



Saint Thomas' Episcopal School Upper School Curriculum Grades 9-12

STE offers our high school students a challenging liberal arts curriculum that embraces a detailed treatment of mathematics, languages, history, science, and religion. In addition, students have many opportunities to participate in activities outside their regular academic courses. Upon graduation, our students have a firm foundation on which to build future success in college and in life.

English

English 9

Students study world myth and epic literature, including Greek and Roman mythology, Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, *The Aeneid*, *Beowulf*, various Arthurian texts, and selections from Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Study of these works enhances the understanding of later works that allude to these common origins. Ninth graders also write a 2,500 word research paper (a grade for both English and biology). They learn MLA style and format for parenthetical citations and become familiar with the Internet and other sources. Grammar and vocabulary enrichment continue. *Prerequisite: None.*

Literature

Mythology, Bulfinch
The Odyssey, Homer
Julius Caesar, Shakespeare
Le Morte D'Arthur, Malory
Beowulf
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Selections from *Divine Comedy*

English 10

Students study significant works by American authors to gain understanding and insight into the American voice and identity. They learn higher level thinking skills as well as continue to develop research skills. Students improve communication skills through weekly vocabulary lessons, grammar exercises, and tests. Students study assorted poetry, essays, and short stories from their textbook *The American Tradition in Literature*, Perkins & Perkins. *Prerequisite: None.*

Literature

The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Scarlet Letter, Hawthorne
The Tempest, Shakespeare
The Adventures of Huck Finn, Twain
The Crucible, Miller
Of Mice and Men, Steinbeck
Fahrenheit 451, Bradbury

11th Grade Language and Composition OR AP English Language and Composition

This course is an in-depth examination of The Great Chain of Being and its influence of British Literature. Students read Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy*, St. Augustine of Hippo's *On Free Choice of the Will*, and a selection of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in the first semester. These books lay the foundation for our study of the GCOB, which will be the continuing theme for our examination of Shakespeare's *King Lear*, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Lewis' Space trilogy and *The Abolition of Man*, Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Voltaire's *Candide*, and Wilde's *Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Students write an argumentative research paper. Essay writing, in class and as homework exercises, other AP drills, vocabulary, and grammar are ongoing throughout the school year. Some time is also spent on honing college application essay-writing skills in the second semester.

Prerequisites: Completion of all required reading books, grammar proficiency, and department approval.

Literature

Norton Anthology of English Literature
Confessions, St. Augustine
The Canterbury Tales, Chaucer
Macbeth, Shakespeare
Paradise Lost, Milton
Frankenstein, Shelley

12th Grade Literature and Composition OR AP English Literature and Composition

This course is an in-depth examination of some of the most influential faces and voices of world literature. Students read Dante's *Divine Comedy* with related readings that include Plato's *Republic*, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, Thomas More's *Utopia*, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and various critical essays.

Students also write a literary research paper on Hamlet, and examine works by such authors as Jane Austen, Jonathan Swift, Thomas Hardy, C.S. Lewis, Aldous Huxley, and Sophocles. Essay writing, grammar practice, and vocabulary enhancement are ongoing processes. *Prerequisites: Completion of all required reading books, grammar proficiency, and completion of Plato's Republic the summer before the senior year.*

Required Reading

In addition to their regular literature readings, all high school students MUST read a different set of two

novels each year. These readings increase the students' experience with different authors, subject matter, and styles, as well as improve their reading comprehension and efficiency. Recent required reading selections have included: *The Count of Monte Christo*, *Seven Years a Slave*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Great Expectations*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *Quo Vadis*, and *Dracula*.

Program Emphases

Grammar - The study of grammar is fundamental to a real understanding of reading and writing our beautiful English language. Beginning in ninth grade, regular diagnostic tests and grammar refresher courses help students with weaknesses in this area.

Vocabulary - We study vocabulary because many reading and writing difficulties come directly from not knowing what words mean. In addition, vocabulary knowledge is critically important on standardized tests like the SAT, so regular drill gives students experience in the form and content of test questions.

Writing - The high school continues analysis of paragraph structure and the essay form. Students hone their skills through writing essays about various topics as well as essay answers on tests. We teach how to prepare a research paper, from how to gather the source material through how to document the information. By the time students graduate, they have written at least four major research papers.

Literature - Our literature choices emphasize—but are not limited to—the classics of Western civilization, chiefly those written in English. Students learn to analyze these works for content, form, style, and theme. In literary analysis, we insist on careful, thorough, open-minded reading, and that students produce evidence for their opinions from the text itself, not from some disconnected imaginings.

English Elective

Creative Writing

Students examine various aspects of the creative process in writing fiction and poetry. Our focus is on writing short fiction as we look at different genres in today's markets. Students learn basic elements of crafting short stories by looking at: plotting, developing characters that readers will find interesting, themes, the narrative hook, and dialogue. Students will write poetry in at least one marking period. Open to students in grades 9 through 12. *Prerequisite: None.*

Mathematics

Algebra 1

Grade 9

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Algebra 1 is designed to give students a foundation for all future mathematics courses. The fundamentals of algebraic problem-solving are explained. Students will explore: foundations of Algebra, solving equations, solving inequalities, an introduction to functions, linear functions, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic functions and equations, radical expressions and equations, and data analysis and probability. This course is not offered every year.

Geometry

Grade 9

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

This Geometry course includes an in-depth analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts as well as real-world problem situations. Topics include logic and proof, parallel lines and polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. Students will be required to use different technological tools and manipulatives to discover and explain much of the course content.

Geometry with Advanced Proofs

Grade 9

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (with a grade of a 90 or better)

This Geometry course includes an in-depth analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts as well as real-world problem situations. Topics include logic and proof, parallel lines and polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument along with extensive proofs. Students will be required to use different technological tools and manipulatives to discover and explain much of the course content. Additional topics, as time permits, include an SAT prep course.

Algebra 2

Grade 10

Prerequisite: Geometry

Fundamental skills of mathematics will be applied to such topics as functions, equations and inequalities, logarithmic and exponential relationships, quadratic and polynomial equations, and sequences and series. Technology will be used to introduce and expand upon the areas of study listed above.

Algebra 2 with Trig

Grade 9 or 10

Prerequisite: Geometry (with a grade of a 95 or better) or Geometry with Advanced proofs (with a grade of a 90 or better)

Fundamental skills of mathematics will be applied to such topics as functions, equations and inequalities, logarithmic and exponential relationships, quadratic and polynomial equations, and sequences and series. This course also covers topics in pre calculus such as Polar Coordinates, Polar Equations and Graphs, The Complex Plane, Vectors, The Dot Product, Vectors in Space, The Cross Product and General Form of a Conic. Technology will be used to introduce and expand upon the areas of study listed above.

Pre Calculus

Grade 11 or 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

In this course, students will extend topics introduced in Algebra 2 and learn to manipulate and apply more advanced functions and algorithms. This course provides a mathematically sound foundation for students who intend to study Calculus. Some Topics include: Relations and Functions, Exponential and

Logarithmic Functions, The Trigonometric Functions, Trigonometric Identities, and Applications of Trigonometry.

Calculus AB

Grade 10, 11, or 12

Prerequisite: *Pre calculus (with a grade of 80 or better) or Algebra 2 with Trig*

Calculus provides a study of differential and integral calculus at a pre-AP level. This course will provide students who have a thorough knowledge of analytical geometry, algebra, and trigonometry the opportunity to greatly expand their mathematical knowledge and prepare for further studies in calculus, engineering, and science. This course is not designed to prepare students for the AP exam.

AP Calculus AB

Grade 10, 11, or 12

Prerequisite: *Algebra 2 with Trig (with a grade of 90 or better) or Pre calculus (with a grade of 90 or better)*

Calculus provides a study of differential and integral calculus at an AP level. This course will provide students who have a thorough knowledge of analytical geometry, algebra, and trigonometry the opportunity to greatly expand their mathematical knowledge and prepare for further studies in calculus, engineering, and science. The AP course covers topics in these areas, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

*Summer work may be required prior to the first day of school

*Sitting for the AP exam is required

AP Calculus BC

Grade 11 or 12

Prerequisite: *AP Calculus AB (with a grade of 90 or better) or Calculus AB (with a grade of 95 or better)*

This challenging course will provide students who have a thorough knowledge of analytical geometry, algebra, and trigonometry the opportunity to greatly expand their mathematical knowledge and prepare for further studies in mathematics, science, and engineering. AP Calculus covers the first two semesters of college-level Calculus. Most U.S. colleges and universities grant advanced placement and/or credit for one or two semesters of Calculus for certain AP Calculus exam scores. To find out a specific institution's policy, consult its catalog or website. It includes all topics in AP Calculus AB plus: polar calculus, vectors, and infinite series.

*Summer work may be required prior to the first day of school

*Sitting for the AP exam is required

College Algebra

Grade 12

Prerequisite: *Pre calculus or Algebra 2 with Trig*

This is our most advanced course of Algebra. It provides an extensive review of high school Algebra, deepens concept understanding, and explores in detail problem-solving techniques. It applies to students who have completed at least one year of high school Algebra, and it targets learners wishing to pursue a university degree that requires mathematical skill at a non-Calculus level. This course is not offered every year.

Finite Math

Grade 12

Prerequisite: Pre calculus or Algebra 2 with Trig

This course is designed to prepare the student for introductory college mathematics. Finite Math provides a review of topics covered in Algebra. Additional topics include: matrices, finance mathematics, and an introduction to probability and statistics. This course is not offered every year.

AP Statistics

Grade 12

Prerequisite: Pre calculus (with a grade of 85 or better) or Algebra 2 with Trig (with a grade of 85 or better)

AP Statistics is a rigorous college-level course taught based upon the AP curriculum. The course includes topics on experimental design, data collection, statistical testing, and drawing valid conclusions based on the data. Students completing the course will be prepared for the AP Statistics Advanced Placement Examination.

*Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.

Multivariable Calculus/Introduction to Differential Equations

Grade 12

Prerequisite: AP Calculus BC (with a score of 4 or 5 on the AP test/component and department approval)

Model a simple physical system to obtain a first order differential equation. Test the plausibility of a solution to a differential equation by physical reasoning, looking at the graph, and testing extreme cases. Visualize solutions doing direction fields and approximating them with Euler's method. Find and classify the solution of a first order autonomous equation. Topics include: Multivariable Calculus: Vectors and matrices, Parametric Curves, Partial Derivatives, Double and Triple Integrals, Vector Calculus in 2- and 3-space.

*Summer work may be required prior to the first day of school

Math Elective

Logic

This course introduces students to contemporary symbolic logic, creates awareness of arguments, and sharpens the students' ability to evaluate arguments. **Note:** Credit for this course does NOT count towards the math credits required for graduation.

Science

The goal of the science program at Saint Thomas' is to provide our graduates with a fundamental and integrated knowledge of those sciences that explain the nature of our Creator's orderly universe.

9th Grade Biology

A detailed and intensive study of biology is required of all ninth grade students. The first semester includes the fundamentals of ecology, biochemistry, cellular structure, and microbiology. Botany, zoology, and human anatomy and physiology are studied in the second semester.

10th Grade Chemistry

Chemistry is studied from both the theoretical and mathematical perspectives. Much attention is given to

acquiring a thorough background in the language of chemistry: learning symbols, writing formulas, and writing and balancing chemical equations. Emphasis is placed throughout the course on mastering the concepts required to solve various types of chemistry problems.

11th Grade Physics

Physics is the study of the principles that are observed in the physical world. The purpose of this course is for the students to develop a conceptual understanding of the major topics of physics (mechanics, waves, light, electricity, and magnetism) and to investigate these topics in experimentation and problem solving.

Science Electives

Environmental Science

This course is designed to cover various topics of environmental science, including water, land, and energy usage. The class brings together fundamental concepts of chemistry and biology, and will require students to apply these concepts to local, regional, and global environmental issues while focusing on topics that are most relevant to current events. The course is lab-based and requires that students make time after school for laboratory work once each week. *Prerequisite: Three years of science.*

Geology

This course is an introduction to physical geology. Topics that are covered include: matter and minerals; igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks; weathering; ground water; glaciers; plate tectonics and mountain building; energy; and mineral resources. Students participate in a field trip visit to sites of various geological processes in the central Texas area.

AP Biology

The course covers three main topics: molecules and cells; genetics and evolution; and organisms and populations. Students complete 20 after-school lab sessions during the year. Students are required to take the AP exam. *Prerequisite: Biology and chemistry with an 80 or better average (or concurrent enrollment in chemistry).*

AP Chemistry

The purpose of this course is for the students to understand the fundamental models of chemistry, to learn how chemistry is involved in the real world, and to develop skills as a problem solver. The major topics are chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, bonding, kinetics, thermodynamics, and electrochemistry. Each student is required to complete 14 laboratory sessions and write formal lab reports. The students are required to take the AP exam. *Prerequisite: Chemistry and Algebra II, with an 80 or better average in both subjects.*

AP Physics C: Mechanics

The AP Physics course is equivalent in content, depth, and complexity to an introductory calculus-based physics course at the college level for science or engineering majors. This course is designed to prepare

the student to excel on both of the AP Physics C exams offered: one in mechanics and one in electricity and magnetism. AP Physics is an in-depth, content-intensive study of physical principles that allows students the opportunity to engage hands-on in scientific experimentation. Units of study include kinematics, Newton's laws, conservation laws, harmonic motion, rotational motion, electrostatics, electricity, magnetism, Maxwell's equations, and circuit analysis. Use of calculus in problem solving is expected to increase as the course progresses.

Students signing-up for AP Physics will be required to complete summer preparatory work. The teacher will meet with the students once per week for 1.5 hours at the STE campus to discuss the material, answer questions, and discuss solutions to assignments given. The students are not required to attend the weekly meetings or turn-in assignments during these summer months; however, it is highly recommended that they do. The students will be given a comprehensive exam on the summer work the second week of the fall semester. The exam will cover 5 chapters of classical mechanics presented during the summer including kinematics in 1 and 2 dimensions, vectors, force, and motion. Failure to make an 80 or better on the comprehensive exam will result in the student being dropped from the AP Physics class. The teacher will answer questions by e-mail during the summer study months.

Prerequisite: Physics with 90 or better; completed or concurrently enrolled in Calculus.

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism

Social Studies

9th Grade:

European History

European History is an overview of the people, events, and ideas that shaped Western Civilization from 1450 to the present. The course will introduce students to the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping modern Europe. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goal of the course is to show how modern ideas, institutions, and culture have developed from the Christian faith. Throughout the course, it will be stressed that people and their ideas for good or ill make history. Particular attention will be paid to the Renaissance, the Reformation, the English Civil War, the French Revolution, the Communist Revolution, the World Wars, and the Cold War. The course will cover from the beginning of the Renaissance to the present day told from a Christian perspective.

10th Grade:

U.S. History

The goal of this course is to have each student understand United States political, diplomatic, economic, and social history from the Age of Discovery to the end of the Cold War. This course is taught at a college preparatory/high school level. Students are required to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate primary and secondary sources in addition to memorizing, comprehending, and applying facts.

- or -

AP United States History

The goal of this course is to have each student understand United States political, diplomatic, economic, and social history as the nation moves from Discovery to the end of the Cold War. This course is taught at a college level. Thus, the students are required frequently to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate primary and secondary sources in addition to memorizing, comprehending, and applying facts. The major difference between high school and college history is the amount of outside reading and depth of focus. Students taking this class must take the AP exam.

11th Grade:

U.S. Government/Economics (2 semesters – 1 credit)

U.S. Government (1st semester)

This course engages the students in the study of politics, the foundations of American constitutionalism, the institutions of American government, and recent governmental developments.

Economics (2nd semester)

This course engages the students in the study of basic economics, with a focus on applied economics.

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AP U.S. Government & Politics/AP Macroeconomics (2 semesters – 1 credit)

AP U.S. Government & Politics (1st semester)

This elective provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality. Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.

AP Macroeconomics (2nd semester)

This course is designed to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and develops familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. Students will learn how a nation's economic performance is measured, with a primary emphasis in the areas of national income and price determination. Issues of international trade and future economic growth will also be studied. Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.

12th Grade:

Western Philosophy

Students gain an appreciation of the main ideas and influence of Western thought through a survey of outstanding philosophers from ancient Greece to the present day. The course gives students a reliable method for approaching our pluralistic contemporary world within a perspective of traditional Western and Christian thought.

Social Studies Electives

Ten Pillars of Economics

The Ten Pillars are economic principles that address the management of resources, production, and trade in a free society. These pillars provide a framework within which to study the Free Enterprise System and its foundation on the principles of private property, free markets, and a representative government limited by the rule of law. This course analyzes the economic forces involved in the choices people make and the actions they take as they seek to provide for their material welfare through the production and exchange in the marketplace. Students learn to evaluate the economic impact of current issues and government policies on individuals, special interest groups, and the economy as a whole. *Prerequisite: None.*

AP Comparative Government & Politics/AP Microeconomics (2 semesters – 1 credit)

12th Grade

Prerequisite: U.S. Government

AP Comparative Government & Politics (1st semester)

This is a college-level political science course that provides students with a concrete understanding of the scientific method behind political comparison, a well developed sense of political theory, and a “real world” understanding of global studies through the comparative analysis of six different countries: Great Britain, Iran, Russia, China, Mexico, and Nigeria. The course has a heavy reading load: students will use a college-level textbook, and will be required to read three full-length memoirs and several AP Briefing Papers. Students will participate in seminars, simulations, discussions, and debates to develop their understanding of each country studied. Students will learn to analyze the relationship between 1) state and society and 2) the citizen and the state, and will compare the structure of governmental institutions in different countries to learn how each structure affects society in general and individuals in particular. Upon completion of the course, students will be equipped to understand and evaluate geopolitical issues in an informed, scientific manner. Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.

AP Microeconomics (2nd semester)

The purpose of this course is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students will gain an understanding of principles that apply to individual consumers within the larger economic system. The primary emphasis of study will be focused on product markets, factor markets, and the government’s role in promoting greater competition, efficiency, and equity in the economy. Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.

AP Human Geography

Human geography is a discipline that brings together the physical and human dimensions of our world. It concerns the earth’s surface and the processes that shape the relationships between people and places. Students taking this class must take the AP exam. *Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or greater.*

The following are the goals addressed in this course:

- Using and thinking about maps and spatial data
- Understanding and interpreting how phenomena are related to one another in particular places
- Recognizing and interpreting at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes
- Defining regions and understanding the regionalization process by analyzing the interconnections among places.

AP European History

This course provides an overview of the people, events, and ideas that shaped Western Civilization from 1450 to the present. The course introduces students to the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping modern Europe. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of the course are to develop (1) an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, (2) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and (3) an ability to express historical understanding in writing. Students taking this class must take the AP exam. *Prerequisite: Student must be in 11th or 12th grade.*

AP Psychology

This course will introduce students to psychology, the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students will learn about the various sub-fields of psychology, the major experimental findings, principles, and phenomena, and the leading psychologists of these fields. The course will emphasize experimental procedures and include discussion of the ethics involved in research with humans and animals and in clinical practice. *Prerequisite: Student must be in 12th grade.*

Foreign Languages

Latin

The study of Latin plays an important role at Saint Thomas'. Many students will have the opportunity to complete the Latin Advanced Placement Course covering Vergil's Aeneid and Caesar's De bello Gallico. For most students this means they will finish Latin in their junior year.

Latin is important for many reasons. As the major language of the Western world for more than two thousand years, it is the parent language of French, Spanish, and Italian, among others, and is a cousin to Greek, Sanskrit, and the Germanic languages. Thus, a good understanding of Latin facilitates learning both the Romance and the Germanic languages. English itself is overwhelmingly indebted to Latin.

It is far easier for a student to learn English vocabulary when he or she can analyze the basic Latin roots and infer the definition rather than memorize meanings in a vacuum. Latin is also an invaluable aid in teaching English grammar because basic grammatical concepts become clearer when presented in the logical structure of the Latin language. Finally, the ability to read and analyze the ancient writers increases our appreciation and understanding of our own values and culture.

Students in sixth grade through eighth grades master reading, comprehension, knowledge of classical history and culture. Additionally, students acquire basic word forms, vocabulary, and grammar of the Latin language. The seventh grade level correlates with the history program through an intensive study in Roman history and civilization. In ninth grade, students are divided into two levels: Regular and Readings. New students arriving after the sixth grade are placed at the beginning level within their peer group. Students with initiative in the regular level will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Course if their grades warrant it.

Our primary text is the Cambridge Latin Series that uses a reading approach to help students master the language. Written as a historical novel, students meet ancient characters and are exposed to the classical heritage that is the foundation of our world today. Through the four consecutive units of the text, students journey to ancient Pompeii, Alexandria, Roman Britain, and finally Rome. Along the way, students read and understand Latin, acquiring a strong working vocabulary, mastering grammatical concepts, and appreciating the very people who spoke the language.

All students taking Latin participate in the American Classical League's National Latin Exam, in which they regularly excel. Also, any student enrolled in Latin will be invited to join the Junior Classical League, an organization offering the opportunity to meet and compete with students on a local, state, and national level.

9th Grade:

Latin III

Latin III continues the study of Roman literature and translation through a variety of reading selections. This course will complete the readings in the final unit of the Cambridge Latin Course, concluding the historical novel which began with Pompeii and the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Unit IV will begin to assist students in making the transition to original texts in Latin. Students will continue their study of grammar, vocabulary, derivatives, and ancient history. In addition, students will learn literary terms and devices.

Latin III Readings

Latin III Readings continues the study of Roman literature and translation through a variety of reading selections. In the first semester, this course will complete the readings in the final unit of the Cambridge Latin Course, concluding the historical novel which began with Pompeii and the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D. During second semester, students will read original and adapted passages from several Roman authors including Martial, Ovid, Pliny, Catullus, Vergil, and Tacitus.

10th Grade:

Latin IV

Latin IV furthers the study of Roman literature and translation through a variety of reading selections. Following the completion of the final unit of the Cambridge Latin Course in Latin III, students now will

be ready to read original and adapted passages from several Roman authors including Martial, Ovid, Pliny, Catullus, Vergil, and Tacitus. Students practice comprehension through in-depth analysis of the text. Students apply what they learn to better understand our world as they see the many influences of Latin in our lives.

Latin IV Readings

Latin IV further increases reading proficiency through a variety of complex reading selections. Vocabulary and grammatical structures, cultural and historic materials, and excerpts from original Roman authors enhance student understanding of the language and culture of the ancient Romans. Students practice comprehension through in-depth analysis of the text, and apply what they learn to better understand our world as they see the many influences of Latin in our lives. Authors include Catullus, Ovid, Vergil, Petronius, Pliny the Younger, and Julius Caesar. A significant portion of the course is devoted to reading Caesar's *De bello Gallico*. The focus is to prepare students for the study of Advanced Placement Latin, and serves as a prerequisite to that course.

11th Grade:

Latin V

The Latin V Course further develops reading proficiency through a variety of complex reading selections. Vocabulary and grammatical structures, cultural and historic materials, and excerpts from original Roman authors enhance student understanding of the language and culture of the ancient Romans. Students practice comprehension through in-depth analysis of each text. Authors included in this course are Julius Caesar, Livy, Cicero, Horace, Ovid, Terence, Plautus, and Petronius.

11th Grade:

AP Latin

Advanced Placement Latin offers an extensive reading and analysis of Vergil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *De bello Gallico*. The Vergil section of the course will focus on Books I-VI, while the Caesar section will emphasize Books I, IV, V, and VI. In preparation for the Advanced Placement exam, students will devote careful study to the texts with attention to vocabulary, morphology, and syntax. Students will further develop skills in literary analysis of both works as landmarks of Western literature. Students will pursue an intensive study of plot, character, literary devices, meter, and stylistic analysis. Other integral components include an examination of the cultural, social, and political context of both the *Aeneid* and the *De bello Gallico*. Both works will be read in full in English. **Note:** Students entering STE in 9th grade will follow the curriculum of the courses described above: Latin I, Latin II, and Latin III consecutively.

Spanish I

This is a beginning level class for students with no previous knowledge of Spanish. It is offered on an as-needed basis only for students who have not taken Spanish in middle school. Students study grammar in the present and present progressive tenses, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns. Vocabulary is thematic and

changes with each chapter. *Prerequisite: None*

Spanish II

This is a beginning level class for students who have taken Spanish I or its equivalent. (A placement test may be given for new students or Hispanic students.) Students study grammar in the preterite, imperfect, imperative, and present subjunctive tenses as well as comparatives, superlatives, interrogatives, relative pronouns, expressions of time, and prepositions. Vocabulary is thematic and changes with each chapter. *Prerequisite: Spanish A and B (in middle school) or Spanish I, with a C or better average.*

Spanish III

This is an intermediate level class. Students study grammar in the future, conditional, present and imperfect subjunctive, present perfect, and present perfect subjunctive tenses as well as conjunctions, more usages of adjectives and pronouns. Vocabulary is thematic and changes with each chapter.

In the second semester, after completing the text, *Puntos de Partida*, the class will begin the pre-AP text, *En Contacto: Gramatica en Accion* and *En Contacto: Lecturas Intermedias*. *Prerequisite: Spanish II, with a 70 or better average. Note: A placement test may be given for new students or Hispanic students.*

Spanish IV

This is the pre-AP class for students who have successfully completed Spanish II or its equivalent. The focus is on grammar, writing, reading, and verbal skills.

Students in this class have already studied Spanish grammar and have been exposed to all levels of grammatical usage throughout both the text and the reader. In this class, all aspects of grammar are studied more intensively and in-depth as a preparation for the AP exam. Students begin to write essays of 250 words or more.

Vocabulary is thematic and changes with each chapter. Students are required to use vocabulary more actively, both in writing and orally. They are expected to have a much higher level of *comprehension of the spoken language, as much more of the class is taught exclusively in Spanish*. *Prerequisite: Spanish III, with an 80 or better average. A placement test may be given for new students or Hispanic students.*

AP Spanish

This is an advanced, college-level course. Spanish AP prepares students to take the Advanced Placement exam. Students record oral presentations and directed dialogs. They also write essays and read excerpts from Spanish literature. They also undertake an intensive review of Spanish grammar.

Students continue to write essays of 250 words or more. In addition, they research different topics and make PowerPoint presentations in Spanish to the class. Vocabulary is thematic and changes with each chapter. Students must speak only Spanish in class. Students in this class are required to take the AP exam. *Prerequisite: Spanish IV with an A average both semesters and the AP teacher's approval.*

Chinese I

This course is offered to students who have little or no Mandarin Chinese language background. The course provides instructions in all four language skills of aurally understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. It also covers the Chinese pinyin Romanization systems, simplified character writing, and grammar. Students learn basic conversational skills via situational activities and tasks in class. In addition, students are required to use Chinese typing skills as a means of learning Chinese. *Prerequisite: None.*

Chinese II

This course emphasizes development of vocabulary, grammar, and sentence patterns in a meaningful context. Students develop language competency ranging from simple expressions to complex structures. The integrated activities in class provide students time to practice communication skills as well as to build knowledge of Chinese culture. Students are required to construct narrative writings and orally perform in a variety of situations. *Prerequisite: Chinese I or pass Chinese I placement test.*

Chinese III

In Mandarin Chinese III, students do more sophisticated reading and writing about various cultural topics. Chinese idioms, proverbs, and colloquial usages are implemented into the curriculum to enhance comprehension. Students are expected to reach higher levels of proficiency in terms of all language skills. *Prerequisite: Chinese II or pass Chinese II placement test.*

Chinese IV

Students further develop knowledge of and proficiency in the Chinese language and culture. Class instruction is in Chinese only, except for some grammar explanations. The course objectives align with National Standards for Foreign Language Learning the five Cs: communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities. Class materials and activities engage students in the exploration of various cultural issues and language learning, which prepares students for SAT Chinese and AP Chinese exams. *Prerequisite: Chinese III or pass Chinese III placement.*

Introduction to Computer Science and Java

This course is an introduction to Computer Science and an introduction to Java. The first marking period is used to give an overview of computers. In the second and third marking periods, we present the basic elements of Java. The midterm grade will be partially based on a little programming project. In the second half of the year, we alternate computer science topics with more advanced Java elements. We conclude with Social and Ethical Issues and a final project. *Prerequisites: None.*

AP Computer Science A

AP Computer Science A is equivalent to a first-semester, college level course in computer science. This course introduces fundamental topics in computer science by using Java language. Following the indications of the College Board, we will teach how to approach problem solving with computers. We

will place special focus on program design strategies and methodologies, the organization of data (data structures), data processing (algorithms), and algorithms analysis. Moreover, the ethical and social implications of computing will be discussed. The course will emphasize both object oriented and imperative programming to prepare the student to handle both paradigms. This class includes a lab requirement. *Prerequisite: Introduction to Computer Science and Java. Note: Sitting for the AP exam is required for this class.*

Yearbook/Newspaper

The STE yearbook is widely recognized as one of the top books in the country. Join us! We need reporters, writers, photographers, designers, and ad sales people to work with our state-of-the-art Apple computers and Adobe software. We also need staff for our newspaper, The Turf, that appears online and in print.

Note: The staff attends a summer workshop in College Station; potential editors should plan on a summer workshop in Dallas. There will also be a mandatory workshop on campus a few days before the start of school.

Speech and Debate

This class provides students with opportunities to write and present speeches, to work on oral interpretation, and to hone debating skills. Topics covered in class include the oral presentation skills of articulation, pronunciation, projection, posture, and stage presence.

Theatre

This is a class for students who want to learn about and take part in all of the different areas of the exciting and magical world of theatre. Acting is explored through exercises, creative dramatics (including improv), and discussions. Students are exposed to technical theatre through involvement in preparation of and participation in school productions. Each semester culminates with a final project.

Choir

This graded, elective course provides an opportunity for students to develop their musical potential through singing in a choral ensemble. Focus on a beautiful tone, breathing, extension of the vocal range, sight-reading, learning to execute the technical aspects of music, and responsible rehearsal habits are emphasized.

Students carefully prepare music used in the Chapel service, sacred anthems, classical music, and secular music. Students provide community service programs and participate in competitions. Concerts are given at Christmas, in the spring, and at graduation. *Prerequisite: Ability to match pitch and maintain a tonal center while singing accompanied or a cappella. Students new to STE or to the STE choir must audition with the respective choir director prior to enrolling in the course.*

String Ensemble

Students with prior experience and the appropriate level of note reading and technical skills on violin, viola, cello, and bass are instructed in orchestral technique, ensemble, and performance. Different

musical periods and their stylistic characteristics are explored and performed. Classes offer opportunities for students to develop leadership and independence playing solos with the orchestra. Performing opportunities include Chapel services, Christmas and spring concerts, competitions, and community concerts and activities. Advanced students may audition for region and all-state honor orchestras.

Prerequisites: Students new to STE must audition with the strings instructor.

Private Instruction

Private music lessons in piano, voice, organ, violin, viola, cello, flute, and guitar are offered. A very fine group of teachers has been engaged to provide this convenient service. Quarterly and year-end recitals are held to provide students several performance opportunities.

Elective Art

A strong foundation is developed in this classical introduction to art. All forms of art are presented: drawing, painting, and 3-D lessons are designed for the student artist to become proficient in working from natural and man-made objects, as well as inspiring their imagination. Art history is woven into each project by analyzing master and contemporary artists. Through experimenting with a variety of techniques, methods, and media, the student discovers their unique artistic voice in which to express themselves confidently as a lifelong artist. *Prerequisite: None.*

Studio Art

This class enables the student artist to meet all the criteria described in Elective Art but with further development in perceptual and design skills, equipping the artist more efficiently for preparing a college portfolio as well as mastering drawing and design skills that may be applied in college courses (e.g., art, engineering, and computer science). Prior knowledge is extended through projects designed to engage each student's creativity and demonstrate a direct relevance to his or her individuality. *Prerequisite: None.*

AP Studio Art

This course is offered to students who are contemplating careers in art-related fields. Twenty-four college quality art works are submitted to AP at the beginning of May. School art labs are held each month. Students must exhibit the self-discipline to work independently while following a sequential curriculum structured for developing the quality, concentration, and breadth of their artistic voice. *Prerequisites: 1 credit of Studio Art or 2 credits of Elective Art; Teacher approval: 1) Give a formal presentation of your art portfolio to the teacher (date will be announced). 2) Pass a written test displaying complete understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design. 3) Completion of the summer assignment.*

Bagpipe Band

Students involved in the band program receive first-class instruction on the Great Highland bagpipe or Scottish snare, tenor, or bass drum. Participation in the A, B, or C band requires students to compete in pipe band competitions and perform at several school functions. Students who reach the A band earn the chance to perform in Scotland and to compete in the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow. Band

members also participate in the annual Sounds of Scotland that typically occurs in March. *Prerequisite: Instructor Approval.*

Highland Dancing

Highland dancing is open to all students. Students who participate in highland dancing program might have the opportunity to perform in the annual Sounds of Scotland, which typically occurs in March. Students may also participate in medals tests. Highland dancing counts as a P.E. credit. *Prerequisite: None.*

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