



Visitation School

2022-2023 Program of Studies

Mission Statement

Convent of the Visitation School provides an excellent education within a Catholic environment permeated by Salesian spirituality and the living tradition of the Visitation Sisters

Under God's guiding hand, Visitation Sisters, trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, parents and students are committed to the following:

- Gentle, nurturing formation of faith and morality of students in the Salesian community toward reverent worship; responsible, global engagement; the cultivation of loving relationships; and respect for God's creation and for the diversity and dignity of all people.
- Guidance of the holistic growth of each student from infancy toward adulthood through innovative teaching and learning that honors the educational philosophy of the Sisters and includes intentional fostering of leadership within a coed lower school and all-girls middle and upper schools; a challenging college preparatory program; vibrant and varied co-curricular opportunities; broad exposure to the arts; engaged citizenship; and inspiration to pursue lifelong learning.
- Robust governance — derived from a long, stable, independent history — characterized by expert and wide consultation, judicious discernment, Church and community collaboration, and sound fiscal policies.

With God's help and the wisdom born of a long history,
Visitation moves into the future realizing this motto:

"Non Scholae, Sed Vitae; Not for School, but for Life."

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STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Students Services Department and Homeroom Advisors collaborate to assure that students at Visitation receive assistance in all aspects of their school life.

Anna Bachman Barter	Director of Upper School	651-683-1711
Andrea Hofland	Registrar/District Counselor	651-683-1714
Ann Feitl	Dean of Student Life	651-683-1731
Kimberly Cross	Upper School Counselor	651-683-1726
Grace Bergmann	Upper School Counselor	651-683-1728
Brian Burgemeister	Dean of College Counseling	651-683-1716
Sarah Patterson	Dean of College Counseling	651-683-1791
Susan Russomanno	Upper School Learning Specialist	651-683-1746

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

	A	B	C
7:55	Warning Bell		
8:00-9:00	1st Period	4th Period	2nd Period
9:05-10:05	2nd Period	Flex	3rd Period
10:10-10:30	Assembly/HR/Break		
10:35-11:35	3rd Period	1st Period	4th Period
11:40-12:50	Lunch/Flex Time		
12:55-1:55	5th Period	7th Period	6th Period
2:00-3:00	6th Period	5th Period	7th Period

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to take a minimum of 25.5 credits and satisfy the specific departmental requirements described below to graduate from Visitation. Students must also register for at least five courses per semester. Each semester is worth one-half-credit, unless otherwise noted. Year-long courses that meet twice during the A-B-C cycle earn one full credit. Semester-long courses that meet twice during the A-B-C cycle earn one-half-credit. Yearlong Physical Education 9, Introduction to Ballet, and Health meet once during the A-B-C cycle and each earn one-half credit for the entire year.

English	.....	4 Credits
Religion	.....	4 Credits
Mathematics	.....	3 Credits
Science	.....	3 Credits
Social Studies	.....	3 Credits
World Language	.....	3 Credits
Electives	.....	3 Credits
Fine Arts	.....	1 Credit
Physical Education	.....	1 Credit
Health	.....	0.5 Credit

UPPER SCHOOL GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	% Range	Regular Grade Point	Honors Grade Point	AP Grade Point
A	93+	4	4.4	4.8
A-	90-92	3.7	4.1	4.4
B+	87-89	3.3	3.6	4
B	83-86	3	3.3	3.6
B-	80-82	2.7	3	3.2
C+	77-79	2.3	2.5	2.8
C	73-76	2	2.2	2.4
C-	70-72	1.7	1.9	2
D+	67-69	1.3	1.4	1.6
D	64-66	1	1.1	1.2
D-	60-63	0.7	0.8	0.8
F	0-59	0	0	0
I	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0

FOUR YEAR GRADUATION PLANNER

There are seven class periods in the academic schedule at Visitation and the year is broken into two semesters. Please use these tables to plan your four years of Upper School.

9th Grade Year

Period	Semester 1	Semester 2
1.	Literary Genres	Literary Genres
2.	Introduction to Sacred Scripture	Christology: The Study of Jesus as The Christ
3.	PE or Ballet and Health (.25 cr/each)	PE or Ballet and Health (.25 cr/each)
4.	Biology	Biology
5.	Mathematics	Mathematics
6.	World Language	World Language
7.	Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall	Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall

10th Grade Year

Period	Semester 1	Semester 2
1.	World Literature	World Literature
2.	The Paschal Mystery	Ecclesiology
3.	World History or AP Euro	World History or AP Euro
4.	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry
5.	Mathematics	Mathematics
6.	World Language	World Language
7.	2nd PE, Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall	2nd PE, Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall

11th Grade Year

Period	Semester 1	Semester 2
1.	Literature of the United States	Literature of the United States
2.	World Religions	Ethics and Moral Issues
3.	United States History or AP US History	United States History or AP US History
4.	Physics, Honors Physics, or Science Electives	Physics, Honors Physics, or Science Electives
5.	Mathematics	Mathematics
6.	World Language	World Language
7.	2nd PE, Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall	2nd PE, Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall

12th Grade Year

Period	Semester 1	Semester 2
1.	British Lit. or AP English Lit & Comp	British Lit. or AP English Lit & Comp
2.	Salesian Leadership	Salesian Leadership
3.	US Gov, Econ, Gbl Iss or AP US Govt	US Gov, Econ, Gbl Iss or AP US Govt
4.	Physics, Honors Physics, or Science Electives	Physics, Honors Physics, or Science Electives
5.	Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall	Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall
6.	Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall	Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall
7.	Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall	Fine Arts, Elective, Study Hall

COURSE SELECTION AND COLLEGE ADMISSION

Grades in college preparatory courses are the most important predictor of success in college, so admission counselors put more emphasis on them than any other part of a college application. At Visitation, all courses are challenging college preparatory courses, so successful completion of the requirements for graduation ensures the possibility of acceptance to many colleges.

At the highly competitive colleges, however, competition for admission is keen and not all qualified applicants gain admission. Admission counselors working at these colleges analyze an applicant's high school course selection to determine to what degree she has challenged herself. Has she taken a typical course of study at her school, a rigorous one, or the most rigorous? At Visitation, honors courses are the more challenging courses, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are the most challenging. A student who hopes to attend a highly competitive college should enroll in honors and AP courses according to her aspirations, talents, and interests.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND HONORS REQUIREMENTS AND COURSES

Visitation limits Advanced Placement (AP) enrollment to three courses per year. Permission to enroll in a fourth AP course must be obtained from Dr. Anna Bachman Barter, Director of Upper School. Grades earned in Honors courses are weighted 1.1 when computing GPA. Grades earned in AP courses are weighted 1.2.

Fine Arts	English	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	World Language
Honors Drawing	AP English Literature and Composition	Honors Geometry	Honors Chemistry	AP European History	Honors Chinese IV
Honors Painting		Honors Algebra II	Honors Physics	AP United States History	Honors Chinese V/ AP Chinese
Honors Pottery		Honors Math Analysis	AP Biology	AP United States Government and Politics	Honors French IV
Honors Printmaking		AP Statistics	AP Environmental Science		AP French
Honors Chamber Choir		AP Calculus AB			Honors Spanish IV/V
Honors Orchestra		AP Calculus BC			AP Spanish

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY COURSE SELECTIONS

Students wishing to take a class at STA must **first see Director of Upper School, Dr. Anna Bachman Barter**. Counselors and teachers at Visitation and STA cannot give permission to students to take classes at their schools, so please do not ask them.

STA courses are available to Visitation students if:

- The class is not offered at her school or a scheduling conflict involving a class required for graduation prevents the student from taking the class at her school.
- There is space available in the class.

The opportunity to take classes at the two schools is to provide a wider range of electives. It is not to give students the option of taking a class at the school of their choice when the class is offered at both. Please be advised that some conflicts in class attendance are inevitable as the two schools are not always on identical schedules. Students may be required to attend tutorials or spend extra time on class work when these conflicts occur. **Students are not allowed to drive to Saint Thomas Academy.**

Saint Thomas Academy Courses Open to Visitation Students

[Saint Thomas Academy Course Descriptions](#)

VISTA Concert and Jazz Band

ONE SCHOOLHOUSE COURSES

Visitation has partnered with OneSchoolHouse to provide online courses that expand upon the school's curriculum. Students consider these courses only when they have exhausted Visitation's offerings or if there is a conflict in their schedule. There is an additional cost for these courses, and permission of the Director of Upper School is required. Students may need to complete certain prerequisites before enrolling in a particular course. Visit the [One Schoolhouse Course Catalog](#) for more information about course offerings.

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION (PSEO)

Minnesota's Post-Secondary Enrollment Option program allows juniors and seniors to take courses at public or private post-secondary institutions in Minnesota for credit. Students who have exhausted Visitation's course offerings are eligible to apply for this program. Courses offered through this program may not be substituted for courses that are part of Visitation's Graduation Requirements. The PSEO program requires participating students to register with the commissioner of the Department for Children, Families and Learning. For more information and to access application forms, visit the Minnesota State Department of Education Website at: <http://www.education.state.mn.us>

Approval for PSEO courses is given by the Director of Upper School

WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS (HOMEWORK)

Students should expect to spend time each day outside of class preparing using the following guidelines:

30 minutes for standard courses

30-45 minutes for honors courses

45-60 minutes for Advanced Placement (AP) courses

Students should keep these time suggestions in mind as they register for honors and AP courses. Flex times and study hall can be considered as time to spend on outside work.

COURSE ADD/DROP POLICY

All course changes are subject to parental approval, teacher and counselor review and availability of courses. Students may make schedule changes during the week before classes begin by contacting the registrar's office.

Once classes begin, the following procedure is followed:

- The student discusses the schedule change with the teacher of the course, her homeroom advisor and the registrar/district counselor
- The student requests a drop/add form from the registrar's office.
- The student receives signatures from her parent or guardian, teacher(s), homeroom advisor, and college counselor (seniors only).
- The student receives a signature from the upper school director after the above signatures are obtained.
- The student must return a completed drop/add form to the registrar and obtain a new schedule before attending the new class(es).

Course additions may be made during the first six days of the course. Course withdrawals (drops) may be made anytime during the first twelve days of the academic year or semester for a semester course without notation on the transcript.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

If a student withdraws (drops) from a year-long course at the end of semester one and does not enroll in a comparable course for semester two (i.e. dropping an honors-level course for a standard-level course), a "W" will be noted on the transcript for the second semester grade. If a student drops a semester-long course after the first twelve days of the semester, a "W" is also noted on the transcript. All requests to drop a course in this manner are decided by the Director of Upper School in consultation with the academic advisor and the instructor.

ENGLISH

Graduation Requirement: 4 Credits

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Electives
Introduction to Literary Genres	World Literature	Literature of the United States	British Literature and Humanities OR AP English Literature and Composition	Creative Writing: Film and Fiction (S1) Critical Reading: Great Nonfiction (S2)

Introduction to Literary Genres

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Ninth grade begins with an introduction to literature in its various forms: short story, mythology, drama, novel, and poetry; nonfiction texts operate as resources for further study in each particular genre. Additionally, students review and practice grammar concepts and develop skills in expository writing (especially sentence construction, paragraph development and revision techniques) as well as creative analysis and critical thinking.

World Literature

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

While strengthening skills and refreshing concepts from freshman year, World Literature students mostly read English translations of literature not originally written in English. Texts cover 4,000 years of time and come from writers and locations across the globe. Students continue to hone academic writing skills, explore other forms of writing in the personal essay and the persuasive speech, and devote more discussion and practice to style and rhetoric in writing.

Literature of the United States

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

In this course, students read and analyze works from important writers and major periods in the development of American literature. The composition component focuses on several short, analytical essays and a few longer pieces, including a critical paper and a research paper.

British Literature and Humanities

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

This course focuses on the critical reading and writing skills students need to perfect before college. Students will read literature of recognized literary merit, ranging from British classics to contemporary works of varied cultures. Writing assignments will include a critical paper, reading journals, a research paper, and other expository writing. Genres include drama, novels, poetry, and literary essays.

AP English Literature and Composition**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** A minimum grade of B+ for each semester of English in grades 10 and 11.

A score at or above the 85th percentile on the PSAT verbal sections.

Teacher evaluations on academic and creative writing and class participation in grades 9-11.

Students enrolling in AP English Literature and Composition will study British and American works of recognized literary merit in preparation for the AP exam. In addition, students will hone their composition skills through significant expository writing, including a college-level term paper. Moreover, they should expect to participate actively in a seminar setting and independently utilize well-developed organizational and study skills. Students who complete this course will take the AP exam for possible college credit. This course is required for any senior not enrolling in Critical Reading and Writing.

Creative Writing: Film and Fiction**First Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students**

In this elective course, students will be introduced in greater depth to the art of the film and to some of cinema's most talented directors and screenwriters. Additionally, the course will include an exploration of the fiction that surrounds film. By the end of the course, students will become familiar with how stories are put together for the screen and with the vocabulary that is used to discuss film.

Critical Reading: Great Nonfiction**Second Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students**

In this elective class, students will read a variety of compelling nonfiction works that explore fascinating topics, mind-boggling inventions, and challenging social issues. Possible works will include essays featured in *The New Yorker* and *National Geographic*; *New York Times* bestsellers like *Unbroken*, *Angela's Ashes*, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* and/or *The Glass Castle*; and other modern works that shape and explain elements of our world that we have never considered, such as chapters from *Half the Sky* and *Growing Up Empty*.

FINE ARTS

Graduation Requirement: 1 Credit

All students must complete the 1.0 credit Fine Art requirement with one year-long course or two semester-long courses in Music/Drama, Visual Arts, or Ballet.

Bel Canto (Yearlong)	Drawing and Design*	After School Ballet
Bel Canto with Study Hall (1 or 2 Semesters)	Digital Art and Photography	
Honors Chamber Choir (Yearlong)	Jewelry and Fibers	
VISTA Concert Band (Yearlong)	Painting	
VISTA Jazz Band (Yearlong)	Ceramics: Pottery	
VISTA String Orchestra (Yearlong)	Printmaking	
Theater (S1)		

MUSIC/DRAMA

Theatre

One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

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.

Bel Canto Choir

Year Long Course (1 credit)

Open to all students

Bel Canto is a choral ensemble that is open to 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and performs a variety of music from many different eras, cultures, and styles. In this class, students will learn the basics of singing including correct breathing techniques, music reading and sight singing, posture, and performance practices. Students who desire to sing for the full year will have the opportunity to delve deeper into personal vocal technique while experiencing a larger ensemble experience. The two choirs (Bel Canto Full Credit and Bel Canto/Study Hall) will combine to rehearse, perform, and travel throughout the year with Chamber Choir, VISTA Orchestra, and the St. Thomas Men's Choir. Students are welcome to take this course for as many years as they wish. Reminder: This is a year long course. There is no audition necessary.

Bel Canto Choir with Study Hall
Open to all students

Semester Long (.25 credit); Year Long (.5 credit)

This course mirrors Bel Canto with the exception of offering students the opportunity to sing in a Visitation choral ensemble while also having a study hall in place. Rather than attending Bel Canto two times per ABC rotation, students will only attend once per ABC rotation. Students enrolled in this course will participate in all choir performances including masses, community events, performance tours and concerts. Students will learn the basics of singing and performance practices that are integral to being in a choir and will collaborate with several Visitation and St. Thomas Academy ensembles including: Chamber Choir, VISTA Orchestra, and the St. Thomas Men's Choir. Students will sing a variety of music from different eras and in different styles. Reminder: This is a semester-long course. No audition is necessary.

Honors Chamber Choir

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students

Requirement: Audition with Choir Director

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of Bel Canto Choir
Permission from instructor to audition

Chamber Choir is a choral ensemble that is open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students who have completed one year of Bel Canto, and/or have auditioned with the Choir Director. In this class, students will continue to study proper singing, breathing and performance techniques while strengthening music reading and sight reading. These skills will be honed while performing a varied repertoire of music from many different eras, cultures and styles. Students who are enrolled in Chamber Choir will be expected to perform in, at least, four concerts during the school year and will travel with Bel Canto every other year. Chamber Choir fulfills the Fine Arts graduation requirement and elective credits. Reminder: This is a **year long** course.

VISTA String Orchestra

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Open to all students with at least one year of prior instrumental experience

For students new to orchestra at Visitation, an audition with the director may be necessary.

The VISTA String Orchestra includes players from Visitation School and Saint Thomas Academy. Students interested in this class must play the violin, viola, cello or bass. Orchestra meets during the school day in a regular rotation. The 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. In addition to school masses and prayer services, students are expected to participate in special collaborative events both on and off campus, such as festivals, clinics, bridging concerts, open houses, community performances, etc., whenever possible. Reminder: This is a **year long** course.

VISTA Concert Band & Marching Band**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Open to all students with two years of playing experience.**

The VISTA Concert Band and Marching Band is open to all students with prior band experience. This ensemble presents three formal concerts each school year. The band also performs at 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, weekly private instruction and sectionals. Attendance at a limited number of rehearsals (including the August Marching Band camp) and performances outside the school day is expected of all members. 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. Reminder: This is a **year long** course.

VISTA Jazz Band (STA)**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Requirement:** 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. The VISTA Jazz Band meets three 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 performs at three formal concerts and other school and community events. All members must be concurrently enrolled in VISTA Concert Band & Marching Band, with or without Honors. Exceptions may be made for the rhythm section. Reminder: This is a **year long** course.

VISUAL ARTS

Course offerings will vary by semester based on student enrollment and scheduling needs.

Honors level courses in each art form are available to students who have taken two semesters of art, including the art form of choice with an A– or better in both courses. A portfolio must be presented for departmental approval.

Drawing and Design**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**

In addition to the development of drawing skills, students will be introduced to printmaking, photography and ceramics during this foundational course. Students will become familiar with the skills and art vocabulary used across all art courses offered at Visitation. The elements and principles of design are introduced and are reinforced throughout all upper school art courses. A variety of techniques and strategies help students enhance their drawing skills regardless of previous drawing experience. Students will be asked to visit a museum or gallery of her choice during the semester. This course is the prerequisite for ALL other visual art courses but is not required to be completed during 9th grade.

Digital Art and Photography**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Completion of Drawing & Design

Students in this course will continue to develop their understanding of composition and design as they learn to observe and document the world through the camera lens. We use digital cameras to become acquainted with both camera operation and compositional techniques as we explore a variety of subjects. We will also review the history of photography and use Adobe Photoshop to manipulate and edit our photos. Access to a personal digital camera is preferred but not required. The art department has a limited number of digital cameras for students to share. No extra lenses special equipment are needed for this course.

Jewelry and Fibers**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Completion of Drawing & Design

If students like to work with a variety of materials, this is the class for them. They will saw metal to make pendants and charms, experiment with printing jewelry on our 3-D printer, and form jewelry using precious metal clay and porcelain. Students will also braid coiled metal wire and sew leather Celtic inspired bracelets. The fiber portion of the class will focus on the wax resist technique of batik, handmade paper, and book binding. We finish the class by creating shadow boxes filled with handmade fibers, handmade metal and porcelain charms, and found objects.

Painting**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Completion of Drawing & Design

Painting students survey 20th Century artistic periods during this introduction to painting. Students expand upon skills they learned in Drawing & Design to paint with watercolors, acrylics and water mixable oils. Knowledge and awareness of color theory is emphasized throughout the semester as are the elements and principles of design. Students are encouraged to paint from real life, from personal photographs and from their imagination. Students learn to build and stretch their own canvas for their culminating painting.

Pottery (Ceramics)**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Completion of Drawing & Design

Pots are useful containers made of clay. In this class, students learn several ways to make pots, including hand building methods and pottery wheel methods. Students learn how to make objects like mugs, bowls, vases, jars, teapots, boxes and plates. All of the functional ware made during this course can be used at home to eat and drink from, and can even be used to bake and microwave in. A variety of surface designs and glazing methods are explored, and the class studies the ways cultures have used clay throughout history. In addition to making functional ware, students also make sculptural pieces. Students fire most of their pieces in an electric kiln, but one of the highlights of the course is the day they spend outdoors doing a raku firing.

Printmaking**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Completion of Drawing & Design

Unlike other art forms, printmaking allows the artist to easily create multiple copies of each work of art, often in a variety of colors. Printmaking involves the transfer of ink from one surface to another and includes a wide range of methods and techniques. Students carve linoleum, rubber blocks, and wood to create relief prints. They use the printing press to create monotypes, collographs and intaglio engravings. Hand-cut screen prints of photos manipulated on Photoshop round out the printmaking experience. Development of drawing skills and color theory are combined with personal expression and creativity in this course. A highlight is our field trip to the Highpoint Center for Printmaking.

AFTER SCHOOL BALLET**Prerequisite:** Instructor approval**After School Ballet****Fulfills One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Prerequisite:** Instructor approval**Encouraged during 9th, 10th, and 11th grades**

Students may earn 0.5 Fine Art credit by participating in two sessions of After School Ballet each week for one semester during their 9th, 10th or 11th grade years. Students who choose this option to fulfill part or all of their Fine Art credit, must take a study hall during the regular school day schedule, so no more than 3.5 credits are earned each semester.

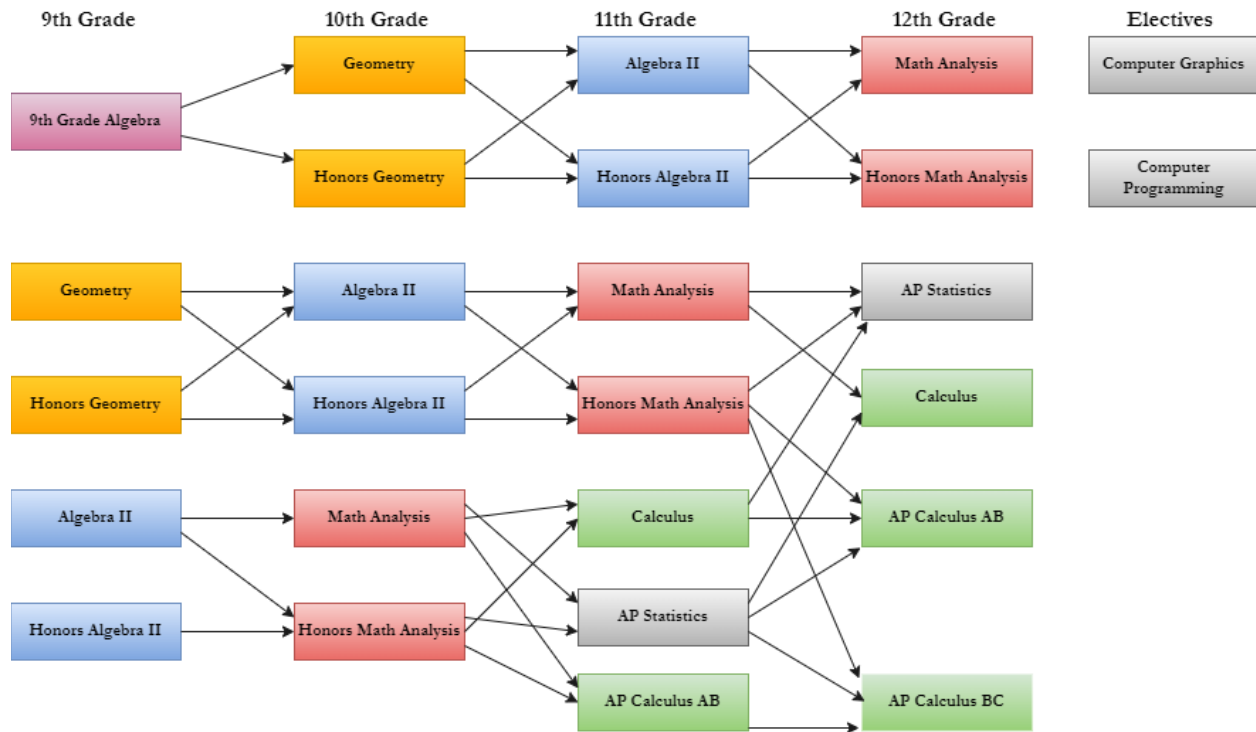
After School Ballet sessions are offered Tuesday-Thursday from 3-4:45 p.m., and include an additional accompanist fee each semester. The purchase of “Demi-Pointe” or “Pointe” shoes may be necessary. Consult the instructor before purchasing the “Pointe” shoes.

***Students who choose this option must meet the participation requirements of the instructor.**

MATHEMATICS

Graduation Requirement: 3 Credits

All upper school mathematics students must have a Texas Instruments TI-83 PLUS or TI-84 PLUS calculator for classroom use. Some funds are available to help families for whom the cost is prohibitive. Please contact upper school math department lead, LivAnda Asplund, for details.



Ninth Grade Algebra

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

This course is designed for students who have mastered basic computational skills. Topics include solving equations and inequalities, linear and quadratic graphics, exponents, polynomials, and systems of equations.

Geometry

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of Ninth Grade Algebra

This course integrates coordinate and transformational approaches to geometry. It reinforces and extends knowledge of algebra and develops an understanding of proofs. Real world applications are provided throughout the course.

Honors Geometry

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Evidence of Readiness: A average in Ninth Grade Algebra
Department Approval

This course integrates coordinate and transformational approaches to geometry. It reinforces and extends knowledge of algebra and develops an understanding of proofs. Real world applications are provided throughout the course. This course is for students with high ability and motivation in mathematics. Honors Geometry is faster paced and more in-depth than regular Geometry.

Algebra II**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Successful completion of Geometry or Honors Geometry

Course topics include linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric and polynomial functions. Beginning topics of data analysis are also included. Students will use algebraic expressions and sentences to model real world situations.

Honors Algebra II**Year Long Course (1 Credit)**

Evidence of Readiness: A average in Geometry or
B average in Honors Geometry
Department Approval

Course topics include linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric and polynomial functions. Beginning topics of data analysis are also included. Students will use algebraic expressions and sentences to model real world situations. This course is for students with high ability and motivation in mathematics. Honors Algebra II is faster paced and more in-depth than regular Algebra II.

Math Analysis**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Successful completion of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II

This course includes polynomials, functions, exponentials, logarithms, trigonometry, advanced graphing, polar coordinates, conics, vectors, sequences, series, limits, statistics, probability, and an introduction to Calculus.

Honors Math Analysis**Year Long Course (1 Credit)**

Evidence of Readiness: A average in Algebra II or
B average in Honors Algebra II
Department Approval

This course includes polynomials, functions, exponentials, logarithms, trigonometry, advanced graphing, polar coordinates, conics, vectors, sequences, series, limits, statistics, probability, and an introduction to Calculus. This course is for students with high ability and motivation in mathematics. Honors Math Analysis is faster paced and more in-depth than regular Math Analysis.

Calculus**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Successful completion of Math Analysis or Honors Math Analysis

This course provides students with concepts and techniques of differential and integral calculus. Topics include functions and their graphs, limits and continuity, differentiation and applications of the derivative, integration and applications of the integral. Applications are drawn from engineering, business, social sciences and statistics.

AP Calculus AB**Year Long Course (1 Credit)**

Evidence of Readiness: B average or higher in Honors Math Analysis
Department Approval

This course is for students with high ability and motivation in mathematics. Topics include relations, functions and their graphs, differentiation and applications of the derivative, integration and applications of the integral. Students who complete this course may take the AP exam for possible college credit.

AP Calculus BC**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Successful completion of AP Calculus AB

A average in Honors Math Analysis

Department Approval

The most rigorous and demanding of the Calculus courses, this course includes all of the topics covered in AP Calculus AB as well as parametric functions, polar coordinates, sequences and series, and elementary differential equations. Students who complete this course may take the AP exam for possible college credit.

AP Statistics**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Evidence of Readiness:** Successful completion of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II

Department Approval

This course is built around four main topics: exploring and analyzing data, planning a study and producing data, probability as it relates to distribution of data, and inferential reasoning. Students who complete this course may take the AP exam for possible college credit.

Computer Graphics Topics (Online)**First Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Animations, Gaming, and Computer Aided Design****Evidence of Readiness:** Successful completion of Ninth Grade Algebra**Requirement:** Director Approval

One meeting per week with the instructor

In this introductory course, students will begin to explore the world of computer graphics, animation, and computer-aided design (CAD). Students will learn basic programming, animation, and gaming concepts using Alice 3.1. This software provides a way to create animations in virtual 3D worlds, similar to Pixar films and video games. Students will also learn the basics of digital design, modeling, and drawing in 3D using Tinkercad. Students will have the opportunity to print designs on the MakerBot Replicator 2, a 3D printer. Throughout the course, students will develop a solid foundation from which to launch into a widening range of computer science areas. All course content will be posted in PLearning. This will be an asynchronous course.

Computer Programming Topics (Online)**Second Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Program Development, Android Apps, and Robotics****Evidence of Readiness:** Successful completion of Ninth Grade Algebra**Requirement:** Director Approval

One meeting per week with the instructor

In this introductory course, students will begin to explore the world of computer programming. Students will learn basic programming concepts, including variables, conditional statements, and loops in a variety of different programming environments. The course will be broken into three parts – Java, apps, and robotics. Using Processing and Dr. Java, students will explore strategies for problem solving and program development in Java. Students will create and learn how to develop Android apps using MIT App Inventor. Students will build Lego robots and design programs to control them autonomously using the Lego Mindstorms kits and software. Students will develop a solid foundation from which to launch into a widening range of computer science areas. All course content will be posted in PLearning. This will be an asynchronous course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

Graduation Requirements:

1 Credit of Physical Education

0.5 Credit of Health

Visitation Upper School graduation requirements include one **(1)** credit of Physical Education and 0.5 credit of Health. Half (0.5) of the Physical Education credit is fulfilled in 9th grade through the required year-long Physical Education or Intro to Ballet courses that meet once during the A-B-C cycle. The other half (0.5) of the Physical Education credit is fulfilled through the completion of Fit For Life, After School Ballet or Blazer Sport during 10th, 11th, and/or 12th grade. The 9th grade Health course meets once during the A-B-C cycle, opposite of Physical Education or Intro to Ballet.



Ninth Grade PE/Health

Physical Education

Year Long Course (0.5 Credit)

Required for 9th grade students not enrolled in Introduction to Ballet

The 9th grade physical education program is designed to expose students to a wide variety of individual activities and team sports with the focus on lifetime sports. This course emphasizes sportsmanship, skill development, knowledge of rules and building student's confidence, so they are able to be physically active into their adult lives. Units include team challenges, ultimate Frisbee, rock climbing, badminton, fitness testing, volleyball, archery, golf, tennis and soccer. Reminder: This is a **year long** course.

Introduction to Ballet

Year Long Course (0.5 Credit)

Required for 9th grade students not enrolled in Physical Education

This course is an introduction to ballet training at the Barre. Students learn the fundamental habits of movement coordination, especially in reference to the Russian Classical Method (Vaganova). Ideal for the student with little or no training. Reminder: This is a **year long** course.

Health

Year Long Course (0.5 Credit)

Required for 9th grade students

The 9th grade Health class is designed to give students the knowledge, skills and confidence to maintain lifelong health. By engaging them as critical thinkers in the realm of health education, we support our school motto, "*Non Scholae, Sed Vitae*." Through group projects, individual research, hands-on activities, class discussions, guest speakers and videos, students are provided with diverse opportunities for growth. Topics include: First Aid, Character Education, Body Systems, Nutrition, Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco, Reproduction and the Life Cycle, STD's/HIV and AIDS and Diseases. Reminder: This is a **year long** course.

Remaining PE Credit

Fit for Life

One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

Students who choose this course as their remaining PE Credit must complete during 10th or 11th grade.

If you are a 4-year Band, Orchestra, or Choir student and a non-athlete, please see US Director.

This course is also offered to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students as an elective.

This course is for students interested in developing personal physical fitness through a combination of strength training, aerobic and fitness related activities. Students design their own personal training programs, research specific aspects of fitness and learn and practice practical aspects of fitness. Proper technique and safety are stressed.

After School Ballet

Fulfills One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

Encouraged during 9th, 10th, and 11th grades

Students may earn their remaining 0.5 PE Credit by participating in one session of After School Ballet each week for two semesters, or two sessions each week for one semester during their 9th, 10th or 11th grade years. After School Ballet sessions are offered Tuesday-Thursday from 3-4:45 p.m., and include an additional accompanist fee each semester. The purchase of "Demi-Pointe" or "Pointe" shoes may be necessary. Consult the instructor before purchasing the "Pointe" shoes.

***Students who choose this option must meet the participation requirements of the instructor.**

Blazer Sport

Fulfills One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

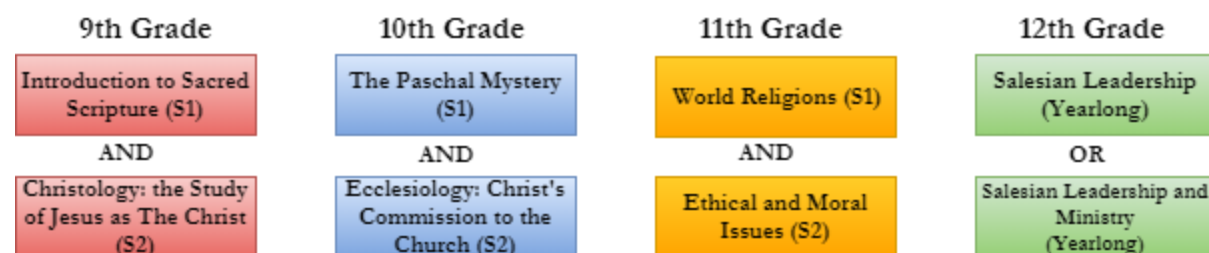
Students may earn their remaining 0.5 PE Credit by participating in a single Visitation sport for two seasons or participating in two different Visitation sports during their 9th, 10th or 11th grade years.

***Students who choose this option must meet the participation requirements of the sport and its coaches.**

RELIGION

Graduation Requirement: 4 Credits

The Visitation Religion Department is rooted in the Roman Catholic faith tradition and strengthened by the shared vision of Salesian spirituality inspired by the founders of the Visitation, St. Jane de Chantal and St. Francis de Sales. In collaboration with their families, the mission of the department is to make Jesus Christ known, loved and served in the lives of the students, and that they may do the same in their own lives and relationships. *All students are required to take religion classes all four years and to participate in liturgical and para-liturgical service programs.*



Introduction to Sacred Scripture

First Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

Required for 9th grade students

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. Woven into the course is the study of the Salesian charism, the practice of prayer and the commitment to Christian service.

Christology: The Study of Jesus as The Christ

Second Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

Required for 9th grade students

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God and the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course, students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God by studying the events of Jesus' life up to his Passion. In learning about who He is, the students will also learn who He calls us to be. Woven into the course is the study of Salesian charism, the practice of prayer and the commitment to Christian service.

The Paschal Mystery

First Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

Required for 10th grade students

The purpose of this course is to help students understand all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Through this course of study, beginning with creation and the Fall, students will learn that, for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails. Woven into the course is the study of Salesian charism, the practice of prayer, and the commitment to Christian service.

Ecclesiology: Christ's Commission to the Church
Required for 10th grade students

Second Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will focus on the sacred nature of the Church. Woven into the course is the study of Salesian charism, the practice of prayer and the commitment to Christian service.

World Religions
Required for 11th grade students

First Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

World Religions explores the following non-Christian traditions: Primal Religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Confucianism and Taoism. Through the study of these religions, students will learn about, appreciate and respect the beliefs of other cultures. During this semester, students will also gain a deeper insight into their own Judeo-Christian tradition. Because we all live in an increasingly diverse culture, it is important and necessary to grow in awareness of a global society so that students may become understanding and compassionate adults.

Ethical and Moral Issues
Required for 11th grade students

Second Semester Course (0.5 Credit)

The purpose of this course is to identify God's plan for our lives and our response to this plan. This will be discussed by considering the ways in which God has taught us to live a new life in Christ through eternal law, divine providence, natural moral law and divine revelation. Students will also study Christ's Gospel message and recognize this message as the basis for Catholic moral teaching. The roles of virtue, vice, sin within Scripture, history, our world and relationships today will be addressed and students will study and analyze current events and societal issues that challenge them to apply the course material. Throughout the semester, students will identify elements of Catholic Social Teaching and social justice to better understand our role of living out Christian morality.

Salesian Leadership
Required for 12th grade students

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

In this course, students will explore Christian leadership in the Salesian tradition by learning about Jesus' leadership of loving service and the examples of St. Jane de Chantal and St. Francis de Sales as imitators of Jesus' selfless service. Students will understand leadership to be a response to our baptismal call to Christian discipleship. Students will learn to "Live Jesus" through an awareness of personal talents for leadership, the practice of prayer and spiritual growth, an advanced study of the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church, the development of practical leadership skills and the personal commitment to service in order to effect the positive transformation of our local and global communities.

Salesian Leadership and Ministry**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Required for 12th grade students not enrolled in Salesian Leadership****Prerequisites:** Application and department approval

In this course, students will explore Christian leadership in the Salesian tradition by learning about Jesus' leadership of loving service and the examples of St. Jane de Chantal and St. Francis de Sales as imitators of Jesus' selfless service. In addition, it explores programs of outreach, service and prayer, emphasizing necessary procedures and skills. Students will understand leadership and service to be a response to our baptismal call to Christian discipleship. Students will learn to "Live Jesus" through an awareness of personal talents for leadership, the practice of prayer and spiritual growth, the development of practical leadership skills, and a personal commitment to service in order to effect the positive transformation of our local and global communities. Special emphasis is placed on training for peer ministry, as students explore their own gifts and talents and learn and practice the skills needed to lead group discussions, direct group activities or minister to those in need in a variety of situations. Students will also begin to explore the importance of right relationships with God, self, and others, the call to Christian service and vocation, Social Justice issues as related to Catholic Social Teaching and Salesian Spirituality, and the sacramentality of Christian life.

SCIENCE

Graduation Requirement: 3 Credits

Classes of 2023 and 2024

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	11th/12th Grade Electives
Physical Science	Biology 10	Chemistry	Physics	AP Biology
Honors Physical Science	Honors Biology	Honors Chemistry	Honors Physics	AP Environmental Science
	AP Biology			Introduction to Engineering (S1)
				Science Research (S1)
				Genetics (S2)
				Astronomy (S2)

Classes of 2025 and 2026

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th/12th Grade	11th/12th Grade Electives
Biology 9	Chemistry	AP Biology	Introduction to Engineering (S1)
	Honors Chemistry	AP Environmental Science	Science Research (S1)
		Physics	Genetics (S2)
		Honors Physics	Astronomy (S2)

Biology

Required for 9th grade students

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Biology 9 is an introductory course that builds the foundation for further coursework in the sciences in high school and college. Biology 9 focuses on core biological concepts, with emphasis on the themes of structure and function, and the unity and diversity of living things. Topics include the chemistry of life, cells and cellular functions, genetics, microbiology, taxonomy, evolution, and ecology. This course emphasizes the scientific method, experimental design, laboratory techniques, problem solving, use of models, and data collection and analysis skills, and learning to communicate results and reasoning.

Chemistry 10**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Required for 10th grade students****Prerequisites:** Biology

Chemistry 10 is a college-preparatory introduction to inorganic chemistry. Topics include structure and properties of matter, atomic structure, isotopes, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, acid-base theory, reaction kinetics and chemical equilibrium. This is a lab-based course that will introduce new laboratory techniques and use many forms of sensors and technology to collect and analyze data.

Honors Chemistry 10**Year Long Course 1 (Credit)****Required for 10th grade students not enrolled in Chemistry****Prerequisites:** Biology**Departmental approval required**

Honors Chemistry 10 is a college-preparatory introduction to inorganic chemistry. Topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, acid-base theory, reaction kinetics, chemical equilibrium, electrochemistry, and an introduction to organic and nuclear chemistry. This course will develop problem solving and critical thinking skills through inquiry-based projects and labs. It is designed for students who are eager to cover material at a deeper level. Students should be willing to be independent learners and spend at minimum 30 minutes of work per day outside of the classroom.

Chemistry 11**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Required for 11th grade students****Prerequisites:** Biology

Chemistry 11 is a college-preparatory introduction to inorganic chemistry. Topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, acid-base theory, reaction kinetics, chemical equilibrium, electrochemistry, and an introduction to organic and nuclear chemistry. This is a lab-based course that will introduce new laboratory techniques and use many forms of sensors and technology to collect and analyze data.

Honors Chemistry 11**Year Long Course 1 (Credit)****Required for 11th grade students not enrolled in Chemistry****Prerequisites:** Biology**Departmental approval required**

Honors Chemistry 11 is a rigorous college-preparatory course that explores inorganic chemistry and touches on organic chemistry. Topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, acid-base theory, reaction kinetics, chemical equilibrium, electrochemistry, and an extensive biochemistry unit. This course uses a college-level General Chemistry textbook and is designed for students who are eager to cover material at a deeper level. This is a lab-based course that will introduce new laboratory techniques and use many forms of sensors and technology to collect and analyze data. Experiments are intended to develop higher order thinking skills needed to successfully merge chemical concepts with mathematical descriptions and predictions. It is recommended that students spend a minimum of 30 minutes of daily preparation outside of class.

Physics**Year Long Course 1 (Credit)****Strongly encouraged for 12th grade students****Evidence of Readiness:** B average or higher in all Science and Math courses

This course requires an above-average level of independent learning and self-discipline. Student-designed laboratory experiments are used to develop critical thinking skills needed to successfully merge physical concepts with mathematical descriptions and predictions. The first semester covers mechanics, including velocity, acceleration, forces, projectiles and energy. The third quarter covers wave theory, including sound, light and optics. The fourth quarter is dedicated to electricity and magnetism, including field theory, circuits and induction. An average of 45 minutes of daily study outside of the classroom is required to successfully complete the course requirements.

Honors Physics**Year Long Course 1 (Credit)****Strongly encouraged for 12th grade students****Evidence of Readiness:** A- average or higher in all Science and Math courses**Departmental approval required**

The course requires a very high level of independent learning and self-discipline. The Honors Physics curriculum, which is Calculus based, moves at an accelerated rate, allowing students to study more advanced topics but requiring students to be more focused. Student-designed laboratory experiments are used to enhance critical thinking skills and to merge physical concepts with mathematical descriptions and predictions. The first semester covers mechanics, including acceleration, forces, projectiles, energy, momentum and thermodynamics. The third quarter covers wave theory, including sound, light and optics. The fourth quarter is dedicated to electricity and magnetism, including field theory, circuits and induction. A minimum of 45 minutes of daily study outside of the classroom is recommended to successfully complete the course requirements.

AP Environmental Science**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Open to 11th and 12th grade students****Prerequisites:**

Completion of Biology required, Chemistry strongly recommended (completion or concurrent enrollment)

Departmental approval required

This course explores the themes of the interconnectedness of natural systems, energy, species interactions, management of resources and sustainability concepts. It is an interdisciplinary course combining biology, chemistry, earth science, and the social sciences. Students will apply scientific reasoning, data collection and analysis skills in field and lab work. Many of the investigations are done in the field, requiring a high degree of maturity, responsibility and independence for safe and successful completion. Students will explore current events, and analyze problems and solutions using scientific reasoning skills. Course content is at the college level, and a minimum of 45 minutes of daily preparation and study outside of class is recommended. Students will be prepared to take the AP Environmental Science exam in the spring.

AP Biology**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Open to 11th and 12th grade students****Departmental approval required**

AP Biology is an in-depth study of the themes within biology including the relationship between structure and function, and the unity and diversity among living things. It is excellent preparation for a typical college introductory biology course, and uses an equivalent text. Topics include biochemistry, cellular energetics, heredity, genetics, evolutionary biology, and ecology. Students will apply scientific reasoning and data collection and analysis skills in laboratory investigations, and other activities and projects. Course content is at the college level, and therefore a minimum of 45 minutes of daily preparation and study outside of class is recommended. Students will be prepared to take the AP Biology Science exam in the spring.

Science Research**First Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to 11th and 12th grade students with approval from instructor**

Science Research is a course in which students will experience the entire process of scientific research, including planning, executing, analyzing, and communicating original research projects. Students will learn to analyze scientific data, develop and interpret statistics, and present scientific information including their research results from a guided project. Students will practice interpreting and communicating research outcomes in both written and verbal formats. Due to the independent nature of the course, students must display a high level of self-discipline and self-motivation in order to be successful.

Genetics**Second Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to 11th and 12th grade students**

This course focuses on current developments and applications in the field of genetics. Students will review nucleic acid structure and function to set the foundation for exploration of gene expression, genetic engineering, genetic disorders, microbial genetics, and biotechnology applications. This is a lab-based course that will include gel electrophoresis, plasmid mapping, bacterial transformations, polymerase chain reaction, and computational biology. Students will also explore recent discoveries and technologies such as CRISPR and epigenomics through experimentation and literature research.

Introduction to Engineering**First Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to 11th and 12th grade students**

This is a project-based learning course. Students will be given four major problems to solve by working in teams on long-term projects that may incorporate design, technology, chemistry, biology, materials, physics and technical writing. Work will be done in small groups. The teacher will guide students but students will be the sole researchers for each project. Each problem will have specific outlines to follow from grading standards, concepts, budgets and design outcomes. This course requires organizational and time management skills, as well as a clear understanding of the scientific method.

Astronomy**Second Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to 11th and 12th grade students**

This course introduces the following topics: motions in the sky, constellations, the sun, the planets, life cycle of stars and other astronomical objects. An extensive night viewing project (20 observations) is required along with one evening observation. Problem solving, inquiry and analysis are emphasized in lab activities and computer simulations.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Graduation Requirement: 3 Credits

10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Electives
World History	United States History	U.S. Government, Economics, and Global Issues	Psychology
AP European History	AP United States History	AP United States Government and Politics	Introduction to Law
			Women and Society
			World Cultures

World History

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Required for 10th grade students not enrolled in AP European History

This course examines the major themes, personalities and developments in world civilization from the ancient world to the present, as well as human and physical geography. A major focus of this course will be to recognize and respect the similarities and differences regarding the historical development among diverse cultures of the world, and on clearly speaking, writing and communicating about those similarities and differences.

AP European History

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Required for 10th grade students not enrolled in World History

Evidence of Readiness: Overall GPA of 3.7 or higher

9th Grade English teacher's recommendation

Department approval

This is a challenging survey of European history, from 1400 to the 21st century. Readings, discussion, research, oral presentations and written work are expected to represent college-level skills and demands. Concepts such as multiple causation periodization, historical revision, material culture and cultural pluralism are addressed. A sound understanding of chronology and sequence, the influence of ideas in human history, the operation of markets and global relationships are among the goals of the course. Students who complete the course may take the AP exam for possible college credit.

United States History

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Required of 11th grade students not enrolled in AP United States History

The course is a survey of ideas, events and individuals in the American past that have had a significant influence on our nation. Emphasis is on general themes and historical concepts, as well as chronology. Attention will be given to social history and the influence of race, class and gender. The readings, class discussions and research will use primary and secondary sources representing the nation's pluralistic past. Students will be expected to challenge their skills of analysis, critical thinking, oral presentation and expository writing to do their best work in the course.

AP United States History**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Required for 11th grade students not enrolled in United States History****Evidence of Readiness:** Overall GPA of 3.7 or higher

A- or higher in World History or

B- or higher in AP European History

10th Grade History teacher's recommendation

Department approval

AP United States History provides students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. History. The course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students will be instructed in developing the skills of recall, research, evaluation, analysis and critical thinking, as applied to the study of history through reading, writing and oral discussion. Throughout the course we will relate historical topics to contemporary issues as we reflect on the change and continuity in our nation's narrative. Students who complete this course may take the AP exam for possible college credit.

United States Government, Economics and Global Issues**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Required for 12th grade students not enrolled in AP U.S. Government and Politics**

This course covers the structure, function and operation of the government of the United States. A major focus of this course will be on government and economic concepts. Topics include: political systems, foundation and development of the American political system, political parties and elections, the institutions of government, civil rights, civil liberties and public policy issues. Students will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, students will be introduced to the major foundational concepts of microeconomics and macroeconomics. Domestic and global political and economic issues will be analyzed throughout the year.

AP United States Government & Politics**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Required for 12th grade students not enrolled in United States Government, Economics and Global Issues****Evidence of Readiness:** Overall GPA of 3.7 or higher

A- or higher in U.S. History or

B- or higher in AP U.S. History

11th Grade History teacher's recommendation

Department approval

AP United States Government & Politics is a college-level course designed to give students an analytical perspective on U.S. politics and government. This course will include both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. Students also study and discuss current public policy issues. In addition, students will be introduced to the major foundational concepts of microeconomics and macroeconomics. A major goal of the course will be to provide students with knowledge, skills and motivation to use their citizenship skills and economic literacy to effectively participate in the making of public policy. Students will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project. Students who complete this course must take the AP exam for possible college credit.

Psychology**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students**

This elective course is an introductory course in psychology designed to provide students with basic knowledge of the theories and concepts fundamental to an understanding of the field. A major focus of this course will be on mastery of psychological concepts. The psychology course at STA is not available to Visitation students.

Introduction to Law**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to all students**

This elective course is designed to introduce students to the philosophical, historical, and pragmatic questions of law. The course will provide a deeper understanding of how the legal system works as well as the impacts law has within society. Elements of the course may include and are not limited to civil, criminal, and business law.

Women and Society**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students**

Using themes and texts from history, literature, the visual and performing arts, public policy and leadership theory, students in this elective course will study the cultural, historical, political and economic experience of women of different times and backgrounds, and the ways in which gender distinctions have affected their expectations and experience. Readings, presentations and analytical writing will be required.

World Cultures**One Semester Course (0.5 Credit)****Open to all students**

In this elective course, students examine the major elements of culture as well as the political, economic, religious and social conditions in various nations. A major focus of this course will be to recognize and respect the similarities and differences among the diverse cultures of the world and develop an appreciation of our shared humanity. The course is designed to enhance a student's understanding and appreciation of the world's diverse societies and to encourage them to contribute to the improvement of the global community.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Graduation Requirement: 3 Credits
and through Level III of one language

Chinese	French	Spanish
Chinese I	French I	Spanish I
Chinese II	French II	Spanish II
Chinese III	French III	Spanish III
Honors Chinese IV	Honors French IV	Honors Spanish IV/V
Honors Chinese V/ AP Chinese	AP French	AP Spanish

CHINESE

Chinese I

Open to all students

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

In this inaugural course in Mandarin Chinese, 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 read and write over 100 Chinese characters and 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

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of Chinese I
Department approval

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

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, online reading materials and projects.

Chinese III

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of Chinese II
Department 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.

Honors Chinese IV

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of Chinese III
Department approval

The focus of Honors Chinese IV is on integrating the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be able to use a rich vocabulary, accurate and more advanced grammar structures and appropriate cultural understanding to demonstrate proficiency in all manner 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 multimedia to further develop more complex listening comprehension and speaking skills.

Honors Chinese V/AP Chinese Language

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Open to 11th and 12th grade students

Evidence of Readiness: B or higher in Honors Chinese IV
Departmental Approval.

The Honors Chinese V/AP course is intended for students in their third or fourth year of Chinese language studies. Course-work provides students with opportunities to develop and demonstrate proficiency in the three modes of communication defined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century: Interpersonal, Interpretive and Presentational. Students are expected to participate in the target language. Students who enroll in this course already have a command of the language that will enable them to follow the rigor of the curriculum and the expectations of the intermediate to pre-advanced level of language in listening, reading, speaking, writing and understanding of the Chinese culture. Additionally, vocabulary and grammar will be introduced and reviewed according to the topics and material studied. The instructional material utilized in the course includes primary textbooks and authentic resources created by and intended for native Chinese speakers, as well as authentic audio and video files, and authentic written texts from the Chinese speaking world. Students who complete this course may take the AP exam for possible college credit.

FRENCH

French I

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Open to all students

French I stresses the spoken language as well as listening comprehension. Reading and writing of simple material is included with an introduction to the fundamentals of grammar. An awareness of the civilization and culture of France, particularly of Paris, is also an objective.

French II

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of French I
Department approval

This course is a continuation of the first year, with emphasis on reading and writing skills, grammar and conversation. The study of French civilization includes regions of France.

French III

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of French II
Department approval

This course continues the aims of French I and II in emphasizing vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing and conversation. Reading and speaking skills are intensified. The study of phonetics begins. Cultural studies include French art and music.

Honors French IV

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students

Evidence of Readiness: B or higher in French III
Department approval

In this Pre-Advanced Placement course, students will study literature, poetry, composition and conversation based on a particular theme. Students will develop the skills to understand authentic spoken French in conversations, lectures, radio emissions and television. They will develop a French vocabulary sufficient to read authentic text, such as newspaper and magazine articles, Internet articles and short stories, without the help of a dictionary. They will develop the skills to express oneself with reasonable accuracy and fluency in both written and spoken French. It is an excellent review for students who will be taking college entrance exams and is a requirement for students going on to the AP French Language course.

AP French Language

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Open to 11th and 12th grade students

Evidence of Readiness: B or higher in Honors French IV
Department approval.

The AP French Language and Culture course is a college-level course, emphasizing the use of French in active communication. The three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) as defined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century are foundational to the AP French Language course. The course has the following three objectives: The ability to understand spoken French in various contexts, such as authentic conversations, lectures, oral presentations, radio, and television. The development of a French vocabulary sufficient for reading authentic newspaper and magazine articles, literary texts, letters, instructions, Internet articles, short stories and other non-technical writings without dependence on a dictionary. The ability to express oneself coherently, resourcefully, and with reasonable fluency and accuracy both in written and spoken French, using different strategies for different audiences. In order to develop these skills, the course will be conducted almost exclusively in French. Students will be required to use French in class, and a portion of their grades will depend on their compliance with this requirement. Students who complete this course may take the AP exam for possible college credit.

SPANISH

Spanish I

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Open to all students

This course provides students with a foundation in oral proficiency, the fundamentals of grammar and an introduction to the culture of several Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish II

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of Spanish I
Department Approval

This course continues the development of proficiency in listening and speaking. Grammar skills for reading, composition and speaking the language are emphasized.

Spanish III

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of Spanish II
Department Approval

This course strengthens conversational skills and communication by emphasizing the vocabulary and grammar of typical daily life situations. Short works of recognized Hispanic authors are introduced.

Spanish IV-V

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students

Evidence of Readiness: Successful completion of Spanish III
Departmental Approval

This course includes the study of more advanced grammatical structures, Hispanic literature and the history of Mexico, as well as more formal, complicated listening exercises. The geography of Spanish speaking countries and the current events in those countries are also studied. This is a two year sequence for students who desire to continue their study of Spanish, but do not choose the more rigorous honors or AP course work. This course is excellent for continuing to develop needed language skills and as preparation for college Spanish.

Honors Spanish IV-V

Year Long Course (1 Credit)

Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students

Evidence of Readiness: A– or higher in Spanish III or B or higher in Spanish IV/V
Departmental Approval

This course is open to current Spanish III or Spanish IV/V. This is a theme-based course. Students will study literature, poetry, composition and conversation based on a particular theme. Some of the themes are the Environment, Human Rights and Immigration. In this course, students will continue the study of Spanish grammatical structures. This course is considered a Pre-Advanced Placement language course. It is an excellent review for students who will be taking college entrance exams and is a requirement for students going onto the course in AP Spanish Language.

AP Spanish Language**Year Long Course (1 Credit)****Open to 11th and 12th grade students****Evidence of Readiness:** B or higher in Honors Spanish IV/V
Departmental Approval

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is a college-level course, emphasizing the use of Spanish in active communication. 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 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 authentic newspaper and magazine articles, literary texts, letters, instructions, Internet articles, short stories and other non-technical writings without dependence on a dictionary. 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. In order to develop these skills, the course is conducted exclusively in Spanish. Students who complete this course may take the AP exam for possible college credit.