.

INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA II - Grade Level: 9-11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

This course is designed for those students who need a review of Algebra I as they transition to Algebra II. The Algebra II topics include quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions.

FUNCTIONS, STATISTICS AND TRIGONOMETRY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

This course is designed for the students who completed the Algebra II class. The trigonometry topics include right triangle trigonometry, the introduction of the unit circle and analytical trigonometry. The statistics topics include basic statistical analysis, regression and the introduction of probability.

ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

Algebra II/Trigonometry includes an in-depth study of the topics taught in Algebra I and Geometry. Additional topics include quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic functions, and data analysis. The unit circle is the basis for the trigonometric functions.

ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY HONORS - Grade Level: 9-11

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

Algebra II/Trigonometry is a rigorous in-depth study of functions. A solid foundation in Advanced Algebra is essential. Some areas of study include polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Rational expressions, data analysis, and trigonometry are also explored.

PRECALCULUS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

The purpose of a precalculus course is to prepare students for a successful experience in Calculus. Topics include number systems, polynomial, exponential, rational, and logarithmic functions, as well as sequences and series. Trigonometry is developed on the basis of the unit circle, periodic functions, trigonometric identities and proofs.

PRECALCULUS HONORS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; B- or better in Honors Algebra II/ Trigonometry or an A in Algebra II/ Trigonometry.

Honors Precalculus is a course designed for students who plan to take Calculus AB or BC. Students will complete an in-depth analysis of topics, which include functions and their graphs, analytic trigonometry, linear systems and matrices, sequences and series, limits, and the introduction of Calculus.

CALCULUS I - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

Calculus I **covers** the major topics of differential and integral calculus. Applications include related rates, areas, volumes, rectilinear motion, and graphing with the use of the first and second derivatives.

CALCULUS (AB) AP - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

Calculus (AB) **covers** the major topics of differential and integral calculus. Applications include related rates, areas, volumes, rectilinear motion, and graphing with the use of the first and second derivatives. All topics that are part of the AB curriculum of the Advanced Placement Program are included. Students should expect to spend 2-4 hours a week reading, completing assignments, and free response questions. **All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.**

CALCULUS (BC) AP - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Instructor approval, Calculus I or AP Calculus (AB).

AP Calculus (BC) **covers** the more advanced topics of differential and integral calculus. Applications include related rates, differential approximation, areas, volumes, arc length, and polar coordinates. The course concludes with units on infinite series, including Taylor series and differential equations. All topics that are part of the BC curriculum of the Advanced Placement Program are included. Students should expect to spend 2-4 hours a week reading, completing assignments, and free response questions.

All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS (CALCULUS III) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

This course is designed for the students who completed AP Calculus BC. The course will transition to three-dimensional coordinate systems. Topics of study include Vector functions, Partial Derivatives, Multiple Integrals and Line integrals, Stokes and Greens Theorems. Multivariable calculus is not an AP course.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AP - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; Algebra 2/Trigonometry and B or better in current math course.

Advanced Placement Computer Science (A) is a study of the Java programming language, emphasizing the object-oriented approach. Students will study computer systems, objects and primitive data, programming statements, flow of control, writing and enhancing classes, arrays, inheritance, and recursion. Students should expect to spend 5-8 hours a week reading, completing assignments, and programming projects. **All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.**

STATISTICS AP - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; Algebra 2/Trigonometry and A- or better in current math course.

The statistics course encompasses four major units: exploring and analyzing data, producing data through samples and experiments, understanding probability and simulation models, and drawing conclusions about population through inference. This is not the typical math class. Each topic is directly connected to the real-world through collecting data, experiments, investigations, and simulations. This course focuses on communication and interpretation of the mathematics, and writing is critical. Students should expect to spend 2-4 hours a week reading, completing assignments, and free response questions. **All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.**

MATHEMATICS ELECTIVES**INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING** - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

This course is designed for the student who wants to learn the basics of accounting. The student will learn to use Excel for analysis.

INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON AND DATA SCIENCE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 2/Trig or Precalculus. Requires a personal laptop.

An introduction to the Python programming language. This course will cover basics of python data structures (lists, tuples, dictionaries, strings, and sets), decorators, generators, lambda functions, and other topics. It will also explore the use of Python in data science, including data analysis and machine learning.

INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trigonometry.

The analysis, understanding, and application of statistics is required by virtually all courses of study and job fields. This elective will introduce you the basics of statistics; exploring sampling, statistical variables, charting, experiments, and other topics. Any student planning on studying anything after graduating from STA should take this class in preparation for a future statistics course.



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

MILITARY LEADERSHIP



GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: 4 YEARS (or each year in attendance)

	9	10	11	12
REQUIRED	Military Leadership (ML) 1: or Military Leadership (ML) 1/Fine Arts	Military Leadership (ML) 2: or Military Leadership (ML) 2/Fine Arts	Military Leadership (ML) 3: or Military Leadership (ML) 3/Fine Arts	Military Leadership (ML) 4 Advanced Military Leadership (ML) 4 (by selection) or Military Leadership (ML) 4/Fine Arts

The mission of Saint Thomas Academy Leadership program is to develop life skills through participation as a Cadet in the Saint Thomas Academy Corps of Cadets structure and military program. These skills include:

- Leader Attributes & Skills
- Cadet Staff Planning
- Team Building & Teamwork
- Followership
- Decision-making
- Problem analysis
- Goal Setting
- Mentorship/Counseling
- Public Speaking / Briefings
- Self-discipline
- Punctuality and Time Management
- Appearance and bearing (presence)
- Standards enforcement
- Selfless-Service
- Respect (for Authority) and each other
- Character Development/Moral Compass
- Citizenship and Patriotism
- Gentlemanship
- Etiquette and Protocol
- Drill and Ceremony
- Military Customs, Traditions, and Courtesies

Note: All Freshmen are expected to take Rifle Marksmanship and Weapons Safety. Cadets may enhance their leadership skills in several military led co-curriculars. These include:

- Crack Drill Squad
- Honor Guard/Color Guard
- Ranger Team
- Rifle Team

Saint Thomas Academy is a member of the Association of Military Colleges and Secondary Schools of the United States. For more information on AMCSUS website at <http://www.amcsus.org/>

MILITARY LEADERSHIP (ML 1) - Grade Level: 9
or

Weight :1.0

ML 1 FINE ARTS - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Military Leadership 1 is the introductory / foundation level of instruction in subjects necessary for a cadet to function effectively as a member of the Corps of Cadets. Subjects include: introduction to the STA Corps of Cadets: drill and ceremonies; personal appearance; military customs and courtesies; traditions of STA (MI); introduction to leadership; rifle marksmanship; history of STA; US Flag protocol; and public speaking. Cadets are assigned as team members within the Corps of Cadets.

MILITARY LEADERSHIP (ML 2) - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

or

ML 2 FINE ARTS, Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Military Leadership 2 is a continuation of foundational military instruction – where cadets learn followership. Subjects include: drill and ceremonies; advanced first aid, introduction to map reading, citizenship and government; communication skills; and an introduction into American Military History. Cadets are assigned as team members or team leaders within the Corps of Cadets.

MILITARY LEADERSHIP (ML 3) - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

or

ML 3 FINE ARTS - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

Military Leadership 3 is designed to provide the third-year cadet with an opportunity to further develop his leadership skills and begin to apply what he has learned thus far in the classroom by actively leading subordinate cadets at the squad and platoon levels. Specific topics include: planning and goal setting; leadership theory, strategies, and responsibilities; mentorship and performance counseling; organizational structure and staff planning; ethical decision making; public speaking; and drill & ceremony. Third-year cadets are typically assigned as Assistant Squad Leaders or Squad Leaders.

MILITARY LEADERSHIP (ML 4) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

or

ML 4 FINE ARTS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Military Leadership 4 is the culmination of military training at STA. Primary emphasis is placed on the practical application of learned leadership at the platoon level. Subjects include: organization of the Department of Defense and each military service; leadership application, styles and dilemmas; drill and ceremonies, communication skills; military history; just war theory; mentorship; and counseling. Cadets are assigned as Squad leaders, Platoon Sergeants, or Platoon Leaders.

ADVANCED MILITARY LEADERSHIP (AML 4) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

Advanced Military Leadership is designed for seniors assigned to the highest levels of leadership within the Corps of Cadets. These cadets are responsible for the planning, organizing, coordinating, and executing all activities / ceremonial events within the Corps of Cadets. In addition, they manage the cadet awards program, merit/demerit system, promotions, public affairs, technology, operations, and logistics for the entire Corps of Cadets. These Cadets are assigned as Company First Sergeants, Executive Officers, Company Commanders, Platoon Leaders, Brigade Staff Officers, Battalion Commanders and the Cadet Colonel – who commands the entire Cadet Brigade.



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

SCIENCE



GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: 3 YEARS (*Including Biology & Chemistry*)

	9	10	11	12
SELECTIONS DEPENDENT ON TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS	Biology or Biology Honors	Chemistry or Chemistry Honors	Chemistry or Chemistry Honors or Environmental Science or Environmental Science AP or Biology AP/P.A.C.C.	Physics or Physics Honors or Environmental Science or Environmental Science AP or Biology AP/P.A.C.C.
ELECTIVES		Biomedical Ethics/Honors Zoology	Biomedical Ethics/Honors Zoology	Biomedical Ethics/Honors Engineering Capstone Zoology

The science program at Saint Thomas Academy prepares students for college science courses. We offer sequences for students who are interested in science or engineering programs in college and for those who may not intend to take advanced science courses in college. Students study fundamental scientific principles, theories, and mathematical relationships, and learn scientific reasoning across all grade levels through STEAM related applications and through inquiry-based laboratory investigations. In addition, it is our intent that students will:

- Understand the role of science and technology in their lives.
- Use scientific methods to analyze and solve problems.
- Make valid and ethical decisions about scientific issues.
- Become sensitive to the global implications of life-style choices.
- Evaluate their potential for careers in science.

BIOLOGY - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of biology including cellular biology, genetics, microbiology, animal and plant biology, and evolution. Introductory laboratory skills are developed with emphasis on collection, observation, and interpretation of data.

BIOLOGY HONORS - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: All of the following prerequisites must be met for registration in Honors Biology.

Current 8th grade
Current science instructor approval
First semester science grade of A-
Consistent demonstration of academic performance
Minimum composite score of 125 on STA entrance exam

This course focuses on cellular biology, genetics, microbiology, zoology, evolution and ecology. College level pedagogy is stressed, as is development of analytical skills in a concentrated laboratory program.

CHEMISTRY - Grade Level: 10-11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra and Geometry; Biology or Honors Biology.

This course focuses on scientific measurement, chemical nomenclature, atomic theory, molar relationships, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gases, solutions, acids and bases, and properties of elements and compounds. Mathematical problem solving and a quantitative/qualitative laboratory program are stressed.

CHEMISTRY HONORS - Grade Level: 10-11

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; A in Biology 1st semester, B+ in Honors Biology 1st semester, B or better in Algebra II/Trigonometry or concurrent registration.

This course introduces students to scientific measurements, chemical nomenclature, atomic theory, molar relationships, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, theories of solutions, acids, bases, equilibriums, properties of elements and compounds and their structural deviations, a study of laws governing the behavior of matter, and organic chemistry. A mathematical approach to problem solving and a quantitative and qualitative approach toward laboratory investigation are stressed.

BIOLOGY AP/P.A.C.C. - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; Honors Chemistry and Honors Biology (B+ or better) *B110/111 Botany & Zoology I/Lab (4 cr.)*. *P.A.C.C. through Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.*

This course is comparable to an introductory, upper-level freshman college biology course. The course is intended for highly motivated students able to learn at a college level with a college text. It is under the supervision of the biology department of Saint Mary's University from which four college credits may be earned. Students should expect 2-4 hours of homework a week, which will be including reading and taking notes on the textbook, independent research, lab reports and other group work. AP Biology requires summer reading with an assessment the first week of school. **All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; Biology and Honors Chemistry or Chemistry.

This course covers five areas of environmental concern: ecology principles, human population and resources, environmental quality and pollution, environment and society, and sustainability. In addition to text reading and assessments, students will perform lab work, water quality testing, and various larger projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AP - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; Biology or Honors Biology and Chemistry or Honors Chemistry (grade of B+ or better in both). *Intended for: motivated students interested in a rigorous course which balances applied learning, community service, and incorporation of a college level text.*

This course covers five areas of environmental concern: ecological principles, human population and resources, environmental quality and pollution, environment and society, and sustainability. In addition to text reading and assessments, students will perform lab work; water quality testing and present results to the Mendota Heights City Council. Students should expect a reading load of 2-4 hours per week throughout most of the year. AP Environmental Science requires summer reading with an assessment the first week of school. **All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.**

PHYSICS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; Chemistry or Honors Chemistry, Algebra II/Trigonometry (all with C+ or better).

Physics expands upon the concepts introduced in Physical Science to help students understand the physical world around them. The course follows a traditional physics curriculum beginning with mechanics and kinematics with an emphasis on Newton's Laws of Motion. Students then continue on to learn about energy, waves, sound, and optics. Throughout the course, students learn to apply the above concepts to the world around them through demonstrations, application problems and labs.

Physics is a math-based science class that requires algebraic skills, such as solving equations.

PHYSICS HONORS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; Chemistry or Honors Chemistry, Precalculus (all with C+ or better).

Honors Physics covers the same concepts as Physics (see Physics course description) but at a faster pace and more complex level. Honors Physics requires students to think critically and problem solve based on their understanding of physical world. This course is for students who wish to look beyond the basic physical properties and further explore more complex applications of the concepts.

The format and structure of Honors Physics is designed for students to gain experience as independent, self-motivated learners as they take the content from lessons and reinforce their understanding of the concepts through applications beyond what is demonstrated in class.

SCIENCE ELECTIVES**BIOMEDICAL ETHICS/HONORS** – Grade Level 10-12

Weight 1.0/1.1

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; student must have taken Biology or Honors Biology.

This course focuses on students developing critical thinking and argumentation skills while learning about ethically challenging real-world scenarios in the biomedical fields. Forms of learning will primarily include reading and writing about, discussing, presenting on, and debating ethical issues. Topics will include, but not be limited to, various practices such as: in-vitro fertilization and designer genetics, end-of-life care, and stem cell research and therapy. This course is recommended for motivated students who have strong written and verbal argumentation skills. Students will be selected via an application and/or interview process which must be submitted to/scheduled with Mr. Meisch.

ENGINEERING CAPSTONE – Grade 12

Weight 1.0

This course will provide students the opportunity to use the Engineering Cycle to research, design, create and test a project of their choosing. Students will be paired with outside mentors as needed. The course will provide an overview of basic engineering skills, lab safety, use of equipment, and computer aided design software. Students will be evaluated by a mid-semester review and an end-of-semester presentation of their working prototype/project. This course is recommended for highly motivated students who can work independently. Course is limited to 12 students/section. Students will be selected via an application and interview which must be scheduled with Mr. Westlake in the Innovation Center.

ZOOLOGY – Grade Level 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; students must have taken Biology or Honors Biology.

In this course participants will learn about the animal kingdom, starting with simple animals and working up the evolutionary tree to the more complex animals. Students will have several dissecting labs throughout the year. Other labs will explore animal behavior, animal ecology, evolution and genetics.



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

SOCIAL STUDIES



GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: 3.5 YEARS (*including World History & US History*)

	9	10	11	12
REQUIRED	Geography & Civics	World History or World History AP	U.S. History or U.S. History AP	Economics & Government or Economics AP (Micro) or Economics AP (Macro) or U.S. Government and Politics AP or Comparative Government & Politics AP
ELECTIVES		A History of Violence: U.S. – Latin American Relations From the Summer to the Fall: Tracing Ancient History from the Rise of Mesopotamia to the End of the Roman Empire	A History of Violence: U.S. – Latin American Relations Boxing, Race, & The United States Business Marketing & Entrepreneurship College Bound From the Jazz Age to Grunge: America & it's Love Affair with Music From the Summer to the Fall: Tracing Ancient History from the Rise of Mesopotamia to the End of the Roman Empire History of Transportation & it's Impact on American Politics, Economy, & Culture Is Justice Blind Psychology Television & Movie Madness: The Impact of Visual Media on Modern Culture	A History of Violence: U.S. – Latin American Relations Boxing, Race, & The United States Business Marketing & Entrepreneurship Crime and Justice From the Jazz Age to Grunge: America & it's Love Affair with Music From the Summer to the Fall: Tracing Ancient History from the Rise of Mesopotamia to the End of the Roman Empire History of Transportation & it's Impact on American Politics, Economy, & Culture Is Justice Blind Personal Finance and Stock Market Investing Psychology Television & Movie Madness: The Impact of Visual Media on Modern Culture

The Social Studies Department at Saint Thomas Academy designs its courses to provide a challenging learning environment that promotes academic excellence and recognizes the unique abilities of each student. The Social Studies Department expects each student to:

- Develop the ability to connect the past and the present by applying methods of historical research and to use a variety of sources to demonstrate cause and effect relationships in history.
- Acquire geographical skills and to understand and apply the main themes of geographic analysis.
- Acquire economic literacy and apply it to U.S. and world economic institutions in order to be an effective citizen and to enhance personal economic decision-making.
- Acquire political literacy in order to be able to participate effectively in the U.S. democratic process.
- Be able to evaluate controversial issues and apply this knowledge through debates and other methods of presentation (both written and verbal).
- Develop a multicultural awareness and sensitivity, recognizing that judgments about people of different cultures are usually shaped and influenced by the standards and values of the culture in which one lives.
- Develop the competency to acquire, organize, evaluate, and report information for the purposes of solving problems and clarifying issues.

GEOGRAPHY AND CIVICS - Grade level: 9 – 1 Semester

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course will serve as an introduction to the student's high school social studies experience. The class will focus on Geography and Civics, but will also explore elements of other disciplines within social studies. Topics and skills covered will include: geography skills and terminology, political awareness and the application of democratic principles, discussion of socio-economic and diversity issues, current events in historical context, critical thinking and media literacy.

WORLD HISTORY - Grade Level: 10

Prerequisite: None

Weight: 1.0

World History is a yearlong survey of the record of the human experience from the development of early civilizations to the major crises and accomplishments of the twentieth century. The curriculum includes world geography, analysis of primary sources and current events in historical context.

WORLD HISTORY AP- Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Standardized test results and 3.5 GPA and/or recommendation by 9th grade social studies instructor

AP World History is a rigorous college level course that requires students to achieve mastery of the broad historical developments that punctuate and drive the march of history from above the year 1200 CE to the present. In order to achieve such mastery, students must be prepared to read and write extensively about world history and acquire and internalize knowledge of historical concepts, events, movements and process. They will also analyze the roles of individual men and women who played significant roles in shaping global history during the last eight hundred years. Most students devote around ten hours per week to AP World History.

All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

UNITED STATES HISTORY - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

U.S. History is a yearlong survey course beginning with the pre-Revolutionary period and ending with the Vietnam War era. Students will explore the forces and individuals that played key roles in the development of the U.S. and examine the causes of the main events in American history. All juniors participate in the History Day competition using a U.S. History topic of their choice related to the national contest theme.

UNITED STATES HISTORY AP - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.4 cumulative GPA and sophomore instructor approval.

This course is a college-level survey of U.S. History. Students will combine secondary texts and primary sources to analyze the cause and effect relationships between people, events, and circumstances from the era of colonization to the present. All 11th grade students participate in the History Day competition using a U.S. History topic of their choice relating to the national contest theme. AP U.S. History will require approximately 5-7 hours per week of reading and homework, with somewhat more required when preparing for major tests and projects.

All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

SENIORS IN THE AP TRACK ARE GENERALLY ADVISED TO TAKE TWO SEMESTERS OF AP ECONOMICS OR TWO SEMESTERS OF AP GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, STUDENTS MAY SELECT ONE SEMESTER OF AP GOVERNMENT AND ONE SEMESTER OF AP ECONOMICS IF THEY WISH, OR MAY ADD AN ADDITIONAL SINGLE SEMESTER OF ONE OR THE OTHER IF THEY HAVE ROOM IN THEIR SCHEDULE. STUDENTS MAY ALSO SELECT FULL YEARS OF BOTH AP GOVERNMENT AND AP ECONMICS. STUDENTS SPLITTING THEIR SELECTIONS BETWEEN AP GOVERNMENT AND AP ECONOMICS SHOULD EXPECT TO COMPLETE ADDITIONAL AP REVIEW ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO THE EXAM FOR THE CLASS THEY TOOK SEMESTER 1.

ECONOMICS & GOVERNMENT - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

One semester of this course is devoted to the fundamentals of microeconomics and macroeconomics. The other semester introduces students to American government, law, politics, and civics.

ECONOMICS AP (MICRO) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.25 cumulative GPA and/or instructor approval.

This course is a college-level introduction to microeconomics. Topics include supply and demand, production and market structure, and factor markets. Students must be responsible for knowing the lecture material and be able to work on the material about 2 hours outside of class time per week. **All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.**

ECONOMICS AP (MACRO) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.25 cumulative GPA and/or instructor approval.

This course is a college-level introduction to macroeconomics. Topics include inflation, unemployment, taxation, and money supply. Students must be responsible for knowing the lecture material and be able to work on the material about 2 hours outside of class time per week. **All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.**

U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS AP - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.25 cumulative GPA and instructor approval.

This course provides a college-level introduction to political theory and political science. Units include: Foundations of American Democracy, Interactions Among Branches of Government, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, American Political Ideologies and Beliefs, and Political Participation. Special projects focus on lawmaking, major court cases, and political action. AP Government will require approximately 3 hours per week of reading and homework, with somewhat more required when preparing for major tests and projects.

All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS AP – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.25 cumulative GPA, 11th grade instructor recommendation, and a sincere interest in politics and government.

AP Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES**A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE: U.S. – LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS** – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor permission from Mr. Hoverson and/or Dr. Howe

The course will focus on the period from approximately 1820 to 2000 and will cover a range of topics including the Latin American wars for independence, U.S. political and economic interests in the region, U.S. interventions, periods of revolution, armed struggle, and dictatorship, and post-dictatorship democracies. Students will study authentic texts – such as novels, short stories, films, political cartoons, and newspaper articles – from and about Latin America. The course will be team-taught by Mr. Hoverson and Dr. Howe, with both instructors in the classroom together to offer their discipline-specific insight and interpretations of the course content and to facilitate in-depth and thoughtful discussion. Students interested in travel in Latin America or careers that may involve this region are strongly encouraged to sign up.

BOXING, RACE, AND THE UNITED STATES - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course will use sport, particularly the history of boxing, to delve into the challenging issues of race and diversity in the United States. Students will be expected to participate in the discussion of critical and controversial issues with an open mind, while also learning the art of boxing in a safe environment that meets the participants level of comfort. The end goal of the course is threefold: to establish cultural awareness, to build student confidence in discussing difficult issues such as race in our history, and to learn how to box without looking like a baby giraffe.

BUSINESS MARKETING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course will cover a range of topics related to business but will emphasize marketing. Students will research and complete a marketing plan and will use Microsoft *Excel* and *PowerPoint* will be used to present their proposal. Guests with expertise will present to the class. Students will improve their computer graphics skills during the creation of marketing promotions.

COLLEGE BOUND! – Grade Level: 11

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: None

The college search and application process can be simultaneously exciting and daunting. This course will cover how to craft an Initial College list (Exploration), Admissions Plans and Applications, Essay Writing, Recommendations and Interviews. Test prep for the PSAT/SAT/ACT will also be included as part of the class.

CRIME AND JUSTICE - Grade Level: 12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

This course is designed for seniors who are considering majoring in sociology, behavioral science, social work, political science, or law enforcement. Students discuss crime and justice from a Catholic perspective. Topics include: Catholic Social Doctrine, drug and alcohol abuse, racial profiling, prison reform, prison ministry, the history of crime and punishment in the modern age, mercy and forgiveness, victim's rights, crime scene investigation, interrogation techniques and crime trends and statistics. The class meets two class periods per week. The course utilizes community experts on various topics and includes several field experiences.

FROM THE JAZZ AGE TO GRUNGE: AMERICA AND ITS LOVE AFFAIR WITH MUSIC – Grade Level: 11-12**Prerequisite:** None

Weight 1.0

The course will focus on the cultural, social, political, and economic influences of American music genres ranging from Tin Pan Alley to blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, country, folk, soul, rock, disco, hip-hop, grunge, rap, and alternatives. Students will delve into the meaning of lyrics, musical symbolism, and the effects that music had on America both during the time they were created and on future generations of music. Class discussions will focus on the relationship that race, class division, political ideology, and big business had and have on the types of lyrics and sounds that are expressed throughout American music. Readings of selected primary and secondary documents, video, film, and musical excerpts will be used throughout the class.

FROM SUMER TO THE FALL: TRACING ANCIENT HISTORY FROM THE RISE OF MESOPOTAMIA TO THE END OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

The course will study early civilizations from the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Europe. Students will explore why and where early civilizations developed, will compare their political and economic systems, and will examine the culture, religion, and technological advances of ancient civilizations. Students will draw comparisons in order to illustrate diversity and similarity, examine important themes and trends that affect more than one world civilization and provide a crucial overview of cultures and meetings between cultures that accelerating movement toward an ever more integrated globe requires. We will cover the ancient civilizations and societies of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, Israel, Greece, Rome, India, Africa, China, and the Americas. Topics will include the rise of cities, cultural and social structures, the evolution of technology and navigation, the development of means of communication, the importance of agriculture, the rise and fall of empires, the evolving conduct of warfare, and the emergence of intellectual thought and local and world religions.

HISTORY OF TRANSPORTATION & ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN POLITICS, ECONOMY & CULTURE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: None

The course will cover differing styles, modes, and systems of transportation and their impact on the American economic and political systems, along with how they influenced or were influenced by American culture. The topics will cover early American road, courier, and postal systems; canal and rail lines throughout the Antebellum Period to the end of Reconstruction; the stagecoach, covered wagon, and transcontinental railroad during westward expansion; streetcars and early automobiles and airplanes from the Gilded Age to the Great Depression; new developments in trains, planes, cars & trucks during WWII; muscle cars, jet planes, and spacecraft of the 50's to early 70's; compact imports, jumbo jets, and space shuttles of the late 70's to early 90's; the current state of transportation in the US, and finally the future of transportation.

IS JUSTICE BLIND? - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

What effect do decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court have in a country where many citizens feel disenfranchised, underrepresented and unequal? From questions of who can say what, to who is arrested, to who lives and dies, these interpretations of the law are important in balancing rights and duties of individuals and society. In this class, students will examine recent and current cases before the court and will debate the issues underlying them. Students will compare these cases to some of the landmark cases of the past and evaluate the importance of legal precedents in shaping American politics.

PERSONAL FINANCE AND STOCK MARKET INVESTING - Grade Level: 12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn the basics of personal finance and investing and manage a real stock market portfolio. Students will use Microsoft Excel to complete these tasks and will use additional programs to layout their information and findings. Professional experts on this topic will present to the class. As a capstone, students will prepare for and participate in the state competition sponsored by the MCEE, the *Finance Decathlon*.

PSYCHOLOGY - Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Weight 1.0

This course is an in-depth study of the processes involved in the operation of the human mind and emotions. The areas of study include the development of cognitive processes, theories of personalities and human development, sensation and perception, emotions and motivation, and psychological disorders.

**TELEVISION AND MOVIE MADNESS: THE IMPACT OF VISUAL MEDIA ON
MODERN CULTURE** – Grade Level 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: None

It has been said that television is the greatest teaching tool in the history of mankind. But what does it teach? History? White history? A way of life? Consumerism? What the cool people are wearing? Why my party is right and why your party is wrong? Whether the content is serious or ridiculous, our nation's youth are deluged by visual media without having the skills to consider its influence and impact critically. This course will use high interest visual media to explore the role technology plays in our rapidly changing world, and how media technology shapes our beliefs and values. We will delve into the important issues of our times, such as ideological divisions, racism and sexism, and the entertainment culture.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: 4 YEARS (or each year in attendance)

	9	10	11	12
REQUIRED	Scripture	Sacraments and Morality	World Religions and Church History	Advanced Morality or Advanced Morality/Campus Ministry or Advanced Morality Honors /P.A.C.C.
ELECTIVES	Called to Holiness	Called to Holiness	Called to Holiness	Called to Holiness

The mission of Saint Thomas Academy is to create Christian leaders. The Theology Department is an integral element in this educational process. By stressing the moral dimension of leadership, we strive to help young men be capable, just, compassionate, and forthright citizens. In assisting students in their faith formation, we seek to develop a spirituality which encourages young men to desire personal holiness as well as to become servant leaders who welcome and care for each other. It is our hope that each student will come to know the mystery of God's abiding presence and the depth of God's love for all. Our goal is to develop educated and informed Catholics who seek to be knowledgeable in their faith, who are willing to embrace the challenges of Christianity in the new millennium, and who are ready to work for the Church's social mission and justice and peace. The student will:

- Demonstrate basic Biblical interpretation skills, reverence, and appreciation of Sacred Scripture.
- Understand the basic teachings of the Church as articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (i.e. sacraments, creed, Ten Commandments, beatitudes, virtues, precepts of the Church, etc.)
- Understand their obligation to act morally and ethically as responsible Christians with well-informed and formed consciences.
- Have a basic understanding and appreciation of the history and theology of the Church, diversity of religious traditions, and of contemporary spiritual leaders.
- Understand liturgy and prayer and their movement towards service.
- Explore Christ's invitation to discipleship and personal holiness by exploring those lifestyles compatible with the Christian vocation.
- Know the key principles of Catholic social teaching, especially principles regarding respect for life and sexual morality.
- Develop reflective, critical thinking skills; moral, creative imaging skills and prayer and dialogical skills which allow the students to research and identify, assess and evaluate, discern, judge and determine action in light of Gospel values and Church teaching.

SCRIPTURE - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

This survey course imparts a knowledge and love of Scripture. Students study the nature of Divine Revelation and learn how to appreciate the complex development of Scripture as it was passed down through oral tradition, set in written text, and made part of the canon. In keeping with Catholic tradition, students learn basic literary, structural, and historical methodological skills for Biblical interpretation. Students learn how to examine and clarify the meaning of Scripture; they also are encouraged to hear, in their reading of Scripture, the living word of God and reflectively seek to understand how God's word applies to their daily lives. This course also fosters students' moral and spiritual growth through the study of religious and spiritual leaders, examining how they responded in faith to contemporary issues and problems of their day.

SACRAMENTS & MORALITY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

This course integrates an exploration of Christian morality with the study of the seven sacraments. Students study the concepts of objective and subjective truth, conscience formation, sin and grace, legal and moral authority, the Ten Commandments, the moral precepts of the Church, and the Gospel call to justice and peace. Through the study of the seven sacraments, students learn of God's abiding presence in the human person and the invitation to grow morally and spiritually. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is introduced to the students throughout the course of their study.

WORLD RELIGIONS/CHURCH HISTORY - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

First semester students learn the seven dimensions that are common to all religions to survey some of the largest and most influential religions from the primal age to modern times. The course strives to provide a general understanding and respect of each religion and the people who practice it, along with presenting a new perspective by which to more fully understand our own. Second semester students complete a historical survey of the Catholic Church's history starting at Pentecost. The course covers the development of the early Christian community, the formation of the creeds, ecumenical councils, evolution of worship, evangelism, and major historical events in Church history including the Reformation, Vatican II and the contemporary Church.

ADVANCED MORALITY COURSES - Grade Level: 12

The Advanced Morality seminar uses the maturity of seniors to discuss issues chosen and led by students. The list of possible issues is a long one, but the course covers abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, discrimination, poverty, religious freedom, and other moral and ethical issues of our time that the Pope has highlighted as being critical in today's society. Using Catholic social teachings and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, students study the principles that define and clarify the Church's position on these issues in order to illuminate their thought processes.

SENIORS TAKE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:**ADVANCED MORALITY** - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

This seminar course will challenge students to study theology and justice at a deeper level. This course includes class presentations. Students will reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus and on the tradition of the Church in learning about and discussing a wide variety of current moral issues such as sexuality, medical ethics, abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, poverty, and discrimination. Participation will be required and graded, and emphasis will be on the discussion of these issues.

ADVANCED MORALITY/CAMPUS MINISTRY - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

Campus Ministry connects academic learning with real-life application of Catholic values and principles. Grounded in the theological exploration of the social justice issues that each person must confront in daily living, this one-year course is a hands on experience with an academic examination of the Catholic Church's teachings on social morality. The Campus Ministers are responsible for planning and implementing the Academy's outreach efforts to the poor, the vulnerable, the "at-risk," the immigrant, and all those who live on the margins of society. Additionally, the Campus Ministers help shape the spiritual character and identity of Saint Thomas Academy by planning and leading all Middle School retreats offered to our students, planning and helping to lead our various prayer services and Masses, and creating special liturgies for pivotal times in the school year.

ADVANCED MORALITY HONORS/P.A.C.C. - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.0 cumulative GPA, 3.3 GPA in H.S Theology courses and instructor approval.

TH 260 Foundations in Catholic Theology (3 cr.) through Saint Mary's Univ. of MN P.A.C.C.

This seminar course will challenge students to study theology and justice at a deeper level. Advanced Morality is an honors course taught at the college level. Post-secondary credit is offered through St. Mary's University with 3 college credits earned through P.A.C.C. (Program for Advanced College Credit), and course expectations will reflect this standard. This course includes class presentations. Students will reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus and on the tradition of the Church in learning about and discussing a wide variety of current moral issues such as sexuality, medical ethics, abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, poverty, and discrimination. Participation will be required and graded, a paper will be required, and emphasis will be on the discussion of these issues.

SENIOR SERVICE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND SENIOR PROJECTS

Saint Thomas Academy invites students to cultivate a vital and relevant spirituality through service, reflection, and prayer. The school's goal is to empower students by encouraging them to become servant-leaders who respect others and work for justice and peace. Since this dimension of a student's development is an integral part of its mission, the Academy has a graduation requirement of forty service hours, which are completed outside of school.

These forty hours complement a two-week "Senior Project," which is completed during the last two weeks of senior year, where students are mentored in their responsibilities within one of thirty religious, educational, health, or social service agencies.

THEOLOGY ELECTIVE

CALLED TO HOLINESS – Grade Level 9-12

Weight 1.0

This course focuses on students developing their knowledge and experience of the practice of Catholic Faith. This course will deepen the understanding of the Catholic faith for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Forms of learning will primarily include reading, writing about and discussing how to live a Catholic life in the modern world and for young men as they proceed in life. This will include information about Seminary Study as well as how to be a good husband. Topics will include, but not limited to: The Liturgical Year, Mariology, Vocations, Prayer, Lives of the Saints, and Catholic Current Events.



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

WORLD LANGUAGE



GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: 3 YEARS and through Level III of one language in High School

	9	10	11	12
NEEDS INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL	Chinese I-II or French I-III or Spanish I-III	Chinese I-IV or Honors Chinese IV or French I-V or Honors French IV-V or Spanish I-V or Honors Spanish IV-V	Chinese I-IV or Honors Chinese IV or AP Chinese or French I-V or Honors French IV-V or CIS French or Spanish I-V or Honors Spanish IV-V or AP Spanish	Chinese I-IV or Honors Chinese IV or AP Chinese or French I-V or Honors French IV-V or CIS French or Spanish I-V or Honors Spanish IV-V or AP Spanish
ELECTIVES			Multiculturalism and Chinese Current Affairs	Multiculturalism and Chinese Current Affairs
	<i>Latin offered by One Schoolhouse to current Latin students only</i>			

Our language program is designed to challenge students with classes in Spanish, Chinese, and French. We offer Honors, CIS, and AP for many of these courses.

The goals of our department are to teach effective communication, language proficiency, and cultural understanding. To successfully communicate in a world language, it is important to understand the relevance of diversity and culture, and to have a true appreciation of the global society in which we live. At Saint Thomas Academy, our teachers are dedicated to creating high-quality, student-centered learning environments that prepare our boys to excel in college.

THROUGH THE STUDY OF WORLD LANGUAGES, STUDENTS WILL:

- Gain skills that enable them to communicate orally and in writing with speakers of another language.
- Develop a greater understanding about people across national boundaries by giving them insight into the ways of life and ways of thinking of the people who speak the language they are learning.
- Expand their understanding of how language functions, including their own language.
- Learn to read with comprehension so that they may keep up with current writing, research, and information in the studied language.
- Develop critical thinking skills by understanding perspectives, exchanging opinions, and presenting ideas.
- Be prepared to think and interact in a global community.
- Be inspired and prepared to study a world language and culture in college.

Note: Placement is determined by exam scores, satisfactory completion of a lower level course, and/or teacher recommendation. *A student whose native language is other than English is encouraged to study a third language in the World Language Department.*

CHINESE

Offered through Visitation

CHINESE I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Students learn to understand, speak, read and write Mandarin Chinese. By the end of the year, students will be able to hold brief conversations about their families, friends and daily life activities. Students will also become familiar with Chinese culture and history. This course is intended for students who have had little or no previous exposure to the Chinese language.

CHINESE II - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

In Chinese II, students will continue to learn phonetic sounds and phonemic awareness through the use of literature and skill-building activities. Students will expand their vocabulary and understanding of Chinese syntax and participate in activities designed to refine skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. In Chinese II, students will strengthen their understanding of Chinese culture through authentic Chinese songs, on-line reading materials and projects.

CHINESE III - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Chinese II or instructor approval.

This course continues the aims of Chinese I and II in emphasizing vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and conversation. Reading, writing, and speaking skills are intensified. Cultural studies include Chinese art, music, and holiday celebrations. Chinese poems are introduced.

CHINESE IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Chinese III and instructor approval.

The focus of Chinese IV is on integrating the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will use a rich vocabulary, accurate and more advanced grammar structures, and appropriate cultural understanding to demonstrate proficiency in all manners of communication. In this course, students will read from China's rich collection of folk stories and write compositions on a variety of topics. They will role play, discuss current events in China, and use multi-media to further develop more complex listening comprehension and speaking skills.

CHINESE IV HONORS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Chinese III and instructor approval.

This course is considered a Pre-Advanced Placement Language course. In addition to the standard Chinese IV course work, emphasis of this class is Chinese for literature and conversation. The students will read works of Chinese authors, and continue to strengthen their skills in oral presentation and discussion on various topics. Composition and literature assignments will provide the opportunity to review sentence structure and grammar, and strengthen the student's Chinese writing skills.

AP CHINESE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.2

Prerequisites: B or higher in Chinese IV Honors or instructor approval.

AP Chinese students will develop and demonstrate proficiency in the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive and presentational. Since students have a command of the language, they are expected to use the target language as per intermediate to pre-advanced ACTFL standards in listening, reading, speaking, writing, and understanding of Chinese culture. Primary texts, authentic Chinese resources, vocabulary and grammar are studied. Students may take the A.P. exam for possible college credit.

All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

ELECTIVE

MULTICULTURALISM AND CHINESE CURRENT AFFAIRS – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

This course will use Content Based Instruction (CBI) to explore topics that can promote social justice and multicultural learning for high school students through the lens of Chinese culture. Topics are those that matter to students' life in the US, such as race, language, family culture, identity, social media, and so on. It aims to raise awareness of diversity and equality, and to push students to think critically about their own actions, words, and ways of being shaped and being shaped by the outside world, while at the same time, developing their Chinese language skills and cultural understanding. The structure of the course is student-centered. Students are the main drive for course content, pacing, and assignment design. To be able to internalize the critical perspectives and theories that are generated from the class, journaling or reflection writing is assigned weekly. The ultimate goal of this class is to use the language learning experience as an instrument for developing sociocultural consciousness. Social justice standards and ACTFL intercultural competence standards are the two major standards for guiding the course. Language lessons in this class will be vocabulary based in order to help students understand current affairs from a cultural perspective and how language and the words we choose give meaning and context.

FRENCH

FRENCH I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

The study of topics involving weather, time, and seasons; family and friends; the home and neighborhood; and items found in everyday life are the core of this year's curriculum. Through the use of the basic text and oral comprehension program, the student learns to express himself in the present tense and is introduced to the use and practice of progressive future and recent past tense. He also is introduced to the diversity of the French language and culture through units that present the French-speaking countries around the world.

FRENCH II - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

The study of topics involving food and eating and nature and the environment are the core of this year's curriculum. Through the use of the basic text and oral comprehension program, the student grows to better express himself in the present, progressive future, recent past, and compound past tenses. At the end of the year, students imagine they are French astronauts and apply what they have learned into an interstellar project.

FRENCH III - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

The study of topics involving leisure time activities; matters of health and well-being; traveling, everyday problems and geography are the core of this year's curriculum. The student continues to work towards a mastery of all previous tenses studied as well as a beginning knowledge of the reflexive construction and the imperfect, future, conditional and subjunctive tenses.

FRENCH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

The student continues to develop his skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension through a variety of activities that have been chosen to complement the student's level of proficiency and interest. Short stories, movies, and writings help reinforce the studied material. At the end of the year, students apply what they have learned studying a century of French innovation by engineering a unique project and presenting it to their family and class.

FRENCH IV HONORS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

The student continues to develop his skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension through a variety of activities that have been chosen to complement the student's level of proficiency and interest. Short stories, movies, plays, and writings help reinforce the studied material. At the end of the year, students apply what they have learned studying a century of French innovation by engineering a unique project and presenting it to their family and class.

FRENCH CIS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.2

FREN 1003 Intermediate French (3 cr.) through the University of Minnesota | FREN 1004

This course is the first part of the University of Minnesota's Intermediate sequence of French study, FREN1003. Through this program students can receive 5 college course credits. Students in College in the Schools (CIS) will develop listening, reading, writing and speaking skills in the context of cultural themes related to the Francophone world. Students will review basic grammar and increase their understanding and use of all core grammatical structures. Throughout the year, students should expect to do at least three hours of homework per week. CIS students purchase their own books.

FRENCH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

The student continues to develop his skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension through a variety of activities that have been chosen to complement the student's level of proficiency and interest. Short stories, movies, plays, and writings help reinforce the studied material.

FRENCH V HONORS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.1

This course is a continuation of Honors French IV and takes into consideration student interests and needs. Students study current events in France and the Francophone world along with continuing their studies in grammar. Students also read works by Victor Hugo and Dumas.

LATIN

(Offered by One Schoolhouse to Current Latin Students Only)

See www.oneschoolhouse.org for course descriptions

SPANISH**SPANISH I - Grade Level: 9-12**

Weight: 1.0

This course introduces the skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, writing) in Spanish. It also attempts to instill in students an understanding and appreciation of persons belonging to social, cultural, and ethnic groups different from their own. This course is for students who have had little or no previous experience studying Spanish.

SPANISH II - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

This course offers the opportunity to continue developing and deepening the skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in Spanish, to investigate and experience the richness of cultures, and to continue forming those study skills which help students become lifelong learners. There is an increased emphasis on grammatical skills at this level.

SPANISH III - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

In Spanish III students continue to develop a strong foundation for the study of language and culture. Students review as well as learn additional vocabulary and grammar. Students read about people, places, and traditions from the Spanish-speaking world and read authentic short stories, poems, autobiographies, legends and song lyrics. Students improve language competence by communicating about friends, relationships and leisure activities. Students also communicate about contemporary topics such as health and nutrition, history, community and the fine arts.

SPANISH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

This course is designed for students wishing to increase their written and oral proficiency in the language as well as gain cultural insight. Native literature is studied.

SPANISH IV HONORS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

This is a course for those students who wish to continue their mastery of the Spanish language. Grammar is reviewed; however, the majority of the class time is spent building listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills while developing an awareness of Hispanic culture. Students are expected to demonstrate their own proficiency, via impromptu and prepared presentations. Native literature is studied.

SPANISH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

This is a course for those students who wish to continue their mastery of the Spanish language. Grammar is reviewed; however, the majority of the class time is spent building listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills while developing an awareness of Hispanic culture. Students are expected to demonstrate their own proficiency, via impromptu and prepared presentations. Native literature is studied.

SPANISH V HONORS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

This is a course for those students who wish to continue to master the Spanish language. Native literature as well as Hispanic history and culture are emphasized. The continuing development of oral proficiency via topical discussions and classroom conversation also are central to the course. This course provides preparation for post-secondary study.

SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AP - Grade: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisites: Successful completion of IV Honors, teacher recommendation, and passing the Pre-AP placement proficiency test.

The Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture course is a college-level course, emphasizing the use of Spanish in active communication. The course is conducted exclusively in Spanish. With the rich culture of all Spanish-speaking countries woven into the study, the three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) are emphasized. The course objectives are: the ability to read authentic materials in Spanish such as, authentic newspaper and magazine articles, literary texts, letters, Internet articles, short stories, short plays and other non-technical writings, without dependence on a dictionary; the ability to understand spoken Spanish in various contexts, such as authentic conversations, lectures, oral presentations, radio, and television; the development of a Spanish vocabulary sufficient for reading and writing and the ability to express oneself coherently, resourcefully, and with reasonable fluency and accuracy both in written and spoken Spanish, using strategies for distinct audiences. This is done within the context of six overarching themes. Students who complete this course may take the A.P. exam for possible college credit. Students should expect 4-5 hours of homework per week.

All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.