



COURSE GUIDE for 2022-23

McNicholas High School is pleased to present this resource to guide students and parents for exploring course options for the 2022-23 academic year.

Thoughtful choices about core course levels and electives should begin in freshman year and adapt during the remaining years of high school as students' preferences about post-secondary education and career evolve. This planning will ensure that students satisfy requirements for McNicholas as well as for their next steps after high school.

In some instances, teacher recommendations are necessary for students to be placed in a class. If a student would like to take a class but does not have a teacher recommendation, a waiver slip must be signed by student and parent to affirm that they take responsibility for the decision.

Each student is provided with course information, teacher recommendations for placement, college requirement updates, and a personal interview with a counselor to facilitate the scheduling process. The school counselors are available at 513.231.3500 x 5128.

We invite you to carefully consider course options in light of the following information about

- Requirements for a McNicholas High School Diploma
- College Entrance Requirements
- Planning for a Balanced Life

REQUIREMENTS FOR A McNICHOLAS DIPLOMA

The number indicates the required number of full years (two semesters) of study

- 4 Theology
- 4 English
- 3 Social Studies (including 1 Government, 1 American History, 1 World History)
- 4 Mathematics (including Algebra II)
- .5 Health
- .5 Physical Education or PE waiver (2 semesters of PE equals .5 credit)
- 3 Lab Science (including 1 Life Science & 1 Physical Science)
- 1 Fine Arts*
- 4 Electives (must be in addition to the above core requirements)

Students must also receive instruction in economics and financial literacy. Students experience this curriculum in the Government/Economics/Personal Finance course or the AP Government course. Students may also satisfy this requirement through the semester elective Personal Finance. Beginning with the Class of 2026, state law requires students receiving Ohio scholarships (EdChoice Traditional, EdChoice Expansion, and Jon Peterson) to satisfy this requirement through the semester elective.

In addition to completing the course requirements, students must satisfy these requirements for a diploma: complete 40 hours of approved service work, participate in a senior retreat, and satisfy Ohio graduation requirements found at this link:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements>

* The following courses offered by McNicholas High School fulfill the fine arts requirement:

Architecture, Design, & Drafting	Guitar Techniques (.5 credit)
Art History (Optional College Credit Plus)	Mixed Media
Band I, II, III, IV	Music Appreciation I (.5 credit)
Ceramics I (.5 credit)	Music Appreciation II (.5 credit)
Ceramics II (.5 credit)	Music Theory
Concert Choir	Percussion Techniques
Drawing & Painting	Photography
Fine Art I	Portfolio Development
Foundation of Art	Theatre I, II, III, I

McNICHOLAS ELECTIVES NEW FOR 2022-23

Descriptions of these new McNicholas courses and all other courses offered at McNicholas are in the Course Catalog.

AP Research
Catholic Discipleship and Citizenship in the 21st Century
Culinary Chemistry
Robotic Engineering
Rocket Leadership 101
Statistics College Credit Plus

COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Admission requirements for post-secondary educational institutions vary. Many require specific “college preparatory” subjects for admission and often have additional requirements for a particular program. Each school and/or program that a student may be considering should be checked for specific requirements early in the student’s high school career to insure that the student is taking the appropriate high school courses.

Public colleges supported by the State of Ohio have adopted criteria established by the Ohio Board of Regents for “admission without conditions” for four-year baccalaureate programs. Completion of the Requirements for a McNicholas Diploma plus two years of the same foreign language satisfy “admissions without conditions” criteria for Ohio public colleges. Some of these institutions may also specify a particular grade average in class as part of their admission requirements for particular programs. Ohio residents not meeting these requirements may be admitted “with conditions,” which may include additional work taken at the college.

Private, two-year technical, and community colleges have their own individual requirements that may be quite different from the Ohio state-supported college requirements. For example, many Tier 1 colleges require three years of the same foreign language, and competitive programs

such as the University of Cincinnati Design Art and Architecture Program (DAAP) requires a year of physics and a year of calculus or precalculus. As soon as you become interested in a particular college or college program, please find out about its entrance requirements. Your counselor will be happy to assist you.

PLANNING FOR A BALANCED LIFE

Please reflect thoughtfully and realistically about yourself – your capabilities, your interests, and your goals – as you decide on your courses for next year. Find the course workload that will stretch you but not overwhelm you -- that will energize you by making you feel a little out of breath with its demands, but not exhaust and depress you because you can't keep up. Choosing the right mix of courses for YOU depends on you knowing YOU. How much time will you need for other parts of your life to stay in balance: sports, clubs, service, family, church, friends, part-time job? Copying a classmate's course choices is not a good strategy because your classmate's overall life is different from yours. None of this is meant to dissuade you from pursuing lofty goals and stretching your ability to cope with stress. Stress is part of daily life and isn't going away. If you want to go for a spot in any competitive post-secondary program, you will have to do substantial work. Just make sure it's the RIGHT work to help you reach your goals and that it's the RIGHT type and level of work for you. Your teachers and counselors are here to help you. Please don't hesitate to ask them about the realities of the workload for certain courses. We depend on you to make good choices about your commitments next year because everyone at McNick will benefit from having the best balanced YOU on campus next year.

COURSE LEVELS

College Level courses are designed for academically gifted students who possess strong academic background, advanced research skills, and consistently high levels of motivation and willingness to self-start and work independently. The content is college level, demanding the highest levels of critical thinking -- analysis, application, evaluation, decision making, complex problem solving -- both individually and in group situations.

Honors courses challenge students with an in-depth, accelerated curriculum of reading, writing, speaking, problem solving, research, and technological and laboratory skills. The course content is above grade level, and the pacing is faster than that of courses in the COLLEGE PREP levels. Students are required to read and write critically, engage in challenging problem solving activities, and display higher levels of thinking.

College Prep 1 courses are designed for students whose needs are best met by a standard college prep curriculum on grade level. These courses fully meet the basic standards required by most university and post-secondary areas of study. The courses incorporate language skills, research, and technological and problem-solving skills.

College Prep 2 and 3 courses cover the same essential material as College Prep 1 and also meet the standards required for most university and post high school areas of study. However, they are designed for students who will benefit from more systematic and continuous attention to strengthening basic skills in the particular subject areas.

THREE PATHS TO COLLEGE CREDIT AT McNICHOLAS

1. Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement is a national program providing college level courses for secondary school students. Students qualify for college credit and/or advanced placement based exclusively on the result of the AP exam administered in May. Families are charged a fee of \$96 or \$144 for the exam. Individual colleges make their own decisions about the AP exam scores for which they award credit and/or advanced placement. Students enrolled in an A.P. course are expected to take the A.P. exam at the end of the course. McNicholas teachers offer an impressive array of AP courses. McNicholas students also have access to additional AP courses taught online through the Catholic online course provider Catholic. Registration for these online courses requires prior approval by the Director of Curriculum. McNicholas provides funding that enables a limited number of students to take online courses through these partner organizations at no additional cost to the family. Students apply for this funding by completing a brief application form at course registration time. In addition to preparing for the AP exam by taking courses, students may prepare on an individual basis for an A.P. exam. Students interested in this self-study approach should see the AP Coordinator in the Counseling Department by the end of September to order an AP exam.

McNicholas AP Courses are taught on-campus by McNicholas teachers.

The fee for AP Seminar and AP Research exams is \$144. The fee for all other AP exams is \$96.

AP Biology	AP English Literature and Literature
AP Calculus AB	AP French Language and Culture
AP Ceramics	AP Latin
AP Chemistry	AP Photography
AP Drawing	AP Physics
AP English Language and Composition	AP Spanish Language and Culture

Catholic Virtual AP Courses are available to McNicholas students online through Catholic Virtual.

Additional tuition for a Catholic Virtual course is \$300 per semester. Information about the availability of limited McNicholas assistance for Catholic Virtual tuition appears in the "Online Course Options" section below. The fee for the AP exam is \$96.

AP Environmental Science
AP Macroeconomics
AP Microeconomics
AP Psychology

2. College Credit Plus

The College Credit Plus Program sponsored by the State of Ohio gives qualified high school students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously by taking courses

offered by Ohio colleges or universities. Colleges usually require satisfactory scores in math and English placement exams. Tuition is free if the student takes classes offered by a public college and if the state allocates tuition to the student. Grades for these courses appear on college transcripts and thus become part of a student's permanent educational record. Thanks to Ohio's Transfer to Degree Guarantee, many entry-level courses earned at an Ohio public college are guaranteed to transfer to any other Ohio public college. Please check the transfer status of a course before registering for it.

McNicholas teachers, as adjunct faculty members of colleges, offer the following courses on the McNicholas campus:

University of Cincinnati Information Technology Pathway

Fundamentals of Web Development
Computer Programming 1
Database Management
Systems Administration

Cincinnati State College Courses

Algebra 3/Trig
Art History
Statistics

3. Dual Credit

Through agreements that McNicholas maintains with selected universities and Catholic online course providers, students may earn college and high school credit simultaneously. Universities make their own decisions about the college transfer courses that they will accept. Students and parents are advised to check on whether prospective universities will accept these courses for transfer credit. Families are responsible for the college credit fees. McNicholas provides funding that pays the high school credit cost for a limited number of online courses taught through Catholic Virtual. Students apply for this funding by completing a brief application form at course registration time.

The following dual credit courses are available:

Mt. St. Joseph University

Biblical Literature I
Biblical Literature II

These courses are taught in person on the McNicholas campus. There is a \$250 per semester course.

Marquette University

Microeconomics (ECON 1103)
Macroeconomics (ECON 1104)
Philosophy (PHILOSOPHY 1091)

These courses are taught online through Catholic Virtual. There is an \$800 fee per

semester course. Information about the availability of limited McNicholas assistance for \$300 of this Catholic Virtual tuition appears in the “Online Course Options” section below. The additional \$500 per semester, which pays for transcribed Marquette University credit, is not eligible for tuition assistance.

ONLINE COURSE OPTIONS

Quality online courses are available to McNicholas students through the Catholic online course provider Catholic Virtual.

The following guidelines apply:

- If McNicholas offers a regular face-to-face course, students are expected to take the face-to-face course rather than the online course. Exceptions are possible for good reasons, including scheduling conflicts.
- No more than two semesters per year of an online course not taught by a McNicholas faculty member may be counted towards fulfillment of graduation requirements.
- No more than two semesters of an online course not taught by a McNicholas teacher per department may be counted towards department graduation requirements.
- Students who wish to register for an online course towards graduation requirements should request prior approval from the Director of Curriculum.
- The Student Handbook expectations for regular McNicholas courses apply to online courses.
- Students taking an online course through Catholic Virtual will follow all policies that apply to courses already taught at McNicholas. Additionally, policies of Catholic Virtual will apply.

McNicholas provides funding that enables a limited number of students to take online courses through these partner organizations at no additional cost to the family. Students apply for this funding by completing a brief application form at course registration time. The School Counseling Department handles registration for these courses.

Catholic Virtual Courses

There is a fee of \$300 per semester course. Information about the availability of limited McNicholas assistance for Catholic Virtual tuition appears above. The fee for AP exams is \$96.

Course descriptions are available in the Catholic Virtual course catalog available at this [link](#).

Aeronautics and Space Travel
American Sign Language I, II
AP Environmental Science
AP Macroeconomics
AP Microeconomics
AP Psychology
Building Maintenance Technology I, II
Business Law
Career Exploration in Healthcare

Character Education
Child Development
Construction: Fundamentals and Careers
Early Childhood Education I, II
Explorations in Arts Careers
Health Careers
Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and
Introduction to Education and Teaching

Introduction to Hospitality and Tourism
Natural Resources
Nutrition
Project Management

Space Explorations
Startups and Innovation
Transportation Technologies

CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

“Ohio’s plan for the credit flexibility is designed to broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, increase depth of study available for a particular subject and tailor the learning time or conditions as needed. In these ways, students can customize aspects of their learning around more of their interests and needs...The key to this option is that the student drives the request as well as the plan to earn the credit. A specific interest or credit need of the student should be the basis for the request.” (Ohio Department of Education website).

Through Credit Flexibility, students may propose a plan to pursue college preparatory academic work outside of McNicholas classrooms, whether for an individually designed program, a course offered at McNicholas, or for a course or experience not offered at McNicholas or through a partner course provider. For the sake of accomplishing the formational and social aspects of education essential to the school’s graduation outcomes, the student ordinarily must be present in the McNicholas school building, or present at educational programs sponsored by or officially affiliated with McNicholas, for at least 80% of the time during which classes are held each week.

To receive credit at McNicholas for this work, a student must

- Submit a Flexible Credit Proposal Form to the Director of Curriculum by May 15* of the year preceding the implementation year (*exceptions may be granted by the Director of Curriculum)
- Obtain the approval of the Director of Curriculum for the proposal
- Demonstrate mastery in the proposed area of study according to the plan approved by the Director of Curriculum

The Flexible Credit Proposal Form will require the following elements:

- Name of the student
- Plan title
- School graduation requirement being met
- Description of the proposed curriculum, measurable learning outcomes, and proposed assessment methods
- Evaluative criteria and methods for determining grade and credit
- Name of the credentialed educator who will evaluate the learning
- Credit to be awarded
- Indication of whether the grade is weighted or unweighted
- Anticipated start and end dates
- Signatures and dates of the Director of Curriculum, student, parent, and credentialed McNicholas teacher who is monitoring the student’s progress on the plan

The Director of Curriculum will review the request with the assistance of the appropriate Department Chair or his/her delegate in order to render a decision about whether the school finds merit in the proposal. The school may accept the proposal as submitted, communicate additional requirements and/or modify the proposal, or deny the proposal. If accepted or modified, the school will then decide on the unit of credit to be awarded at the completion.

It is required that a McNicholas credentialed educator oversee the student's progress on any approved plan. The student is responsible for all fees related to the learning plan. In order for a credit to be issued for a graduation requirement, all required course content as outlined in the McNicholas graded course of studies must be met. The designation of whether the credit issued is for a graduation requirement or an elective credit is at the discretion of the Director of Curriculum. When the student completes the stipulated work and demonstrates mastery, credit will be posted on the student's transcript and the grade will be determined and included in the GPA.

While "seat time" is not mandated for credit, it might provide a useful guide for the student in developing the learning plan. The Director of Curriculum, in consultation with the adult supervisor/mentor, will assign a grade upon completion. It is a policy of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that religion classes may not be taken in this manner. McNicholas does not permit students to graduate in less than four years. There is an additional fee up to \$500 per credit based upon the extent of a McNicholas teacher's responsibility in the educational option plan. Please see your school counselor for more information.

COURSE CHANGES AFTER A COURSE BEGINS

A student may change a McNicholas course within the first two weeks of class under these conditions:

- The student has had a conversation with the teacher
- The student's counselor has approved the change
- For changes involving an elective course, a fee of \$50 has been paid to the school.

Additional conditions may apply for changing a Catholic Virtual online course.