

SR Class of 2026



FIRST ACADEMIC *Course Descriptions*

♥ *Empowering leaders to serve
with faith, intellect, and confidence.*

MINIMUM PROGRAM OF STUDY:

English	4 units
History and Social Studies	3 units
Mathematics	4 units
Physical Education	1 unit
Science	3 units
Social Action	2 units
Theology	2 units
Visual and Performing Arts	2 units
World Languages	3 units
Electives	2 units

HONORS DESIGNATION

Students are awarded Honors based on a 4.3 grade point average requirement:

- Honors: 3.3
- High Honors: 3.7
- Highest Honors: 4.0

At graduation, Fourth Academic students' academic distinctions are cumulative, based on a four-year grade point average.

ABOUT OUR FACULTY:

- Total Stone Ridge faculty: 104
- Upper School faculty: 51
- Upper School faculty holding
 - Master's degrees: 41;
 - Doctoral level: 11

Upper School Course Offerings

- Course Offerings: English
- Introduction to Literature & Composition
 - Global Perspectives in English Literature
 - Honors Global Perspectives in English Literature
 - Creative Writing
 - Detective Elective
 - Women's Literature from Around the World
 - Short Stories: Voices and Visions from Around the World
 - Literature of the African Diaspora
 - African-American Literature
 - Dystopian Literature
 - Everyone but Shakespeare
 - Modern World Drama
 - AP English Literature and Composition: American Literature
 - AP English Literature and Composition: World Literature
 - Journalism

Welcome to Upper School at Stone Ridge!

This brochure provides you with a brief overview of the rich course offerings in the Upper School at Stone Ridge. More specifically you will find detailed descriptions of the exciting courses available to First Academics. To register for your classes, please complete the registration form found under Academics at www.stoneridgeschool.org/newfamily. If you have any questions, please contact the Upper School office at 301.657.4322, ext. 1182.

Academic Program Overview

True to our Sacred Heart foundation, grade levels in the Upper School are referred to by the traditional titles of: Ninth Grade – First Academic; Tenth Grade – Second Academic; Eleventh Grade – Third Academic; Twelfth Grade – Fourth Academic.

Daily Schedule:

School begins at 8:00 AM. The schedule will consist of four eighty-minute classes each day with breaks or lunch scheduled between each class. Classes 1-4 will meet on days ACEG, and classes 5-8 will meet on days BDFH. Each class will rotate throughout the daily schedule. Extra time will be allotted for specific math and science AP classes as dictated by the AP curriculum. Students are dismissed at 3:15 PM.

Graduation Requirements:

To be awarded a Stone Ridge diploma, a student must complete the required program of study as outlined above left, earning a minimum of twenty-five units. Of those units, twenty-two are earned in academic subjects and two are earned through satisfactory participation in Social Action, according to the criteria of this program.

The program of study constitutes a set of minimum requirements. The student's abilities and interests, as well as the admission requirements of colleges she is considering, guide her in planning a four-year program to suit her needs.

First Academic Course of Study

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

This course familiarizes students with a variety of genres, including lyric poetry, drama, and the coming-of age novel. Students are introduced to fundamental principles of critical reading and to effective writing and begin to explore the kinds of writing which will be practiced and sharpened over the next few years: personal narrative, creative writing, and literary analysis. Selected authors may include Charlotte Brontë, Sandra Cisneros, Lorraine Hansberry, J.D. Salinger, and William Shakespeare, among others. **This course is required for all First Academic students.**

WORLD HISTORY I

This course includes narrative, cultural, and geographical consideration of Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the precolonial Americas before 1600 CE. The course introduces students to assembling effective notebooks, analytical thought and writing, basic research, and the complexities of analyzing and evaluating sources in order to form a narrative or draw broader conclusions. **This course is required for all First Academic students.**

PHYSICS

Physics I exposes students to the basic principles and concepts which describe the physical world. This survey course covers mechanics, electricity, magnetism, waves and energy and features many hands-on lab and class activities. This course is designed to help students appreciate the workings of the physical world and will be of a conceptual nature. Students will be introduced to a basic scientific problem solving approach familiar to all sciences as well as the engineering design process. **This course is required for all First Academic students.**

SCRIPTURE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLY BIBLE

The texts of the Bible emerged through divine inspiration in diverse social and complex political and theological contexts. We examine biblical texts with the tools of scholarship, employing methods of literary, historical, and theological investigation. We engage the primary texts in critical and constructive assignments. We highlight the vibrant contexts in which we interpret the Bible today by examining contemporary challenges faced in interpreting biblical literature in our society. A textbook, lecture outlines, and focused assignments help guide our understanding. We emphasize our Catholic heritage in studying revelation, divine inspiration, and liturgical contexts for sacred scripture. **This course is required for all First Academic students.**

Mathematics:

First Academic students will be appropriately placed in math and language courses based on a placement test and teacher recommendations.

ALGEBRA I

This course provides the algebraic foundations necessary for the understanding of all higher math. Students are expected to enter the course with solid pre-algebra skills, though a review will be provided on each topic. Students will learn the fundamental principles behind algebraic expressions and equations and apply them to work with inequalities, systems of equations, linear graphing, operations on polynomials, and problem solving. Emphasis will be placed on justifying processes through mathematical rigor, a cornerstone of all mathematical endeavors. Students will gain confidence that using a methodical and clearly articulated approach will lead to consistently reliable results.

Upper School Course Offerings

GEOMETRY

One unit Topics in Geometry include angle relationships, perpendicular and parallel lines and planes, polygons, congruency, similarity, circles, special quadrilaterals, area of two-dimensional figures, coordinate geometry, the Pythagorean Theorem, special right triangles, and surface area and volume of three dimensional figures. Proofs and constructions related to the topics are included. Students work collaboratively as well as independently to master the material. **Prerequisite:** *Algebra I and/or departmental approval/placement test*

GEOMETRY WITH ANALYSIS

This course parallels the standard geometry course, but is more demanding and extends the study to include understanding relationships in space, the Law of Sines, the Law of Cosines, transformational geometry and constructions. More formal proofs are included. This course is for the serious mathematics student who wants a challenge or to step up to mathematics at the honors level. Algebra I topics are infused in the curriculum both as review and as an integrated part of the course. This is a First Academic Course. **Prerequisite:** *Algebra I and/or departmental approval/placement test*

ALGEBRA II

Algebra II gives students a solid foundation in the study of the real number system, linear, quadratic and polynomial relations and functions, exponential, logarithmic, radical and rational functions and complex numbers. It includes the study of transformations of function. Where possible, topics are explored graphically, algebraically, and numerically. Prerequisite: Geometry and departmental approval Algebra II with Analysis One unit This course gives students a solid foundation of the real number system; linear and quadratic relations and functions; complex number systems; polynomial operations and functions; rational expressions and functions; exponential functions and logarithmic functions. It includes the study of transformations of functions. The emphasis in this course is on an increased depth in analyzing and describing relationships. Where possible, topics are explored graphically, algebraically, and numerically. **Prerequisite:** *Geometry or Geometry with Analysis and departmental approval*

ALGEBRA II WITH ANALYSIS

Algebra II with Analysis covers all of the topics included in Algebra II. Additional topics covered include: transformations of functions as applied to real world applications and to the study of data analysis techniques to find the best-fit model. An introduction to matrices as a way of organizing and displaying data and a means of solving systems of equations will be covered. The emphasis in this course is on an increased depth in analyzing and describing relationships. Topics are explored graphically, algebraically and numerically, where possible. **Prerequisite:** *Geometry and departmental approval*

HONORS ALGEBRA II WITH PRE-CALCULUS

This course is more demanding than Algebra II with Analysis. It is for the serious student who has a firm grasp of Algebra I and is ready for a challenging course. All standard Algebra II topics are covered, but approached from a higher order thinking level equivalent to that expected of the precalculus student. The intent is to prepare the student with the analytical experience necessary for the study of BC Calculus. The course focuses on polynomial, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions from algebraic and geometric perspectives. **Prerequisite:** *Geometry and departmental approval*

World Languages:

The minimum requirement for graduation is **three consecutive years** of one foreign language. Students who have successfully completed the first year level in middle school and who continue and successfully complete the next two levels of the same language finish their foreign language requirement at the end of their Second Academic year.

FRENCH I

This course develops the use of fundamental language skills used in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students learn to express ideas in the present, the past and the near future using basic structures and vocabulary related to daily-life topics. Extensive communicative practice is provided through varied oral and written exercises in meaningful situations and personalized contexts. Students build cultural awareness of the French-speaking world through videos, music, presentations, readings and discussions. The class is conducted in French.

FRENCH II

This course completes the study of fundamental grammar structures and vocabulary begun in French I. Students learn to express ideas, actions and thoughts in the present, past, and future. Students also learn to express opinions, recommendations, doubts and preferences in the subjunctive mood. Students continue to learn about Francophone culture, civilization, geography and traditions. Communication, both written and spoken, is practiced using authentic materials that provide cultural information and insights. The class is conducted in French. **Prerequisite:** *French I or by department approval*

SPANISH I

This course develops the use of fundamental language skills used in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students learn to express ideas in the present, the past and the near future using basic structures and vocabulary related to daily-life topics. Extensive communicative practice is provided through varied oral and written exercises in meaningful situations and personalized contexts. Students build cultural awareness of the Spanish-speaking world through videos, presentations, readings and discussions. The class is conducted in Spanish.

SPANISH II

This course completes the study of fundamental grammar structures and vocabulary begun in Spanish I. Students learn to express ideas, actions and thoughts in the present, past, and future. Students also learn to express opinions, recommendations, doubts and preferences in the subjunctive mood. Students continue to learn about Spanish-speaking culture, civilization, geography and traditions. Communication, both written and spoken, is practiced using authentic materials that provide cultural information and insights. The class is conducted in Spanish. **Prerequisite:** *Spanish I or by department approval*

Course Offerings: History & Social Studies

World History I and II
United States History
AP U.S. History
Economics
AP U.S. Government and Law
AP Psychology
AP Art History
Social Sciences for Social Problems

Course Offerings: Mathematics

Algebra I
Geometry
Geometry with Analysis
Algebra II
Algebra II with Analysis
Algebra II with Precalculus — Honors
Precalculus
Precalculus with Analysis — Honors
Precalculus with Differential
Calculus — Honors
Introduction to Calculus
AP Statistics
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Computer Science

Course Offerings: World Languages

French I–V
AP French Language and Culture
French Seminar — Honors
Spanish I–V
Spanish for Heritage Speakers
AP Spanish Language
AP Spanish Literature
Spanish Seminar — Honors
Latin I–V
AP Latin
Latin Seminar — Honors

Course Offerings: Visual & Performing Arts

Foundations of Visual Arts
Studio Art I
Ceramics I
Media Arts I
Photography I
AP Drawing: Year I and Year II
AP 2D Art & Design: Year I and Year II
AP 3D Art & Design: Year I and Year II
Drama I–III
Dance
Introduction to Technical Theater
Chorus Band
String Ensemble

Course Offerings: Publications

Journalism
Yearbook

Upper School Course Offerings

Course Offerings: Science

Physics
Chemistry
Honors Chemistry
AP Chemistry
Biology
Honors Biology & Biological Inquiry
Computational Design
Honors Molecular Biology &
Biotechnology Lab
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics
Anatomy and Physiology
Explorations in Engineering
Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry

Course Offerings: Theology

Scripture: Introduction to the Bible
Catholic Traditions and History
Christian Morality
Bioethics
Major World Religions
Social Justice and Catholic Teaching

Course Offerings: Athletic Options

Fall Sports:

Cross Country – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Field Hockey – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Soccer – *Ninth Grade, Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Tennis – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Volleyball – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*

Winter Sports:

Basketball – *Ninth Grade, Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Swimming/Diving – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Ice Hockey – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Squash – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Indoor Track – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*

Spring Sports:

Lacrosse – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Softball – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Tennis – *Varsity*
Track – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*
Golf – *Junior Varsity, Varsity*

Independent Study in Physical Education

Club Sports:

Equestrian

SPANISH FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS

This class is designed for students who have experience with the Spanish language in an informal setting. The purpose of this course is to provide students with formal study of the syntax, spelling, accentuation and written conventions of the Spanish language. In addition to developing a solid grammatical foundation, students will learn the essential concepts of critical reading and effective writing by examining essays, poems, stories, and short films from a variety of Hispanic authors and thinkers. The level of the course will be tailored to meet the needs of the students. This course is taught in Spanish.

Prerequisite: Placement test and departmental approval

LATIN I

This course is an introduction to Latin syntax, grammar, and vocabulary. In addition to their language study, students investigate various aspects of Roman culture, mythology, and literature. Particular emphasis is given to Latin's role as a root language for English and other Romance languages. During this course students will read units I and II of the Cambridge Latin series as well as several supplementary primary and secondary sources. The goal of Latin I is to provide a solid foundation for further Latin study and to foster an appreciation of Latin's influence on the English language and world civilization.

LATIN II

This is the second year of the Latin curriculum. In the first year, students established the basic Latin verb and noun forms and their functions. In this course, students build on that foundation and learn the grammatical concepts that are the basis for complex sentences and eventually start to read authentic and original Latin sources. In addition to their language study, students will investigate a wide variety of cultural topics such as Roman comedy, the Roman military, and the art and architecture of Rome itself. Our readings will be conducted primarily in Unit III of the Cambridge Latin course with several additional primary sources. **Prerequisite:** Latin I or by departmental approval

Visual and Performing Arts:

FOUNDATIONS OF VISUAL ARTS

This course is designed to introduce various art mediums, techniques and styles. Students will learn the basic elements and principles of art and design, and use these elements and principles to guide and assess their work. Units of study may include drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, design, and collage. Students will also develop their critical thinking skills through the creative problem-solving process, as they learn to assess the quality of their own artwork as well as those of other artists.

DRAMA I

Drama I is designed to allow students to explore the world of the theater and all its components. The preparation and performance of dramatic scenes and monologues, playwriting exercises and theatre attendance help students to identify and develop internal and external personal resources, to participate in artistic collaboration, to relate theatre to its social context and to form aesthetic judgments.

CHORUS

This course is open to all Upper School students who are interested in developing their vocal skills, abilities and musicianship through the study of choral literature from all major periods in music history. Concepts of proper vocal care and technique, sight reading, vocal development, music history and the building of confidence in the voice will be a focus of the course. An emphasis on developing both the student's individual sound and the group's ensemble sound will be emphasized throughout the year as we prepare for concerts, festivals and liturgies. Pianists may audition for this class as an accompanist.

Note: Students are required to participate in concerts and productions outside of school to earn credit for this course. Concerts are credited as final exams in this course. This course can be repeated for credit.

CONCERT BAND

This course is open to all Upper School students who play a band instrument. Students will develop musicianship and ensemble skills through the study of concert band repertoire from various styles and genres. In addition, music appreciation, history and theory are integrated into the curriculum to provide well rounded knowledge and musicianship. Special attention will be paid to developing artistry and creative expression and all elements necessary for successful ensemble experiences. Students will participate in performances throughout the year and have adjudication and master class/workshop opportunities.

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor is required to enroll in this course.

Note: Students are required to participate in concerts to earn credit for this course. Concerts are credited as final exams in this course. This course can be repeated for credit.

STRING ENSEMBLE

This course is open to all Upper School students who play an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass). US String Ensemble is designed to engage students in a variety of musical styles and genres for rehearsals, formal and informal performances. In addition, music appreciation, history and theory are studied in association with repertoire and units of study. Special attention will be paid to developing artistry and creative expression. 39 Students will participate in performances throughout the year and receive adjudication and master class/workshop opportunities on occasion.

Note: Students are required to participate in concerts to earn credit for this course. Concerts are credited as final exams in this course. This course can be repeated for credit.

DANCE

Dance is designed to allow students who have limited experience in dance, along with those who might be at an intermediate level, a greater understanding of how to express themselves through movement and motion. For advanced students, the course will allow them to serve as mentors to others and also provide the opportunity to choreograph and develop dances of their own. We will focus on multiple styles of dance and also study varied choreographers throughout the year. Elements of body awareness and care, health and wellness, flexibility, and strength and conditioning as it applies to dance will be covered. *Students will need to provide dance shoes for the course.

